

# MINUTES

of the

## Thirty-Ninth Annual Session

of the

## West Florida Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association

Held With

### St. John Church

HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 3RD AND 4TH, 1927

Rev. A. L. Pate.....Moderator

J. T. Birge.....Clerk and Treasurer

### —EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—

W. A. Elmore, Chairman

G. W. Owens

C. C. Clemons

Bennet Cook

W. S. Spurlock

The next session will convene with Cowarts Creek Church, seven miles South East of Dothan, on Thursday before the first Sunday in November, 1928. The next Union Meeting will meet with St. Johns Church, two miles South of Bonifay, on Saturday before the Second Sunday in August, 1928.

# PROCEEDINGS

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## THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened in prayer by Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

Rev. J. H. Chestnut preached the Introductory sermon, lesson text, 5th Chapter of Mathew.

Dismissed one hour.

House called to order by the Moderator. Scripture lesson, 2nd Chapter of Titus.

Prayer by J. W. Nelson.

Called for letters from various Churches. Received as follows:

Noma.—W. G. Spurlock, Tressie Mae Wells, J. W. Barfoot, N. E. Ellis, W. A. Holland.

St. John.—J. A. Anderson, J. W. Nelson, J. E. Sims, A. B. Cook, Bob Walsingham, J. A. Anderson, Jr.

Pleasant Hill.—Pearl Yates, Jane Yates.

New Concord.—W. A. Clark, Menurvy Clark, Mamie Clark, Gertue Clark.

Liberty.—David Cook, Bud Foster, J. M. Hall.

Antoich.—R. D. Bell, J. R. D. Register.

Cowart's Creek.—G. T. Hall, K. B. Fowler, A. Fowler, D. T. Hall, A. A. Fowler, J. C. Fowler.

Piney Grove.—J. A. Johnson, James Owen, Leona Owen, Beatrice Owen, C. D. Owens.

Popular Head.—A. L. Bell, A. F. Squires, N. E. Chestnut.

St Paul.—Nancy Clemons, J. C. Clemmons.

New Harmony.—Lonnie Washington, J. S. Hughes, Simon Barkley.

Beulah.—W. C. Pettis, Margaret Brinlay, W. W. Brinley, Lucy Collins, Lewis Collins.

The Association being duly organized went into an election of a Moderator and clerk, which resulted as follows: A. L. Pate, Moderator; J. T. Birge, Clerk.

Called for Corresponding Delegates:

Blountstown.—Rev. John Knight.

Salem.—Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

Union Hill.—W. R. Kirkland, Rev. J. W. Posey, Benjamin Randon.

Association of Georgia.—Rev. J. B. Yates.

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Various Committees were appointed, as follows:

Committee on Divine service.—J. E. Sims, G. W. Owens, David Cook.

Called for report of Committee on Divine Service.—Rev. J. S. Yates to preach at 7:30 o'clock. Lesson text; Romans 8th Chapter.

Committee on Resolution.—J. W. Nelson, J. C. Eldridge, N. E. Chestnut, Rev. John Knight, W. R. Kirkland.

Committee on Suggestions.—J. E. Sims, A. L. Bell, J. A. Anderson, J. R. D. Register, C. I. Wells.

Finance Committee.—J. A. Owens, W. A. Clark, W. C. Pettis.

Memorial Committee.—A. B. Cook, Sister Nancy Clemons, Jane Yates.

Sunday School Committee.—Rev. J. S. Yates, W. G. Spurlock, J. A. Johnson, Wesley Brinley, R. D. Bell.

Temperance Committee.—Rev. J. C. Eldridge, Sallie Boldon, Menerva Clark, Nancy Clemons, G. W. Owens.

Nomination Committee.—Rev. C. I. Wells, W. A. Elmore, Lewis Collins.

The Association Closed until eight-thirty, Friday morning.

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### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by the Moderator. Lesson text, third chapter of Hebrews. Prayer by B. F. Pate.

Committee appointed on Churches and Ministers.—J. L. Anderson, W. A. Holland, W. E. Glass.

Renewed the call for Corresponding Delegates:

Union Hill.—B. F. Pate, F. W. Boldon, W. L. Ward, J. R. Boldon.

Salem.—J. F. Fillingim.

Letter from Spring Hill read and received. Delegates seated as follows: J. L. Anderson, J. I. Mears, R. M. Melvin, J. E. Bass, Sallie Boldon.

Pilgrim's Guide received with no delegation.

Report of Committee on Divine Service. J. C. Eldridge to preach at eleven o'clock. Lesson text, third chapter, first Corinthians.

Called for report of various committees.

## **SABBATH SCHOOL**

We—your Committee on Sunday School, beg leave to report as follows: We find, from letters that were read, very little interest being taken in Sunday School work and deplore the great neglect of our brethern, composing the various churches, of the religious training of their children. For we deem the Sunday School, a stepping stone to higher Bible knowledge and is the chief auxiliary of the church, and we urge each pastor to encourage each church, under his care, to maintain a Sunday School and we insist that each Deacon and Lay Member cooperate with their pastor in the maintainance of a Sunday School at their respective churches and thus help to prepare our boys and girls for the religious duties of life. Prayerfully submitted, your committee

J. S. YATES, Chairman

## **REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS**

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg leave to make the following report: That The Liberty Association adopt the discipline of the General Conference.

J. W. NELSON, Chairman

## **COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE**

We, your Committee on Temperance beg to report the following:

First.—Seeing intemperate is destructive among our people, both moral and spirtual.

Second.—We ask that each one be temperate in all things.

Third.—That each one abstain from strong drinks, as a beverage; Proverbs 20:1. "Wine is a mocker and strong drinks are raging and whosoever is deieived thereby is not wise." So, we see that wise men do not drink strong drinks, so we recommend that any member that deals or drinks it be excluded from our body. We further resolve that each preacher be required to preach one sermon, at least on Temperance, picturing the sinful evil of intemperance in each church.

Rev. J. C. ELDRIDGE, Chairman



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Dismissed 10 minutes after which preaching.

Public contribution for Rev. John Knight, \$44.62.

Dismissed one hour for refreshments.

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### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by the Moderator.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to make the following report: We find for minutes and association funds, \$32.50. Home Mission funds \$3.26. We find in treasury, for association funds 18c; for Home Missions, \$28.01; Total, \$69.50.

J. A. OWENS

#### REPORT ON NOMINATIONS

We, your Committee on Nominating, ask to report that Cowarts Creek Church have the next session of the Association and A. B. Nelson to preach the introductory. St. John gets the next Union Meeting, A. L. Pate to preach the introductory.

Rev. I. C. WELLS, Chairman

#### COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

We, your Committee on Memorial, beg leave to report that God, in His wisdom, has seen fit to call from us the following members: Sister Hattie Sexton, of Piney Grove; Sister Annie Mears, Bro. Council Mears, of Spring Hill; Bro. J. W. Pettis, William Henry Hatcher, of Beulah; Sister Laura McKeithern, of the St. Paul; Bro. Dixie Anderson, Sister Tiney Fowler, of Cowarts Creek. We have great sympathy for the bereaved ones, but our loss is Heaven's gain. All faithful workers in Christ are received of God.

A. B. COOK, Chairman

#### COMMITTEE ON MINISTERS

We, your Committee on Churches and Ministers, beg leave to make the following report. We find that several churches have grown weak and recommend that the

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churches finance the preachers better, that they be more able to build up the weak ones.

W. A. HOLLAND, Chairman

### COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

We, your Committee on Suggestions, report read and Tabled.

J. E. SIMS, Chairman

Call for corresponding Delegates to Sisterly Association: Blountstown; N. E. Ellis.

Union Hill.—J. W. Barefoot, J. L. Anderson, Rev. A. L. Pate

Salem.—C. I. Wells, J. H. Chestnut, Benjamin Random.

To convene Tuesday before the second Sunday in October.

Called for report of Ministers.

Brethern, I submit the following report. I have served three churches in full time and one in part time. Have preached 112 sermons. Received \$2.10. Members received 25. My work has not been as successful as I wish it. There are many foes to zion. Respectfully submitted

A. B. NELSON

Dear Brethern: I have preached about 25 sermons this year. I have organized two Sunday Schools. I have traveled five hundred miles. Received for service about \$5.00. Your Brethern in Christ.

M. L. HALL

Dear Brethren: I submit the following report. I have served four churches this year. Noma Church, Members received, 23. Contributions, \$33.75. Lovewood, Members received, 10. Contributions, \$41.76. St. Johns, members received, 13. Contributions, \$43.78; Cowarts Creek, Members received, 17; Contributions; \$75.00. Respectfully submitted.

Rev. C. I. WELLS

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Brethren; I submit the following report for 1927: I have served three churches this year, two of which are in this Association and one in Blountstown Association. Abe's Springs paid \$52.00; Popular Head, \$42.95; Liberty \$20; Total, \$114.95.

A. L. PATE

Brethren, I submit the following report: I have served Spring Hill Church this year, in this Association. I have made twelve trips, the distance is 25 miles. I have received \$33.45. Respectfully submitted

J. W. POSEY

### GENERAL BUSINESS

Delegates to the General Conference, which is to convene at Ayden, N. C. : A. B. Nelson, G. W. Owens. Moved that each church pay five dollars for expenses.

Home Mission Board report read and received: Dear Brethren: We find less than \$30 on hand, with which to employ a Missionary. We tried to employ Bro. J. H. Chestnut to work the Caryville district, but did not succeed. We failed to secure the services of anyone this year. What do we learn from our experience? That Christ's word is true: "The harvest is great and the laborers are few." We need more funds with which to hire laborers for this much needed work. Respectfully submitted

A. B. NELSON, Chairman

We suggest that each member pay at least 10c to Home Mission Funds.

New Harmony asked that the association help pay for said church and church property. We paid with public contribution \$10.20 and left it in the hands of Executive Committee to secure property.

We retained the same Executive Committee by releasing Lee Wilson and adding W. G. Spurlock.

It was ordered to pay the clerk, \$7.50.

Ordered that we pay Bro. J. S. Yates, \$5.00, out of the Home Mission Funds.

We suggest that the clerk write the Resolution of Thanks.

Dismissed in order by Rev. A. B. Nelson.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Association funds	\$32.23
Less \$7.50 paid clerk	\$7.50
Less \$5.00 paid Bro. J. S. Yates	\$5.00
Total	\$24.73
Home Mission funds	\$37.27
Total	\$32.27

## RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and Messengers, desire to thank the good people, of St. John Church, for their generous hospitality, so graciously extended to us during our stay with them for their kindness and great love shown to us. We want to especially thank the good ladies upon whom the burden of care for us fell the heaviest. May God's greatest blessing, both spiritual and temporal be bestowed upon each and all.

J. T. BIRGE

## LIST OF DELEGATES

W. G. Spurlock, Tressie Mae Wells, J. W. Barfoot, N. E. Ellis, W. A. Holland, J. A. Anderson, J. W. Nelson, J. E. Sims, A. B. Cook, Bob Walsingham, J. A. Anderson Jr., Pearl Yates, Jane Yates, W. A. Clark, Menurva Clark, Mamie Clark, Gertrude Clark, David Cook, Bud Foster, J. M. Hall, R. D. Bell, J. R. D. Register, G. T. Hall, K. B. Fowler, A. Fowler, D. T. Hall, A. A. Fowler, J. C. Fowler, J. A. Johnson, Homer Owens, Leona Owens, Beatrice Owens, C. D. Owens, A. L. Bell, A. F. Squires, N. E. Chestnut, Nancy Clemons, J. C. Clemons, Lonnie Washing, J. S. Hughes, Simon Barkley, W. C. Pettis, Margarete Brinley, W. W. Brinley, Lucy Collins, Lewis Collins, J. L. Anderson, J. D. Mears, R. M. Melvin, J. E. Bass and Sallie Boldon.



## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for Corresponding Letters and Enrollment of Delegates.
3. Organization. Electing of Moderator and Clerk.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondents from Sister Associations.
6. Appointment of Committees.
7. Appointment of Correspondents.
8. Reading of Corresponding Letters.
9. Hearing Report of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

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## NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. Pate	Bonifay, Fla.
A. B. Nelson	Bonifay, Fla.
C. I. Wells	Noma, Fla.
M. L. Hall	Bonifay, Fla.
J. H. Chestnut	Bonifay, Fla.
A. M. Swindle	Chipley, Fla.
G. W. English	Chipley, Fla.
S. E. Carroll	Hartford, Ala.
J. C. Carnley	Caryville, Fla.
J. L. McDaniel	Vernon, Fla.
J. W. Cox	Greensboro, Fla.

# STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches and Pastor	Clerk	Baptism	Con. of Faith	By Letter	Restored	Disc. by Letter	Excluded	Died	Membership	Days of Meeting
Cowarts Creek, C. I. Wells	J. C. Fowler, Dothan	11	4	0	1	1	2	2	92	4th Sunday
New Harmony, Joe Hudson	H. C. Martin, Chipley	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	20	
Antioch, A. B. Nelson	J. R. D. Register, Graceville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	135	1st Sunday
St. Johns, J. C. Eldridge	J. E. Sims, Bonifay	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	146	3rd Sunday
P'g'm's G'de, W. W. Nichols	Mrs. Nora Brown, South Port	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	49	1st Sunday
Beulah, J. A. Pettis	W. C. Pettis, Graceville	8	0	2	3	1	2	2	89	4th Sunday
St. Paul, A. L. Pate	Jessie Ganey, Vernon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	48	2nd Sunday
Popular Head, A. L. Pate	N. E. Chestnut, Bonifay	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	63	1st Sunday
Spring Hill, J. W. Posey	J. E. Bass, Bonifay	1	1	0	0	4	4	2	94	2nd Sunday
Pleasant Hill, A. L. Pate	J. W. Yates, Bonifay	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	11	4th Sunday
New Concord, S. E. Carrol	M. M. Clark, Black	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	30	2nd Sunday
Piney Grove, J. H. Chestnut	T. D. Owens, Chipley	2	2	1	0	2	0	1	82	3rd Sunday
Liberty, A. B. Nelson	J. Foster, Vernon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	4th Sunday
Noma, C. I. Wells	J. T. Birge, Graceville	2	7	13	2	0	5	0	94	1st Sunday

# West Florida Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association

## CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at last conference in Association year, or, if they prefer, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be chosen at any other time, but if the choice be made at a special Conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be Moderator of church, but when the Moderator, being present, same is absent, or does not sit a suitable brother shall be appointed in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and distribution of all contributions made for pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall also take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper, and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church and preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a clerk is appointed all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately turned over to him by his predecessor.

8. When it becomes necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing etc., with the church.

9. The church shall hold two day's meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time for conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference, if they can, for on that

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day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on church doctrine, discipline, and rules of holy living.

11. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member who may be generally amiss in attending meetings of the church, according to covenant (Article 10), shall be cited to appear conference and answer for his conduct, but the church may exempt members from this if necessary.

12. Conference shall be opened as follows: First, prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then: Second, invite visiting brethren to seats with us, Third, open the doors for reception to members: Fourth, call for absentees: Fifth, for acknowledgements: Sixth, for reference or deferred business: Seventh, for matters or dealing which are in order to come before the church: Eighth, for miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren called in as help from other churches shall be allowed to vote.

14. An ordinary member of a Baptist church which does not hold this church in fellowship, may be received into this church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unrepachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he wanted to join this or some other sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

15. We receive members by experience or baptism; on confession of faith, by letter or restoration.

16. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

18. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of the witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknow-

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ledgement shall be printed in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil.

22. A vote shall not be taken on any question without a move and second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second are before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided. but a member upon request may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient excuse, nor engage in conversation or whispering, without being subjected to be called to order by the Moderator.

26. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must rise to their feet and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission of the Moderator, nor shall the remarks on any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some brother as Moderator in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it be necessary to call him to order.

30. We believe it to be the duty of the church to communicate, wash the saint's feet as often as the church sees fit, the expenses to be paid by the church.

31. Members not in good standing should not commune but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.



## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is but one living and true God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and ruler of the universe.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and by whom salvation is made secure.

3. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright and placed him in a state of holiness under the laws of His Maker, but by voluntary transgression of his own he fell from that Holy and happy state.

4. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for the lack of Christ.

5. We believe that the holy scriptures are the word of God and they are the only rule of faith and practice.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father by the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ His Son.

7. We believe that good workers are the fruits of faith and faith without work is dead.

8. We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free and attainable by all mankind.

9. We believe that Commemoration and Feet Washing are the ordinances of Christ and immersion only is Baptism.

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances.

11. That the end of the world is approaching when Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution. that a solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and this judgement will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.