

MINUTES
of the
Forty-First Annual Session
of the
**West Florida Liberty Free-Will
Baptist Association**
Held With
Noma Church

Noma, Holmes County, Florida

October 31, Nov. 1, 1929

REV C. I. WELLS..... Moderator
J. T. BIRGE..... Clerk and Treasurer

— EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE —

W. M. Caloway, Chairman

Bennet Cook

J. T. Birge

H. Fussel

C. C. Clemmons

The next session will convene with Piney Grove Church, Washington County, Fla., 6 miles South West of Chipley, on Thursday before the first Sunday in Nov. 1930. The next Union meeting will convene with St. Paul, 3 miles East of Vernon, on Saturday before the second Sunday in August.

PROCEEDINGS

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THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Prayer by Rev. C. I. Wells.

Introductory by Rev. G. W. English, 8th Chapter of Romans.

Dismissed one hour for Noon.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by the Moderator. Scripture Lesson, 5th Chapter Ephesians.

Prayer by Rev. G. W. Nobles.

Call for letters from Various Churches and Enrollment of Delegates, as follows:

From Noma, W. G. Spurlock, W. C. Glass, N. E. Ellis, J. T. Birge, Calvin Birge.

Beulah—A. Brock, W. C. Sherfield, W. O. McCoy, H. M. Calloway.

St. John—J. W. Nelson, A. B. Cook, J. E. Sims, Mrs. Rosa Young, Mrs. Mae Cook.

Poplar Head—A. L. Bell, N. E. Chestnut.

Piney Grove—H. Fussle, C. C. Owen, J. A. Johnson.

Spring Hill—E. C. Anderson, J. L. Anderson, J. E. Bass, J. L. Smith.

New Harmony—H. C. Martin.

Pleasant Hill—J. W. Yates.

Liberty—D. J. Cook, Claud Hicks.

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

Cowarts Creek—K. B. Fowler, D. T. Hall, Mrs. A. Fowler, A. Paremore, A. Fowler.

The Association being duly organized, went into an election of a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted as follows: Rev. C. I. Wells, Moderator; J. T. Birge, Clerk and Treasurer.

Call for Petitionary Letters, none. Corresponding

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delegates:

Blountstown—W. M. Duncan.

State Line—J. J. Burdeshaw, J. F. Capps. G. W. Nobles.

Salem—J. C. Eldridge, J. A. Hudson.

Union Hill—T. E. Ross, J. R. Boldon, F. W. Bolden, W. R. Kirkland, O. L. Turner, W. J. Hughes and wife, Sister Turner, Sister Kirkland.

The Various Committees were appointed as follows:

Committee on Divine Service—J. L. Anderson, W. C. Sherfield, A. L. Bell.

Committee on Suggestions—J. W. Nelson. A. L. Pate, N. D. Nelson.

Finance Committee—J. E. Bass. W. A. Holland, W. C. Glass, J. C. Clemmons.

Memorial Committee—W. G. Spurlock, C. C. Owen, A. Brock.

Resolution Committee—J. C. Eldridge, H. C. Martin, E. C. Anderson, W. R. Kirkland, R. D. Bell.

Sunday School Committee—G. W. English, W. C. Pettis, D. E. Sims, Martin Broom.

Temperance Committee—W. M. Duncan, J. J. Burdeshaw, W. R. Boldon, J. A. Pettis.

Nominations Committee—Bennett Cook, N. E. Ellis, Calvin Birge, H. Fussle,

State of Churches and Ministers—C. C. Clemmons. David Cook, J. A. Hudson,

Called for Corresponding Delegates—From Salem, W. M. Broom and wife.

Called for Report of Committee on Divine Service—Bro. G. W. Nobles, to Preach at 7 o'clock P. M. Text, Amos 4:12.

Dismissed until 8 o'clock, Friday Morning.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

House Called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer by Rev A. L. Pate.

Roll Call of Delegates.

Renew the call for Letters.

From Antioch—R. D. Bell.

From Piney Grove—T. D. Owens.

Call for Corresponding Delegates—J. A. Pettis.

CALLED FOR REPORT OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON CHURCHES

We find the Churches and Ministers are in good standing as far as we know.

C. CLEMMONS.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION

Report as follows: That Piney Grove gets the next session of the Association, Rev. C. I. Wells to Preach the Introductory. St. Paul gets the next Union Meeting: A. L. Pate to Preach the Introductory.

A. B. COOK, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

Make the following report: That each member abstain from strong drinks as a beverage. "Wine is a mockery, strong drinks is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise," Prov. 20:1. So, we see that wise men do not drink strong drinks, so we recommend that every member who deals with it be expelled from our body. Every Church failing to live up to this, if made known to this body, shall not be seated in it.

W. M. DUNCAN, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Make the following report: "We find that out of 12 Churches, we have only three Sabbath Schools. We realize that Sabbath Schools are a part of Church work and we insist that the Pastor of each Church work to organize

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Schools Schools, that our boys and girls may be more prepared for religious duties of life."

G. W. ENGLISH.

COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

We, your Committee on Suggestions, make the following report: First—That each Church Organize a Sunday School, where it is possible to do so. Second—That each Church have a Prayer Meeting. Third—That it Shall be Considered an offense for any of our Preachers of our different associations to speak evil of one another.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. NELSON

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Make the following report: 'First, That this association place back in their Minutes. The Articles of Faith and Bible References and also, the regular Decorum of the Church. Second—We recomend that each Church should increase the amount sent to the association—to take care of the expenses.

E. C. ANDERSON

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

We your Committee on Memorial, make the following report: "We find that during this associational year, God called from us the following members: Liberty, Sister Mary Stewart, Sister Minnie Cook; from Noma, Bro. W. A. Elmore, Sister Minnie Jordan, Sister Sarah Wiley; Antioch, Sister Minnie Rogers; Beulah, Sister L. D. Elmore, Sister Rilda Duncan; St. Paul, Bro. W. W. Russ; St. Johns, Sister Nettie Clark; New Concord, Sister Annie Lee Munk. In Memory of W. A. Elmore, we very deeply deplore the loss of our dear beloved brother, who had given most of his life's work to the Cause. Also Sister Elmore. They have been a great help in the upbuilding of Christianity in our midst, but we trust that our loss is Heaven's gain.

W. G. SPURLOCK

Committee on Divine Service. reported as follows: Bro. W. M. Duncan to Preach at eleven o'clock. Rev. Robert Hyman, to Close.

Renew the call for Visiting Delegates. From Midway Georgia Association, Rev. Robert Hyman.

Rev. W. M. Duncan, preached at a eleven o'clock, Scripture lesson, 9th Chapter of Paul. Rev. Robert Hyman, followed.

Prayer by Rev. A. L. Pate.

Public Collection for Bro. Duncan and Bro. Hall, \$3.00 each

Dismissed one hour for refreshments.

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FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House was called to order by Moderator.

Prayer by Rev. Hyman.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Finance Committee make the following report: "We find for Associational Purposes as follows: Spring Hill, \$2.00; Noma, \$3; Beulah, \$2.55; Liberty, \$2; St. Paul, \$1.55; Piney Grove, \$2; Pleasant Hill, \$1; St. Johns, \$4; New Harmony, \$1.75; Cowarts Creek, \$2.55; Popular Head, \$2; Antioch, \$2; Total, \$26.35. We find for Home Missions in Treasury, \$14.32; Churches Collection, \$26.35; Public Collection, \$5.48; Total, \$46.15.

J. E. BASS, Chairman

Call for general business.

Appointed Delegates to Sisterly Associations; Blountstown, C. I. Wells, W. G. Spurlock, M. L. Hand, A. L. Pate. State Line, C. I. Wells, S. A. Carrol. Union Hill, A. L. Pate, J. L. Anderson, W. C. Glass, S. A. Carrol. Salem, G. W. Spurlock, N. E. Chestnut. Delegates to General Conference, A. L. Pate. A. B. Nelson.

Executive Committee—W. M. Calloway, A. B. Cook, C. C. Clemons, J. T. Birge, H. Fassel.

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Called for Preachers report: "Brethren, herewith I submit my report: I have served four Churches this year. From Popular Head, \$23.50; St. Paul, \$31.00; Pleasant Hill, \$17.79; Damascus, \$75.00; Total amount, \$147.29; Held 10 burial services, Pray for me,

A. L. PATE

Brethren, I have not served no certain Churches, but I have done a hard year's work in the service for the Lord, traveling from place to place, Preaching in sections of the Country where there are no churches. Have a few places where the people are wanting to have a Church organized. Have organized several Sunday Schools. Have preached several sermons. So, Pray for me, in my old days, that I may continue to work,

M. L. HALL

Home Mission Board—A. B. Nelson, W. C. Spurlock, Eddie Sims.

It was ordered to pay Clerk, \$7.50; Print 300 minutes.

Committee to draw up Scriptures of Articles of Faith—C. I. Wells, A. L. Pate, W. M. Calloway.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Associational funds ..	\$31.83
Less \$7.50, paid Clerk ..	7.50
Total ..	24.33
Home Mission Funds ..	14.32

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and Messengers of the Liberty Association, do heartily thank the good people in Noma; and the surrounding community for their good care for us while with them during the Association, for tongues can not thank them for their kindness shown us while with them. May God ever bless and take care of them all.

LIST OF DELEGATES,

W. G. Spurlock, W. C. Glass, N. E. Ellis Calvin Birge, J. T. Birge, A. Brock, W. C. Sherfield, W. O. McCoy, H. M. Calloway, J. W. Nelson, A. B. Cook, J. E. Sims, Miss Rosa Yongue, Mrs. Mae Cook, A. L. Bell, N. E. Chestnut, H. Fussel, C. C. Owen, J. A. Johnson, T. D. Owens, E. C. Anderson, J. L. Anderson, J. E. Bass, J. L. Smith, H. C. Martin, J. W. Yates, D. J. Cook, Claud Hicks, C. C. Clemons, J. C. Clemons, K. B. Fowler, D. T. Hall, A. Fowler, Mrs. A. Fowler A. Paremore.

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.

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. Pate.....	Bonifay, Fla.
A. B. Nelson.....	Bonifay, Fla.
C. I. Wells.....	Graceville, Fla.
M. L. Hall.....	Bonifay, Fla.
J. H. Chestnut.....	Bonifay, Fla.
G. W. English.....	Chipley, Fla.
S. E. Carrol.....	Hartford, Ala.
J. C. Carnley.....	Caryville, Fla.
J. L. McDaniel.....	Vernon, Fla.
W. A. Clark.....	Black, Ala.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches and Pastor	Clerk	Baptism	Con. of Faith	By Letter	Restored	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Died	Membership	Days of Meeting
Pleasant Hill. A. B. Nelson	J. W. Yates, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	4th Sunday
Popular Head, A. L. Pate	N. E. Chestnut. Bonifay..	6	1	0	0	0	7	0	67	1st Sunday
St. Johns. R. H. Hyman...	J. E. Sims, Bonifay, Fla...	6	1	0	0	1	0	1	131	3rd Sunday
St. Paul. C. I. Wells	Jesse Ganier, Vernon.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	47	3rd Sunday
Piney G've, J. C. Eldridge	T. D. Owens, Chipley.....	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	102	2nd Sunday
Liberty, A. B. Nelson.....	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla,...	2	1	1	0	1	6	2	64	3rd Sunday
Cwts. Cr'k, W. M. Duncan	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	108	4th Sunday
Noma, L. C. Mixon.....	W. G. Spurlock, Bonifay..	12	20	1	0	1	4	3	121	1st Sunday
Spring Hill, C. I. Wells.....	J. L. Smith, Esto, Fla.	6	3	0	0	4	0	1	95	4th Sunday
Nw Har., G. W. English..	H. C. Martin, Chipley.....	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	32	1st Sunday
Antioch, J. A. Pettis.....	C. D. Cook, Graceville.....	10	0	1	8	0	0	1	37	1st Sunday
Beulah, J. W. Posey.....	W. C. Pettis, Graceville	6	1	1	2	3	3	2	88	4th Sunday

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.

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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 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 remiss in attending meetings of the church according to covenant (Article 10) shall be cited to appear in 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 references or deferred business; Seventh, for matters of 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 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 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 acknowledgment shall be printed in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by the 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 is 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

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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.

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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.—1st Cor. 8:6; 1st Tim. 2:5-6.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and by whom salvation is made secure.—Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; 1st John 2:2.

3. We believe that in the beginning that God made man upright and placed him in a state of glory, without the least mixture of misery from which he voluntarily, by

transgression fell, and by that means brought on himself, a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Genesis 2:17; 3:19.

4. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for the lack of Christ.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; 1st Tim. 2:4.

5. We believe that the holy scriptures are the word of God and they are the only rule of faith and practice.—Acts 17:30; Heb. 3:10; 1st John 5:10.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ the Son.—2nd Tim. 3:16-17.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and faith without work is dead.—Luke 14:16; Math. 28:19; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19-38; St. Mark 1:15.

8. We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free and attainable by all mankind.—Math. 11:27 30; St. John 6:44-65; Psalms 1:1; Titus 2:11-12.

9. We believe that Commemoration and Feet Washing are the ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.—St. John 13:1; Tim. 5:6; Psalms 28:1 7.

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances.—Rom. 12:4-5.

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 judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness,—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.

DECORUM OF THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Article 1. This Association shall be composed of delegates from churches in good standing only, and shall be called together by the Moderator of last session, if present. If absent, by his assistant or by some one elected by the body.

Article 2. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Article 3. The Moderator and Clerk of the last session shall officiate until the body is organized and new officers elected by ballot.

Article 4. The Moderator shall the body to order and see that order is preserved. Submit all motions to the body. He shall have the same right of speech as any other member, but appoint some other brother as chairman while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless it be in case of a tie, then he may cast the deciding vote.

Article 5. The delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk as they are seated in the body. And the roll shall be called each morning and all not answering to their names marked absent.

Article 6. That no delegate or minister shall be allowed absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

Article 7. That all ministers belonging to this Association must be present at each session or send in a report to the former Moderator as to the cause of absence or his name will be left off the ministers list of this session.

Article 8. And that each minister shall make a report of how many churches he is serving, if any, what each church has paid him for his service.

Article 9. That no minister shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rights of matrimony where

either party have been divorced except it be for fornication.

Article 10. That no church shall be considered in this body that retains a minister or deacon that has more than one living wife or drinks intoxicating beverages.

Article 11. All business shall be brought before the body by move and second and shall be disposed of according to good usage. But no move shall be submitted to the body when there is a move before the house unless the first one be withdrawn by the person who made such move and no person shall be allowed to speak more than three (3) times on the same subject and not more than ten (10) minutes each time without a move and second carried by the body.

Article 12. No person shall be disturbed while speaking so long as he keeps to the point in debate only by the Moderator and then only call him to order. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the Moderator and he must not use abusive language or personal reflection upon any one.

Article 13. This Association shall have a treasurer and executive committee to be elected annually. And no church shall be considered in this body who shall, or have retained a minister that have stepped aside from his obligations in any form (as in 1st Tim. 3 chap.), unless said minister have shown by his actions that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 14. That any minister who will voluntarily step aside immediately turn his credentials over to the executive committee and said ex. committee shall visit various churches to see if they are in good standing or not and help them to retain good order.

Article 15. That no church shall retain a minister or deacon who does not rule his own house well.

Article 16. That no church shall be recorded in this

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body who does not commune and wash feet at least twice (2) a year and who does not have conference at least six (6) times a year and each church shall state in its associational letter as to whether this ordinance has been kept or not. And also state how much it has paid its pastor and all ministers serving churches shall preach at least one sermon a year on doctrine and rules of holy living.

Article 17. Any preacher belonging to this body who sends an appointment or serving churches who fail to meet at the appointed hour shall be due acknowledgements to congregation or church.