

# MINUTES

— of the —

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

— of the —

WEST FLORIDA

## Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

— Held With —

POPLAR HEAD CHURCH

Nine Miles Southwest of Chipley, Florida

OCTOBER 17TH AND 18TH, 1935

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### OFFICERS

BRO. G. W. OWENS .....Moderator  
N. E. CHESTNUT ..... Clerk and Treasurer

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. E. Sims, Chairman; T. D. Owens, A. J. Pitts, J. H. Mears  
E. C. Anderson, David Cook, Walter Pettis

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The next session of the Association will convene with Piney Grove Church, six miles southwest of Chipley, Florida, on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1936, Rev. W. M. Martin to preach the introductory.

The next Union Meeting will convene with Beulah Church, five miles south of Graceville, Florida, on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1936, Rev. J. H. Chestnut to preach the introductory.

# Proceedings

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According to previous appointment the Forty-seventh Annual Session of the West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association met with Poplar Head Church, October 17th and 18th, 1935.

## THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called to order at 10 o'clock by the Moderator. Song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. T. E. Ross. Welcome address by Rev. A. B. Nelson. Concluded by Rev. W. M. Martin. Song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Sermon by Rev. J. C. Eldridge. Scripture lesson: Phil. 2; Text 2:27. Closing prayer by Rev. A. L. Pate. Benediction by Rev. A. B. Nelson. Noon, one hour.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opening song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Opening prayer by Rev. T. J. Lawhorn. Scripture lesson by Moderator: James 3.

A call was made for corresponding letters and the following letters and delegates were received:

St. Johns—Ed. Nelson, J. E. Sims, A. B. Cook, Jim Strickland, N. E. Chestnut, Sister A. B. Cook, Sister Rosa Young.

Spring Hill—E. C. Anderson, Janie Mears, Sister Mollie Anderson, J. L. Smith, J. I. Mears.

Blountstown—F. M. Knight, W. J. Starry, Lint Bryant, Bro. Pitts, Jimmie Bryant, Sister R. J. Pendarvis, Sister Pitts, Effie Mears, Sister Cochran.

Piney Grove—M. Rich, W. H. Shores, C. C. Owen, E. R. McAdams.

New Hope—Paul Crawford, Sister Villa Siverling.

Liberty—D. J. Cook.

Cowarts Creek—Sister A. Fowler, A. Fowler, W. F. Fowler, J. C. Fowler.

Beulah—W. C. Pettis, W. C. Sheffield, H. L. Elmore, Ben Champion, Sister W. C. Pitts.

Poplar Head—A. J. Pitts, N. L. Long, A. F. Squires.

St. Paul—Sister Addie Hamilton, Jessie Gainey, Sister Lou Gainey.

Pleasant Hill—C. E. Mears, D. E. Burch, Elbert Harrell.

New Harmony—J. H. Barkley, J. D. Hughes.

## BUSINESS SESSION

The Association entered into a business session. Bro. G. W. Owens was re-elected Moderator and N. E. Chestnut was re-elected Clerk and Treasurer.

A call was made for petitionary letters and received none.

A call was made for correspondents from sister Associations and the following were received:

From Salem—Rev. A. W. Cook, W. M. Shiver, Chester Cook, Rev. G. L. Shutes, Rev. J. C. Eldridge, W. L. Cloud, Fierce Holly, E. S. Haddock, J. F. Fillingim.

From State Line—Rev. Floyd Cherry.

From Union Hill—Rev. T. E. Ross.

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Committee on Divine Service—Bro. Coot Fowler, J. A. Pitts, C. C. Owen.

Committee on Resolutions—A. F. Squires, David Cook, A. B. Nelson, A. B. Cook, H. L. Elmore.

Committee on Obituaries—Janie Mears, Addie Hamilton, Sister R. J. Pendarvis, Rosa Young, Sister Villa Siverling.

Finance Committee—W. J. Starry, E. C. Anderson, J. H. Mears.

Committee on Sunday School—Rev. G. L. Shutes, Rev. W. M. Martin, Rev. Floyd Cherry, J. H. Barkley, Rev. A. W. Cook.

Committee on Nominations—J. O. Chestnut, Jesse Gainey, W. C. Pettis, J. D. Strickland.

Education and Literature—Rev. J. H. Chestnut, Rev. W. C. Burton, M. Rich, Charley Mears, Elbert Harrell.

Committee on Temperance—Rev. W. M. Duncan, J. E. Sims, D. E. Burch, W. C. Sheffield, B. H. Champion.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DIVINE SERVICE

Rev. Floyd Cherry to deliver the message at 7:30 P. M., Thursday evening, and Rev. T. E. Ross to preach Friday at 11:00 A. M. Closing song, "I Must Tell Jesus." Prayer and Benediction by Rev. G. L. Shutes. The Association adjourned until 9:30 Friday A. M.

## THURSDAY EVENING, 7:30 P. M.

Service opened with song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. J. H. Chestnut. Lesson, Second Timothy, fourth chapter. Text, Second Timothy, fourth chapter, seventh verse, from which Rev.

Floyd Cherry delivered a wonderful sermon. Closing prayer by Rev. Floyd Cherry; song by choir. Benediction by Rev. W. C. Burton.

#### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called to order by a song by the choir, "Blessed Assurance." Devotional service by Rev. W. C. Burton. Opening prayer by Rev. A. L. Pate. Bro. Burton used as a lesson text, Col., third chapter, from which he delivered a wonderful message. Song by choir. Prayer by Rev. G. L. Shutes.

The call was renewed for correspondents from sister associations and received none. The call was renewed for petitionary letters and received none.

The statistical report blank in the general conference was read and adopted.

#### REPORT ON EDUCATION AND LITERATURE

We, your committee on Education and Literature, recommend that the different churches of this Association use the Free Will Baptist literature. We also recommend that the cause of education among our church people be advocated as much as possible in as much as we believe it better prepares people for all vocations of life.

Your Committee,

J. H. Chestnut, C. E. Mears, W. C. Burton,  
M. Rich.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your committee, submit the following, realizing the need for more and better Sunday Schools. We suggest the following:

1st. That the pastors see to the organization of Sunday Schools in their churches.

2nd. That the churches see to the election of christian men and women as teachers and officers.

3rd. That our own Free Will Baptist literature be used.

4th. That our adult membership show a better spirit of co-operation.

Respectfully,

Rev. G. L. Shutes, Rev. W. M. Martin, Rev.  
Floyd Cherry, J. H. Barkley, Rev. A. W.  
Cook.

It was moved and carried that each church prepare a honorable report of their dead and present at the next Association for the benefit of the committee on obituaries.

It was moved and carried that the appointment of the Ordaining Council be renewed which resulted as follows: Rev. A. L. Pate, Chairman; Rev. A. B. Nelson, Rev. J. H. Chestnut.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

The following delegates were appointed to meet with the next session of the sister associations:

To Salem—Rev. J. A. Yager, Rev. C. H. Mathews, Rev. H. L. Hodges.

State Line—Bro. F. M. Knight, G. W. Owens.

Union Hill—Bro. C. C. Owen, C. E. Mears.

The following delegates were appointed to meet with the next session of the general conference: Bro. F. M. Knight and Rev. W. C. Burton.

The next session of the general conference will convene with Glennville, Ga., beginning on Tuesday evening following the second Sunday in June, 1936.

It was moved and carried to add two new members to the executive board which was Bro. David Cook and Bro. W. C. Pettis.

### ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE, FRIDAY A. M.

Opening song by choir, "Near the Cross. Opening prayer by Rev. W. M. Martin. Sermon by Rev. T. E. Ross. Scriptural lesson, Matthew, eleventh chapter. Text, Matthew 11:28. Song by choir, "I Am On My Way To Cannan." Prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Closing prayer by Rev. A. B. Nelson. Closing song, "Jesus Is Calling Today." Benediction by Rev. Floyd Cherry. Noon one hour.

The Association reassembled by song by choir. Prayer by W. C. Pettis.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The report of the committee on nominations will be found on lower part of outside front cover.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, your committee, submit the following report:

1st. That we believe that intemperance is destructive to the usefulness of men in any work, to take the twentieth chapter of Proverbs for your guide.

2nd. Whosoever use intemperance deceiveth many. We recommend that all members be more temperant in language and strong drink.

Rev. W. M. Duncan, Chairman.

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your committee, submit the following report:

We find in the treasury .....	\$ 5.81
Sent in by the churches .....	21.70

Total .....	27.51
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W. J. Starry, Chairman.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

We, your committee, submit the following report on Memorials:

Spring Hill—Bro. R. M. Melvin, Sister Penny Bolden, Sister Ardella Pate, Sister Flora Strickland, Sister Beckey Best.

New Hope Church—Bro. John Harrison.

Cowarts Creek—Sister Cammie Deal.

Piney Grove—Sister Adeline Crawford, Sister Josephine Crawford.

### OUR HONORED DEAD

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Bro. R. M. Melvin

Sister Pennie Bolden

Sister Ardella Pate

Sister Flora Strickland

Sister Beckey Best

Bro. John Harrison

Sister Cammie Deal

Sister Adeline Crawford

Sister Josephine Crawford



## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee, submit the following report that:

That this Association shall have a Home Mission Board consisting of three members elected by the Association. The Home Mission Board appointed: A. B. Nelson, Chairman; A. F. Squires, A. B. Cook.

This board shall employ a minister or ministers to evangelize or work in the destitute fields in our Association. They shall pay said employes from the Home Mission funds.

One member of the Home Mission Board shall be treasurer for Home Mission funds; he shall only pay out mission funds upon a written order from the chairman of the Home Mission Board. The treasurer shall keep a record of all funds paid out and it shall be entered upon the chairman's annual report to the Association.

The Home Mission funds shall only be subject to the order of the Home Mission Board of the Association.

## HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

Each church in the association shall have a home mission society headed by a chairman elected by the society or appointed by the pastor of the church.

The society shall elect all other officers when it does not authorize their chairman to appoint them.

Each society shall make its own assessments of dues which shall be paid into its own treasury. Not less than ten cents for each member shall be sent annually to the treasurer of the Home Mission Board.

Each society shall work for the winning of souls. Each society shall meet semi-monthly when each member is expected to report on his or her work and offer plans for the future work.

All church members who desire may donate the ten cents or more and shall be given credit by the treasurer of the mission society of his or her church.

We recommend that the executive committee keep a record of their work during the year and make a written report of same to the Association.

We recommend that the 14th article of the Decorum be changed to read as follows: "Any minister found guilty of un-

christian conduct shall turn his credentials over to the executive committee."

The executive committee shall visit the churches when necessary and assist them in keeping order.

A. F. Squires, Chairman.

#### RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the delegates and messengers that compose the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association, do sincerely thank the good people of Poplar Head church and surrounding community for their bountiful spread and their goodness to us while with them. We pray that God will bless and keep them.

Public collection for Rev. W. M. Duncan. Amount, \$7.07. Bro. Duncan is a time worn soldier of the cross, worthy of praise and honor.

It was moved and carried that the time of the Association be changed from Thursday and Friday to Friday and Saturday of the same week and month.

It was moved and carried to pay the clerk \$7.50 for his service.

Report of Rev. J. A. Yager: "I am devoting my time to mission work. I have preached some at the Bay county convict camps. Am now located at Millville, Fla. Pray for me."

Song by choir. Benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan.



# Statistical Table

CHURCHES AND PASTORS	CLERK	Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Con. of Faith	Total Received	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Total Membership	DAYS OF MEETING
Piney Grove, J. C. Eldridge.....	T. D. Owens, Chipley, Fla.....	8	1			9	1		2	160	2nd Sunday
Blountstown, A. L. Pate.....	Mrs. R. J. Pendarvis, Blountstown	1		2		3				40	3rd Sunday
Beulah, A. B. Nelson.....	W. C. Pettis, Graceville, Fla.....	2						5		64	4th Sunday
New Harmony, J. H. Chestnut..	J. S. Hughes, Chipley, Fla.....		1			1				21	3rd Sunday
Pleasant Hill, A. B. Nelson.....	C. E. Mears, Bonifay, Fla.....									37	1st Sunday
Poplar Head, E. L. Hughes.....	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla.....	3				3				46	1st Sunday
St. Johns, Floyd Cherry.....	N. E. Chestnut, Bonifay, Fla.....	2	1		1	4	1	3		134	3rd Sunday
Spring Hill, L. C. Mixon.....	J. L. Smith, Bonifay, Fla.....	3				3			5	80	2nd Sunday
Cowarts Creek, M. M. Hicks.....	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.....	1				1	1		1	69	4th Sunday
Liberty, A. B. Nelson.....	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla.....	6		1		7				27	3rd Sunday
New Hope, W. C. Burton.....	Lewis Siverling, Crescent City, Fla.	2					3	1	1	21	
St. Paul, J. C. Eldridge.....	J. L. Gainey, Vernon, Fla.....									42	2nd Sunday

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730  
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### 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 as 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.

7. 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 brothers who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

9. The church shall hold two days 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.

. 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 give counsel but not 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.

## West Florida Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association 11

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 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.

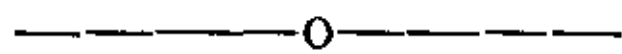
28. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some brother as Moderator in his stead.

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.—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 3:19-28; 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 27:1-17.

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 man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.

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### DECORUM OF 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 call 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 ap-

point some other brother as chairman while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless it be in a 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 to 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 has stepped aside from his obligations in any form (as in



1st Tim. 3 chap.) unless said minister has shown by his actions that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 14. That any minister found guilty of unchristian conduct shall turn his credentials over to the executive committee.

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 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.

Article 18. No preacher shall preach in our churches that cannot bring a clear record from his home church.

Article 19. No preacher shall pastor a church unless he on his first trip produce his credentials.