

MINUTES

— of the —

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

— of the —

WEST FLORIDA

Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

Held With

Piney Grove Church

Eight Miles South of Chipley, Florida

OCTOBER 15th and 16th, 1936

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

The next session of the Association will convene with St. John's Church, two miles south of Bonifay, Florida, on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1937, Rev. J. H. Chestnut to preach the Introductory.

The next Union Meeting will convene with Poplar Head Church 4 miles south of Bonifay, Fla., on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1937, Rev. Floyd Cherry to preach the Introductory.

Proceedings

According to previous appointment the Forty-Eighth Annual Session of the West Florida Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association met with Piney Grove Church, October 15th and 16th, 1936.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. Floyd Cherry. A short talk by Rev. A. L. Pate. Introductory by Rev. W. M. Martin. Lesson text St. Mark, 28th chapter. Closing prayer by Rev. J. C. Eldridge. Closing song No. 21 in Glory Dawn. Benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan. One hour for refreshment.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association reassembled by a song from the choir. Opening prayer by Rev. J. S. Wachob. The following Scripture lessons were read by Bro. G. W. Owens, Moderator: St. Matthew, 24th Chapter; St. Luke, 17th Chapter from 1 to 10; Acts 7th Chapter, 54th verse.

A call was made for corresponding letters and delegates from the various churches, and received the following:

Crescent City was represented by letter.

St. John's—J. W. Nelson, J. E. Sims, Bob Walsingham, N. E. Chestnut, Cumi Sims, Anna Lee Harris and Olive Berry.

Poplar Head—Roy Chestnut, Jack Pitts, A. F. Squires, Sister Venie Davis, Roxy Pitts.

Spring Hill—J. I. Mears, J. L. Smith, C. S. Parish, Janie Mears.

Cowarts Creek—A. Fowler, J. C. Fowler, Richard Fowler, W. C. Silcox.

Blountstown—F. M. Knight, W. J. Starry, Sister F. M. Knight and Sister R. J. Pendarvis.

Pleasant Hill—C. E. Mears, Sister Goldie Harrell.

Beulah—Ben Champion, Sisters W. C. Pettis and Ben Champion.

Poly Branch—received by letter.

St. Paul—C. C. Clemons, J. L. Gainey, Tom Owens.

Piney Grove—John M. Rich, A. P. Weeks, W. H. Shores, Martie Mears, Bernard Owens.

Liberty—D. J. Cook, J. Foster.

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

A call was made for petitionary letters and received none.

A call was made for correspondence from Sister Associations.

From State Line—Rev. Floyd Cherry and Rev. D. W. Pool.

Bros. J. F. Fillingim, Chester Cook, J. S. Wachob and G. L. Shutes were seated as visiting brethren from Salem.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Committee on Divine Service—J. L. Smith, A. J. Pitts, C. E. Mears.

Committee on Resolutions—A. F. Squires, Rev. W. M. Duncan, John M Rich, A. B. Nelson.

Committee on Memorials—Sisters R. J. Pendarvis, Goldie Harrell, Janie Mears, J. H. Mears.

Committee on Finance—J. E. Sims, Bob Walsingham, Bernard Owens, J. W. Nelson.

Committee on Sabbath Schools—W. C. Pettis, Martie Mears, A. P. Weeks, Rev. W. M. Martin.

Committee on Auxiliary—J. H. Chestnut, B. H. Champion Sister Oma Lee Harris, Cumi Sims, Venie Davis.

Committee on Temperance—J. W. Nelson, Sister B. H. Champion, Olive Berry, W. H. Shores.

Committee on Education—A. B. Nelson, Rev. A. L. Pate, Floyd Cherry, D. W. Pool.

Committee on Nominations—J. Foster, Roy Chestnut, W. G. I. Owens.

Public collection for Rev. Hodges, \$4.19.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DIVINE SERVICE

Rev. J. F. Sowell to bring the message Friday at 7:00 p. m.
Rev. D. W. Pool to conclude the service. Rev. Floyd Cherry to preach Saturday morning at 11 a. m.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

On lower part of outside front cover. Closing song No. 21 in Glory Dawn. Benediction by Rev. W. M. Ducan.

FRIDAY EVENING, 7:00 P. M.

The congregation was called to order by song from the choir. Opening prayer by Rev. J. F. Shutes. Sermon by Rev. J. F. Sowell. Scriptural lesson, St. Mark, 3rd Chapter. The sermon concluded by D. W. Pool. Closing prayer Rev. A. B. Nelson. Benediction by Rev. A. L. Pate.

The Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

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SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

9 The Association was called to order with song by the choir at 9:30 'clock. Opening prayer by Rev. J. S. Wachob. Devotion by Rev. J. S. Wachob. Scriptural lesson, Romans 2nd Chapter, text, verse 18. Song by choir.

The Association again entered into a business session. Renewed the call for Petitionary Letters and received none. Renewed the call for correspondence from Sister Associations and received none.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your committee on Education, submit the following report: We recommend that each church send in a contribution for the support of the Zion Bible School to the next session of the Association.

A. B. Nelson, Chairman.

An urgent appeal was made by Rev. Floyd Cherry to the Association in regard to subscriptions to the Free-Will Baptist paper.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARY

We, your committee on Auxiliary, recommend that the pastor of each church in this Association endeavor to have carried on in their churches the different branches of Auxiliary, namely: Sunday School, League and Ladies' Aid work, which we feel that no church can afford to be without. We recommend that they select as leaders and teachers the best Christian people they can get.

J. H. Chestnut, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your committee on Sabbath School submit the following report: We find all churches represented have Sabbath Schools except three, and we urge the pastors of these churches to endeavor to establish Sabbath Schools in these churches. We also recommend that each branch of the churches use Free-Will Baptist literature. We also recommend that each home provide wholesome literature for their children to read.

W. C. Pettis, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We submit the following report: Observing that our Church Letters are getting so lengthy by reporting Auxiliary work, we recommend, first, that the Young People's League elect a President and Secretary for the entire Association. That the League shall make separate reports in joint session at our Association

in which reports for all Leagues in the Association shall be heard. Second, we recommend that the Ladies' Aid follow the same plans as outlined in the first article. Third, we recommend the election of a Sunday School worker for the entire Association.

A. F. Squires, Chairman.

Ten minutes intermission. Benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICES

Rev. Floyd Cherry filled the stand at eleven o'clock, apparently giving each one his portion, we trust, in due season. Scriptural lesson, St. John, 6th Chapter, verses 1 to 14. Central thought—"Christ Our Saviour."

Public collection for Rev. W. M. Duncan, \$6.23.

Closing song, by choir in Glory Dawn. Closing prayer by Rev. A. B. Nelson. Benediction by Rev. G. L. Shutes. One hour for refreshments.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association reassembled with song by the choir, No. 80 in Glory Dawn.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

We, your Committee on Memorials, submit the following report: We find from letters the following deceased—From Piney Grove, three; from Poley Branch, nine; St. John's, one; Blountstown, one; Spring Hill, one; Crescent City, one, and Poplar Head, one. With sad hearts we report the death of our loved ones. Cowarts Creek also reports the loss of two of their Brethren.

Sister Janie Mears, Chairman.

OUR HONORED DEAD

Bro. A. R. Barfield

Bro. and Sister Shepard

Bro. H. Vann

Sister Inez Parish

Sister Linnie Carnley

Bro. Alfond McAlpin

Sister Henrietta Kirkland

Bro. and Sister Lum Brant

Sister Charley Ccok

Bro. Ambros Edwards

Bro. W. H. Lassiter

Bro. W. C. Whitted

Sister Sarah Virginia Trawick Rev. W. H. McAlpin

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We your Committee, submit the following report: Since the use of intoxicating beverages is destructive to the usefulness of man, both spiritual and temperal, and the 18th amendment has been repealed, it seems that it gives Satan a better hold on the people, and it becomes us as a church people to become more cautious and on our guard against the deceitfulness of sin. We suggest that all members of the church be temperate in language and strong drink.

J. W. Nelson, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We find in the treasury	\$ 2.11
Sent in by the churches	21.75
For Zion Bible	2.40
Home Missions	3.15

Total\$29.41

J. E. Sims, Chairman.

CORRESPONDENTS TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

Union Hill Associations—B. H. Champion, W. C. Pettis and A. L. Pate.

State Line Association—Rev. A. L. Pate, Rev. W. M. Duncan.

Correspondents to the Eastern General Association which will convene with Horse Branch Church, Turbeville, S. C., beginning on Tuesday evening following the first Sunday in June, 1937, namely, June 8-11, 1937.—A. B. Nelson, J. W. Nelson.

It was moved and carried to retain the same Executive Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A short but interesting talk by Bro. A. J. Pitts on financing God's cause. Moved and carried to pay the Clerk \$7.50. Moved and carried to have 300 Minutes printed. The appointment of the Sabbath School and League workers was deferred until their respective conventions convene.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and Messengers that compose the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association, do sincerely thank the good people of Piney Grove Church and surrounding community for their bountiful spread and their goodness to us while with them. We pray that God will continue to bless and keep them.

Moved and carried to adjourn. Song by choir, No. 139 in Glory Dawn. Benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan

Statistical Table

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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.

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 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.

12. Conference shall be opened as follows: First, prayer; unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then; Second, invite visiting brethren to have seats with us; Third, open the doors for reception to members; Fourth, call for absentees; Fifth, for acknowledgments; 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 irreproachable 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.

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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 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 that 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 28:1-17.

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 equal 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 for ever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.

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 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.

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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 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 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, and what each church has paid him for his service.

Article 9.—That no minister shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rites of matrimony where either party has 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 to 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 who will voluntarily step aside immediately turn his credentials over to the executive committee and said executive 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 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. 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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
 2. Call for Corresponding Letters and Enrollment of Delegates.
 3. Organization—Election 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 Reports of Committees.
 10. Miscellaneous Business.
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NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. Pate	Bonifay, Florida
A. B. Nelson	Bonifay, Florida
J. H. Chestnut	Bonifay, Florida
J. C. Carnley	Caryville, Florida
W. M. Duncan	Blountstown, Florida
J. I. Chason	Crescent City, Florida
W. M. Martin	Bonifay, Florida
W. C. Burton	Crescent City, Florida
J. A. Yager	Chipley, Florida
C. H. Matthews	Chipley, Florida