

# MINUTES

— of the —

**Fiftieth Annual Session**

— of the —

**WEST FLORIDA**

**LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**ASSOCIATION**

Held With

**COWART'S CREEK CHURCH**

Six Miles South-East of Dothan, Ala.

**OCTOBER 14th and 15th, 1938**

---

## OFFICERS

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. H. Mears, Chairman

T. D. Owens	David Cook	Walter Pettis
A. J. Pitts	E. C. Anderson	Jim Strickland

---

The next session of the Association will convene with Spring Hill Church four miles north of Bonifay, Florida, on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1939 and continue through three days. Rev. Lee Mixon to preach the Introductory.

The next Union Meeting will convene with Piney Grove Church six miles south of Chipley, Florida, on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1939. Rev. Floyd Cherry to preach the Introductory.

---



# Proceedings

---

According to previous appointment the Fiftieth Annual session of the West Florida Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association met with Cowart's Creek Church on October 14 and 15, 1938.

## FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. J. C. Eldridge. Song by choir "Blessed Jesus Hold My Hand." Introductory by Rev. T. E. Ross. Prayer by Rev. Floyd Cherry. Song by choir. Scripture lesson a portion of 1st John 1. Central thoughts "Fellowship and Why." Concluding remarks by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Song by choir. Prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Welcome address by Rev. J. C. Eldridge. Response by Rev. Floyd Cherry. Dismissed until 1 o'clock by Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opening song by choir in "Waves of Joy." Opening prayer by Moderator. Scripture reading by Moderator from Book of James, third chapter. Call made for corresponding letters and the following letters received and delegates seated:

Poplar Head—Effie Squires. Sis. Warren Pitts, Flora Bell Newsome.

Piney Grove—J. H. Mears, Martie Mears, T. D. Owens, Sis. Alma Mears, Sis. Emma Owens.

Cowart's Creek—J. C. Fowler, W. G. Silcox, A. Fowler, M. C. Dixon, Walter Anderson.

Spring Hill—J. L. Smith, Grady Rich, E. C. Anderson, W. L. Brackins.

St. John's—Sis. Rosa Young, N. E. Chestnut, E. L. Nelson, R. L. Walsingham, A. B. Cook, Ola Mae Cook, Buford Chestnut, Docie Chestnut, R. W. Pipkin, Sis. Dixie Pipkin and Sis. Harris.

Pleasant Hill—J. W. Yates, Goldie Harrell, Ethel Harrell.

Liberty—David Cook, Johnnie Cook.

Blountstown—F. M. Knight, W. M. Cochran.

New Hope—A. J. Myers, Lewis Siverling.

St. Paul—C. C. Clemons.

Beulah—Sis. Walter Pettis, W. C. Pettis, Henry Elmore.

The Association entered into a business session. Re-elected G. W. Owens, Moderator; T. E. Ross, Assistant Moderator; N. E. Chestnut, Clerk and Treasurer.

A call made for Petitionary Letters and received none.

A call made for Corresponding Delegates from Sister Conventions and received the following:

From the Midway Association of Georgia—Rev. Luther Norris and wife and Rev. J. B. Lovering.

From the State Line Association—Rev. Floyd Cherry, Bro. C. C. Hicks and Sis. Lindon Hameric.

From Union Hill Association—S. M. Tindell.

From Salem Association—J. R. Hays, Sis. Delia Eldridge, Rev. J. C. Eldridge, J. C. Fillingim, Odell Hays.

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Committee on Divine Service—J. H. Mears, David Cook,

Bennett Cook, W. M. Cochran.

Committee on Temperance—A. B. Nelson, J. L. Smith, W. C. Pettis,

Committee on Education—Rev. Floyd Cherry, Buford Chestnut, J. B. Lovering.

Committee on Resolutions—W. G. Silcox, J. C. Fowler, A. Fowler.

Finance Committee—Sis. Rosa Young, E. L. Nelson, Archie Johnson.

Committee on Sabbath School—Rev. T. E. Ross, W. L. Brackins, E. C. Anderson, Martie Mears.

Committee on Nominations—T. D. Owens, C. C. Clemens, F. M. Knight, Henry Elmore.

Committee on Obituaries—A. B. Nelson, R. L. Walsingham, Sis. W. C. Pettis, A. J. Myers.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DIVINE SERVICE

Rev. Luther Norris to preach at 7:30 P. M. Friday. Rev. J. I. Chason to bring the message at 11:00 A. M. Saturday, followed by Rev. J. B. Lovering.

Moved and carried to adjourn until 9:00 A. M. Saturday. Closing song by congregation. Benediction by Rev. T. E. Ross.

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

Song by choir. Prayer by Rev. J. I. Chason. Sermon by Rev. Luther Norris. Scripture lesson, a portion of the 22nd chapter of Ezekiel. Prayer by Rev. Luther Norris. Lesson text, 30th verse of same chapter. Message concluded by Rev. A. B. Nelson. Song by choir. Benediction by Rev. J. B. Lovering.

#### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. A. B. Nelson. Morning devotional by Rev. Archie Johnson. Scripture lesson, a portion of the first chapter of David. Closing prayer by Rev. Archie Johnson. Call renewed for Petitionary Letters and received none. Call renewed for Correspondents from Sister Conventions and received none.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Report of the Committee on Nominations can be found on lower half of out-side front cover.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your committee on Sunday School, report that we find a number of our churches with Sunday Schools. We also find a number of our Sunday Schools using literature other than Free-Will Baptist literature. We recommend our Pastors see that the Sunday Schools use Free-Will Baptist literature. We request that the Pastors organize Sunday Schools in every Free-Will Baptist church. We also recommend that each home provide wholesome literature for their children to read.

T. E. Ross, Chairman.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your Committee on Resolutions, submit the following report: We recommend the short form of letter blanks be established.

W. G. Silcox, Chairman.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following report: Since the prohibition law is gone, bootlegging is still going on, and the saloons and beer joints also have come to curse our country with liquor. It seems that our churches are nearly the only force left to battle booze. Therefore, let us as Christians, abstain from all forms of alcoholic drinks and teach our children the dangers of liquor. Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived by these is not wise.—Proverbs 20:1. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.—I Cor. 9:25.

A. B. Nelson, Chairman.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

We, your Committee on Memorials, submit the following report: We are glad to find fewer deaths than usual this year in our Association. Only four of our members have been called away. They are: Sister Clark Gibson and Sister Jennie Perdue from St. John's; Sister Sallie Pippin, Piney Grove, and one member from St. Paul, but the name not submitted to the Association. We trust that our loss is Heaven's gain. Brethren, let us all be faithful, so that when our summons shall come, we may hear His, "Well done, thou faithful."

A. B. Nelson, Chairman.

### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Bro. F. M. Knight was granted a letter of recommendation for his church by the Association.

Moved and carried that the Clerk write Bro. Yager to turn in his credentials to the chairman of the Executive Committee.

Moved and carried to retain the same Executive Committee.

Piney Grove church has just recently licensed Bro. John M. Rich to preach.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following report:

In Treasury .....	\$ 3.10
For Minutes .....	24.00
For Missions .....	6.30
Total .....	\$33.40

Sister Rosa Young, Chairman

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Your Committee on Education makes the following report: Realizing the need of education, and especially Christian education, we feel that this body should go on record as giving its 100 per cent cooperation for the movement to move the Zion Bible School to Dothan, Ala. Also, we feel that this cooperation should be expressed in a more material way than mere words. Therefore, we are asking that a collection be taken at this time for the school. We also ask that our churches do all in their power to promote the education of our people by urging the people to read our papers, the Free-Will Baptist and Gospel Herald. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Floyd Cherry, Chairman.



## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION, 11:00 A. M.

Song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. T. E. Ross. Sermon by Rev. J. I. Chason. Scripture lesson, a portion of the 4th chapter of Amos. Lesson text, 12th verse. Dismissed for one hour for refreshments by Bro. A. B. Cook.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opening song by choir, "I Want to go to Glory Some Day." Opening prayer by the Moderator. Moved and carried in business session that we have 300 copies of minutes printed. Moved and carried to pay Clerk \$7.50. Moved and carried that we offer Resolution of Thanks to the Cowart's Creek community. Public collection for Rev. W. M. Duncan, \$5.25.

Rev. A. B. Nelson made a short but interesting talk on Home Missions.

Delegates to the Eastern General Association—Rev. A. B. Nelson and Bro. F. M. Knight.

## CORRESPONDENCE TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

To Midway Association of Georgia—Bro. A. Fowler and Walter Anderson.

To State Line Association—Bro. G. W. Owens, J. H. Mears. Public collection for Zion Bible School, \$11.00.

## RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and Messengers that compose the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association, do sincerely thank the good people of Cowart's Creek church and surrounding community for the bountiful spread, and also for the goodness and hospitality shown us during our sojourn among them. We pray God's richest blessings upon them.

Moved and carried to adjourn. Closing song by choir, "Just a Little While." Benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

## NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

T. E. Ross

W. M. Duncan

J. C. Carnley

J. H. Chestnut

A. B. Nelson

J. I. Chason

## Our Honored Dead

Sister Clarkie Gibson

Sister Jennie Perdue

Sallie Pippin



## 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 Conventions.
6. Appointment of Committees.
7. Appointment of Correspondents.
8. Reading of Corresponding Letters.
9. Hearing Reports of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous Business.



### 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.

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 cause, 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 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. 28-29; 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 31:1; 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 forever 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.

Article 4. The Moderator shall call the body to order and see that order is preserved. Submit all actions 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 acknowledgments 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.