

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Fifty-Third Annual Session

—OF THE—

West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

—HELD WITH—

POPLAR HEAD CHURCH

Five Miles South of Bonifay, Florida

October 16th and 17th, 1941

—O—

OFFICERS

BRO. ERNEST OWEN Moderator
N. E. CHESTNUT Clerk and Treasurer

—O—

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. H. MEARS, Chairman

T. D. OWENS, A. J. PITTS, E. L. NELSON,
E. C. ANDERSON, DAVID COOK .

—O—

The next session of the Association will convene with St. Johns Church, two miles South of Bonifay, Florida on Thursday Before the Third Sunday in October, 1942.
Rev. T. E. Ross to preach the Introductory.

The next Union Meeting will convene with Spring Hill Church, Four miles North of Bonifay, Florida, on Saturday Before the Second Sunday in August, 1942.
Rev. A. B. Nelson to preach the Introductory.

PROCEEDINGS

Fifty-third Annual Session of the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

According to previous appointments the Fifty-Third Annual session of the West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association met with Poplar Head Church on October 16 and 17, 1941.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song, "Stand Up For Jesus." Opening prayer by Rev. Archie Johnson. Song by choir, "Rock of Ages." Sermon at 11 A. M. by Rev. Floyd Cherry.

Scriptural Lesson, a portion of the 2nd chapter of 1st Peter, Text, 1st Peter 2:6. Closing prayer by Rev. Floyd Cherry. Closing song by choir. Benediction by Rev. J. H. Chestnut. Noon, one and a half hours.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order at the expiration of that time by the Moderator. Scriptural Lesson, Matthew 7th chapter.

A call was made for corresponding letters and received the following letters and seated the delegates from the various Churches as follows:

St. Johns Church—N. E. Chestnut, John Chance, J. W. Nelson, A. W. Bowlin, A. B. Cook, Raymond Nelson.

New Hope—By letter only.

Poplar Head—Effie Squires, Jennie Chestnut, G. W. Ussery.

Liberty—T. M. Hall, Ida Douglas, D. J. Cook.

Spring Hill—Grady Rich, Janie Mears, Ethel Anderson, E. C. Anderson, Lottie Smith.

Beulah—H. L. Elmore.

Cowarts Creek—J. C. Towler, Cary Vann, D. T. Hall, Bro. Coot Fowler, Sis. Susie Fowler.

Blountstown—F. M. Knight, Sis. F. M. Knight, W. I. Mears.

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

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

St. Paul—C. C. Clemons, Minnie Sherron, Julia Taylor, Lou Gainey.

Piney Grove—W. R. Riley, C. C. Owen, Ornie Owen, Nella Owen, Bedie Owen, Bertha Williams.

A call was made for petitionary letters and received none.

A call was made for delegates from sister associations.

Bro. J. F. Fillingim, W. C. Pettis and wife, and Rev. J. L. Nichols were seated as visitors from Salem Association.

Bro. K. V. Shutes and wife were seated as visitors from the Progressive Association of Alabama.

Bro. K. V. Shutes made a short, but an impressive talk on Religion and Prevailing Conditions.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Committee on Divine Service—A. B. Cook, W. R. Riley, Effie Squires.

Committee on Temperance—F. M. Knight, Lou Gainey, Goldie Harrell.

Committee on Education—Rev. Floyd Cherry, Rev. John M. Rich, Henry Mears.

Committee on Finance—Omie Owen, A. J. Pitts, Ethel Anderson.

Committee on Resolutions—David Cook, T. D. Owens, J. W. Nelson, A. W. Bowlin.

Committee on Sabbath School—Bertha Williams, Julia Taylor, C. E. Mears.

Committee on Nominations—Clayton Anderson, Bedie Owen, Raymond Nelson, Letha Mears.

Committee on Obituaries—Grady Rich, H. L. Elmore, John Chance, Nella Owen, J. D. Hughes.

Committee on Missions—W. I. Mears, J. C. Fowler, T. M. Hall, C. C. Owen.

Report of Committee on Divine Service—Rev. Archie Johnson to bring the message at 7:30 Thursday P. M. Moved and carried to adjourn until 9:30 Thursday A. M.

Closing song by choir, "God Be With You." Benediction by the Moderator.

THURSDAY 7:30 P. M. SERVICE

Sermon preceeded by prayer service. Sermon by Rev. Archie Johnson. Song by choir. Scriptural Lesson, a portion of 5th chapter of Matthew, Text 5:1. Closing prayer by Rev. J. L. Nichols. Closing song by choir. Benediction by Rev. J. C. Carnley.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song, "Old Time Religion." Opening prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Scriptural Lesson by Moderator, a portion of 5th chapter of Matthew. Call renewed for corresponding letters and received none. Call renewed for correspondence from sister associations and none. A call for petitionary letters and received none.

Report of Committee on Divine Service—Rev. John M. Rich to preach at eleven o'clock Friday morning. Moved and carried that a committee be appointed to rewrite the 4th item of the Articles of Faith. The committee, Rev. Floyd Cherry, Rev. T. E. Ross, Rev. John M. Rich.

Moved and carried to have a committee appointed to make investigation of the church property at Southport belonging to the Liberty Association. The committee, G. W. Owens, J. H. Mears, Rev. C. H. Matthews. Moved and carried to hear the minutes of the Union Meeting read.

Appointment of delegates to sister associations.

To State Line—Rev. Floyd Cherry, N. E. Chestnut, W. R. Riley.

To Union Hill—Rev. John M. Rich, Rev. A. B. Nelson, A. B. Cook.

To Midway—Rev. Floyd Cherry, T. D. Owens, J. H. Mears.

To Salem—Rev. John M. Rich, Ernest Owen, A. J. Pitts, M. H. Melvin.

To National Association—David Cook, T. D. Owens.

Report of Committee on Nominations is on lower portion of outside front cover.

Delegation to the State Association—Rev. A. B. Nelson, Clayton Anderson, Rev. C. H. Matthews, F. M. Knight.

Eleven o'clock service Friday Morning. Sermon by Rev. John M. Rich. Opening song by choir. Scriptural Lesson, a portion of the 5th chapter of Luke, Text 5:4. Closing song by choir. Benediction by Rev. J. L. Nichols. Noon one hour.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opening song by choir.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

We your Committee report the following deaths in our Association during the 1940-41 Associational Year.

Liberty Church—Sis. Rachel Goodson.

Piney Grove Church—Sis. Ellafare Fussell.

St. Johns Church—Bro. John Anderson.

Poplar Head Church—Sis. Annie Davis and Horace Bell.

New Harmony Church—Sis. N. J. Hughes.

Beulah Church—Sis. Dollie Golden.

New Hope Church—one.

Our hearts are made sad by the passing of these loved ones, but may we sorrow not as those who have no hope but as those who look toward a distant country whose builder and maker is God.

GRADY RICH, Chairman.

May the life of Bro. John Anderson be held sacred for the long Christian life he lived. He united with the Free Will Baptist Church when a young man and he had reached the ripe old age of 83 years. He remained faithful until death.

Sis. Dollie Golden was a member of the Church about 57 years and was a faithful member and also a deaconist until death claimed her.

Mrs. M. J. Hughes died March 28, 1941. She was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church, was of a noble, Christian character and raised her family up in the admonition of Christ. Our hearts are made sad at the loss of our Mother.

—J. D. Hughes.

A Suggestion: We your Committee on Obituaries wish to suggest that each Church in filling the Associational letter make a more complete letter and give all the information possible in order that the different committees make a more complete report.

GRADY RICH, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

We your Committee on Missions submit the following report. Whereas most of our towns and cities of America and many places in the country of mission fields as Free Will Baptist it becomes our duty to seek, to send or carry the Gospel to these new fields as the Lord enables us.

Our home missions work can be forwarded by each member of our Association contributing something to our home mission fund.

We recommend that each Church take a more active interest in home mission work. We suggest that each pastor appoint a committee of three members to look after this matter.

ETHEL HARRELL, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We your Committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following report. We urge all churches to have a Sabbath School and insist on both young and old to take part. Also elect Christians for your leaders.

This has a lot to do in the progress of the School.

BERTHA WILLIAMS, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We your Committee on Resolutions make the following report. Part one of resolutions was tabled indefinitely. Part two was received and is as follows: That we recommend that our preachers and Church officers discharge their duty and take more interest in the laymen of the Church to teach them their duties in regard to the Church, especially the finance of the churches.

D. J. COOK, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We your Committee on Education submit for your consideration the following report:

No people can be free who are not educated. They are bound by ignorance, superstition and prejudice. This being true we should strive to take advantage of every opportunity for self improvement.

Certain efforts have been made in our ranks for a Christian school, for these efforts we are grateful. Especially do we feel that our people should be grateful for the effort to have a Bible School in Dothan, Ala. This is the nearest effort that has ever been made to help this section. This being true we recommend that all money in the treasury for education plus a public offering be given on the Dothan property.

Respectively,
FLOYD CHERRY,
JOHN M. RICH,
J. H. MEARS,

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We your Committee on Temperance submit the following report: We recommend that we again adopt last year's report and that we as an Association try to live up to it by the help of God. Since the prohibition law is gone bootlegging is still going on and the saloons and beer joints also have come to course our country with liquor. It seems that our Churches are nearly the only force left to battle booze, therefore let us as Christian abstain from all forms of alcoholic drinks and to teach our children the danger of liquor. Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceiveth by those is not wise."—Proverbs 20-1, and "Every man that striveth for the Mastery is temperate in all things."—First Cor. 9:25.

F. M. KNIGHT, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We your Committee on Finance submit the following report:

We have \$30.73 for minutes, for education \$5.00, and for home missions \$2.00.

We your Committee recommend that all of the Churches put forth a special effort for our Education Fund the coming year.

MRS. OMA OWEN, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

I herewith submit a full report of mission funds sent to Association by some of our Churches for mission work in our Association. Also report of amount paid out by order of H. M. Board and for what services rendered. Amount sent from 1936 to 1940, \$17.25. Amount paid out for home mission work at Caryville, Florida, \$9.00. Balance, \$8.25. Work at Caryville was stopped because Free Will Baptists living there did not cooperate.

A. B. NELSON, Chairman, H. M. B.

A. F. SQUIRES, Treasurer.

Moved and carried to pay clerk \$7.50.

Public collection of \$10.00 to apply on Free Will Baptist Bible School building in Dothan, Ala.

Public offering of \$10.10 for Rev. W. M. Duncan.

Moved and carried to retain the same Executive Committee.

Bro. Ernest Owen was re-elected Moderator for Associational year 1942. Bro. G. W. Owens was elected assistant Moderator. N. E. Chestnut was re-elected clerk and treasurer.

Moved and carried to tender a resolution of thanks to the Church and community of Poplar Head.

Moved and carried to adjourn until 10:00 o'clock A. M. Thursday be-

fore Third Sunday in October, 1942.

Closing song by choir.

Benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

Liberty Association Minister Ordaining Board—Rev. T. E. Ross, Rev. A. B. Nelson, Rev. J. H. Chestnut.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ARTICLES OF FAITH

We, your committee on Articles of Faith, desire to make this report:
We recommend that the Fourth Article shall read as follows:

“Article 4. We believe that no man is excepted from the graces of God made possible through Christ; but that all may believe unto salvation, or disbelieve unto eternal perdition.—Jno. 3:16, Rom. 1:16, Luke 24:47; 1st. Timothy 2:4.”

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. RICH

T. E. ROSS

FLOYD CHERRY

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 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.

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Floyd Cherry

J. C. Carnley

A. B. Nelson

W. M. Martin

John M. Rich

J. H. Chestnut

J. I. Chason

W. M. Duncan

C. H. Matthews

G. L. Shutes

T. E. Ross

D. A. Johnson

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES AND PASTORS	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Con. of Faith	Total Received	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Total Members	Meeting Days
Cowarts Creek—Archie Johnson..	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	146	4th Sunday
Blountstown—Harris Harvey	W. B. Phillips, Blountstown, Fla.	2	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	54	3rd Sunday
Piney Grove—J. B. Lovering	T. D. Owens, Chipley, Fla.	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	114	2nd Sunday
New Hope—J. I. Chason	Allen Bacon, Crescent City, Fla.	2	0	1	0	3	0	1	1	19	2nd Sunday
Spring Hill—Jim Posey	Grady Rich, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	44	2nd Sunday
Liberty—Daniel Waters	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla.	0	4	1	1	6	0	0	1	30	4th Sunday
Pleasant Hill	Cleatus Birch, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	4th Sunday
St. Johns—John M. Rich	N. E. Chestnut, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	1	125	3rd Sunday
Beulah—D. A. Johnson	H. C. Martin, Graceville, Fla.	0	1	1	0	2	5	2	1	43	3rd Sunday
Poplar Head—John M. Rich	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	80	1st Sunday
St. Paul—John M. Rich	J. L. Gainey, Vernon, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2nd Sunday
New Harmony—Daniel Waters ..	Joe Hughes, Chipley, Fla.	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	24	2nd Sunday

OUR HONORED DEAD**Rachel Goodson****Horace Bell****John Anderson****Sis. N. J. Hughes****Anna Davis****Dollie Golden****Ella Fare Fussell****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 meetings 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 in 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 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; 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 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.

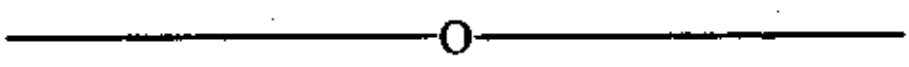
27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission of the Moderator, nor shall the remarks be unreasonably long.

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.



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 is excepted from the graces of God made possible through Christ; but that all may believe unto salvation, or disbelieve unto eternal perdition.—Jno. 3:16; Romans 1:16; Luke 24-47; 1st Timothy 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 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; Act 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.

—o—

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 delegates or minister shall be allowed to absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

Article 7. 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 services.

Article 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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 12. 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 action that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 13. That any minister who will voluntarily step aside shall 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 14. That no church shall retain a minister or deacon who does not rule his own house well.

Article 15. 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 quarterly 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 16. 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 17. No preacher shall preach in our churches that cannot bring a clear record from his home church.

Article 18. No preacher shall pastor a church unless he on his first trip produces his credentials.