

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Fifty-Fourth Annual Session

— OF THE —

West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

— HELD WITH —

ST. JOHNS CHURCH

Two Miles South of Bonifay, Florida

October 15 and 16, 1942

OFFICERS

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. H. MEARS, Chairman

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

The next session of the Association will convene with Blountstown Church, Blountstown, Florida, on Thursday before the Third Sunday in October, 1943.

Rev. S. T. Shuites to preach the Introductory

The next Union Meeting will convene with New Harmony Church, five miles South of Chipley, Florida, on Saturday before the Second Sunday in August, 1943.

Rev. D. A. Johnson to preach the Introductory

Proceedings

Proceedings of the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

According to previous appointment the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of the West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association met with St. Johns Church on October 15 and 16, 1942.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song, "Just Look For Me At The Gate." Opening prayer by Rev. J. C. Eldridge, followed by song and prayer by Rev. John M. Rich.

Introductory by Rev. T. E. Ross, followed by Rev. Archie Johnson. Scriptural lesson, a portion of Roman 12, Text, 12-1.

Closing song, "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." Benediction by Rev. G. L. Shuites. Noon one hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION

At the expiration of that time, the Association was called to order by Bro. Ernest Owen, the Moderator. Scriptural lesson by Moderator, a portion of Luke 8. Opening prayer by Moderator.

A call was made for Corresponding Letters from the Sister Churches and received the following letters and seated the delegates as follows:

Liberty—Sister Lela McFarlin and D. J. Cook.

Beulah—H. L. Elmore, Harvey Fowler and Bro. and Sister B. H. Champion.

Pleasant Hill—D. E. Birch, Bro. and Sister Charley Harrell and Ethel Harrell.

Cowart's Creek—A. Fowler, Sister A. Fowler, Cary Varn, J. C. Fowler, Bro. and Sister D. T. Hall.

St. John—Raymond Nelson, N. E. Chesnut, W. R. Pipkin, E. L. Nelson, Charley Yates, Vera May Cook, Dixie Pipkin.

Blountstown—E. L. Branch, F. M. Knight.

Poplar Head—Connie Pettis, Roxie Pitts, Jennie Chesnut, Sister Connie Pettis.

Spring Hill—E. C. Anderson, J. L. Smith, C. A. Anderson, Sister Mollie Anderson, Sister Lottie Smith, Sister Callie Smith.

New Harmony—J. D. Hughes, Elmeda Barkley, Simon Barkley.

Piney Grove—C. C. Owen, Earley Peel, Arvil Retherford, M. Rich, J. A. Owens.

St. Paul—James Clemmons, Ethel Clemmons, J. L. Gainey, Sister Lou Gainey.

A call for Petitionary Letters and received none.

A call was made for Correspondents from Sister Associations and

received Bro. J. E. Eldridge as a delegate from Salem, and Rev. Daniel Walters and Bro. and Sister J. C. Eldridge from Salem were seated as visiting brothers and sister.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Committee on Divine Service—A. J. Pitts, C. C. Owen, Simon Barkley.

Committee on Temperance—J. L. Gainey, H. L. Elmore, E. L. Nelson.

Committee on Education—D. J. Cook, Rev. John M. Rich, Earley Peel.

Committee on Finance—Ethel Harrell, Roxie Pitts, A. J. Pitts.

Committee on Resolutions—T. D. Owens, Rev. Daniel Walter, Raymond Nelson.

Committee on Sabbath School—Arvel Retherford, A. J. Pitts, J. H. Chesnut.

Committee on Nominations—Charley Yates, J. L. Smith, J. H. Mears.

Committee on Obituaries—F. M. Knight, Vera May Cook, Ethel Clemmons.

Committee on Missions—W. R. Pipkin, A. B. Nelson, E. L. Branch.

Report of Committee on Divine Service—Rev. J. C. Eldridge to preach at 3:30 P. M., and Rev. Daniel Walters to preach at 8:00 P. M.

Sermon by Rev. J. C. Eldridge, lesson a portion of the 16th Chapter of Revelation. Moved and carried that the Association adjourn until 10:00 A. M. Friday. Closing song, "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand," closing prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

THURSDAY EVENING 8:00 O'clock.

Sermon by Rev. Daniel Walters. Opening song by choir. Opening prayer by J. E. Shiver, followed by Rev. Floyd Cherry. Scripture lesson a portion of Genesis 11; Text Genesis 19-20. Sermon concluded by Rev. Floyd Cherry, closing song by choir; benediction by Rev. A. B. Nelson.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Association called to order by the Moderator. Opening song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

The call was renewed for Corresponding letters and received none.

The call was renewed for Petitionary letters and received none.

The call was renewed for Corresponding delegates from Sister Associations and received none.

The following delegates were appointed to correspond with the Sister Associations:

To the Union Hill Association—Rev. John M. Rich, B. H. Champion.

To the State Line Association—Rev. Floyd Cherry, J. D. Strickland.

To Midway Association—Rev. John M. Rich, A. B. Cook and Orville Retherford.

To Salem Association—Ernest Owen, A. J. Pitts and Charley Mears.

To the National Association—Rev. John M. Rich, Rev. G. L. Shuites.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education, make the following report: We ought to make every effort possible to get and give our people, old and young, an education. Education will free our people from religious intolerance, strife, prejudice and superstition. Therefore, we ought to support our educational facilities of our church, such as Sunday Schools, religious papers and Bible Schools, both local and national.

Respectfully submitted,
D. J. COOK, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit this report for your consideration: In these strenuous times it is important that our people be sober and clear-minded. This cannot be done and drink wine, beer or liquor. Therefore, we urge total abstinence. Moved and carried that this Association go on record as opposing the sale of intoxicating liquors in or around our army camps.

REV. FLOYD CHERRY, Chairman.

Song by choir.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, the Committee on Sabbath Schools, submit our report: We believe that Sabbath School is essential unto christianity, as it trains our young people in the church, in the way of right living, and in the knowledge of the Lord, and in the will of the Lord concerning His people. We believe that no church is complete without a Sunday School, and urge all preachers and deacons to work for a Sunday School in each church. And that the older people attend Sunday School with the children, especially the Free Will Baptist denomination. This is the Committee's own personal conviction.

Amendment

We recommend that all officers and teachers used in Sunday Schools be christians as far as possible.

ARVEL RETHERFORD, Chairman.

(The report of the Committee on Nominations will be found on the lower part of the outside front cover. J. L. Smith, Chairman.)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg to make the following report: We find that the report of most committees are only suggestive, and we, your committee, recommend or resolute that our churches put into practice the things we know to be our duty.

T. D. OWENS, Chairman.

Rev. Daniel Walters filled the stand at 11:00 A. M., Friday. Scripture lesson, a portion of the first Chapter of St. Mark. Lesson text, first verse

of the first Chapter of Isaiah. Closing song by choir. Benediction by Rev. A. B. Nelson.

It was moved and carried by the Association to give the Moderator power to appoint committees in the various churches to make their reports at the next association. Noon one and a half hours.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opening song, "Where The Soul of Man Never Dies." Opening prayer, by Rev. Floyd Cherry.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

We, your Committee, beg to report as follows: That no clerk reporting deaths in their church has furnished this committee with necessary data as required by this Association. We are unable to obtain same. Names of the deceased:

Poplar Head—Sister Ella Newsome.

St. Johns Church—Sister Argie Lee Sims.

St. Paul—Brother Charley Clemmons.

Piney Grove—Brother John Griffin.

Blountstown—Brother H. P. Whitehead. Bro. Whitehead died February 10, 1942, at the age of 73 years.

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.

F. M. KNIGHT, Chairman.

Sister Argie Lee Sims departed this life June 11th, 1942. She was called away at the young age of 37 years. May the memory of Sister Argie Lee be held sacred because of the noble life she lived. She has left a vacancy in her home, her church, and even in the hearts of her friends, that cannot be filled. Our greatest desire is to meet Sister Argie Lee in her heavenly home some day. (Written by a Friend.)

Free will offering for Rev. W. M. Duncan, \$12.78.

Moved and carried to retain same Executive Committee.

Moved and carried to retain same Moderator and Clerk.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

We, your Committee on Missions, submit the following report: We note with pleasure the increase of mission funds by some of our churches. We urge our people to cooperate with the pastor in collecting .10 from each member for Missions to send the Gospel where it is needed, and receive a reward for aiding in this great work.

Respectfully submitted,
W. R. PIPKIN, Chairman.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

Dear Brethren:—There has been some mission work by Rev. Daniel Walters, Rev. Floyd Cherry and myself. Said work financed itself. Bro. David Cook has also done some work which was financed by himself.

If we are to expand as we should, we need more evangelists. Our treasurer is not here to report funds on hand. We note the present financial report shows \$19.15 from four various churches only. We appreciate these contributions and hope to see all the churches share in this very essential work.

A. B. NELSON, Chairman.

It was moved and carried that Rev. Floyd Cherry get 25 minutes to use in his work at Panama City, Fla.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We your Committee on Finance, submit the following report:

In Treasury	\$6.71
For Minutes and Associational Purposes..	30.77
For Missions	19.15

TOTAL, \$56.63

ETHEL HARRELL, Chairman

Moved and carried to pay Clerk \$12.50.

Moved and carried to print 300 minutes.

Moved and carried that the Moderator and Clerk meet within 30 days and give each church notice of the committee on which it shall serve and make report to the next session of the association.

Moved and carried that the minute of the Union meeting be read in the Association, which was done.

It was moved and carried that a resolution of thanks be offered by the Association to St. Johns Church and the community.

Moved and carried to adjourn until 10:00 o'clock Thursday before the third Sunday in October 1943. Closing song by choir. Benediction by Rev. G. L. Shuites.

Liberty Association's Minister Ordaining Board

Rev. T. E. Ross Rev. A. B. Nelson Rev. J. H. Chesnut.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and Messengers that compose the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association, do sincerely thank the good people of St. Johns 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

A. B. Nelson

J. H. Chesnut

C. H. Matthews

T. E. Ross

J. C. Carnley

John M. Rich

W. M. Duncan

G. L. Shuites

D. A. Johnson

OUR HONORED DEAD

Sister Argie Lee Sims

Sister Ella Newsome

Bro. C. C. Clemmons

Bro. John Griffin

Bro. H. P. Whitehead

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES AND PASTORS	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES										Meeting Days
		Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Con. of Faith	Total Received	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Total Members	
Piney Grove—John M. Rich.....	Early Peel, Chipley, Fla.	3	0	0	1	4	11	0	1	125	2nd Sunday
St. Paul—Daniel Walters	J. L. Gainey, Vernon, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	4th Sunday
Liberty—Daniel Walters	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla.	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	34	4th Sunday
Beulah—D. A. Johnson	B. H. Champion, Graceville, Fla...	5	13	0	1	19	0	0	0	60	3rd Sunday
Pleasant Hill—	Ethel Harrell, Bonifay, Fla.	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	45	4th Sunday
Cowart's Creek—D. A. Johnson....	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	145	4th Sunday
St. Johns—John M. Rich	W. R. Pipkin, Bonifay, Fla.	4	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	127	3rd Sunday
Blountstown—S. T. Shuites	W. B. Phillips, Blountstown, Fla...	12	0	0	1	13	0	0	1	56	3rd Sunday
Spring Hill—D. A. Johnson	Lottie Smith, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	44	4th Sunday
Poplar Head—J. C. Watson	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla.	1	1	0	3	5	0	0	1	64	2nd Sunday
New Harmony—Daniel Walters	Joe Hughes, Chipley, Fla.	10	2	0	3	15	0	0	0	43	1st Sunday

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The Church may choose a pastor annually at last conference in Association year, or if they prefer may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be choosen 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 and 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 attended 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: Eight, 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 acknowledgement 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 discussions 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

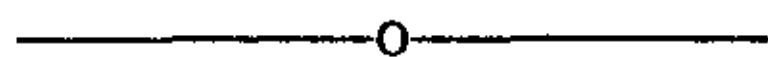
without permission of the Moderator, nor shall the remarks be unreasonably long.

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 adjusted to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and this judgement 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 are 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 and appointment or serving churches who fail to meet at the appointed hour, shall be due acknowledgements 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.