

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Fifty-Sixth Annual Session

— OF THE —

**West Florida Liberty Free Will
Baptist Association**

— HELD WITH —

Piney Grove Church

CHIPLEY, FLORIDA

October 12 and 13, 1944

OFFICERS

BRO. J. H. CHESNUT Moderator

BRO. N. E. CHESNUT Clerk and Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ERNEST OWEN, Chairman

W. R. PIPKIN

EARLIE PEEL

J. FOSTER

E. L. BRANCH

The next session of the Association will convene with Beulah on Thursday before the Third Sunday in October, 1945.

Rev. Daniel Walters to preach the Introductory.

The next Union Meeting will convene with Cowarts Creek on Saturday before the Second Sunday in August, 1945.

Rev. J. H. Chesnut to preach the Introductory.

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**West Florida Liberty Free Will
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Very interesting talk by Rev. S. T. Shuites on the church paper.

Report of Committee on Divine Service. Bro. J. W. Roberts to preach at 3:30 p. m. Rev. E. C. Williams to preach at 7:30 p. m.

Rev. C. E. Morris to preach tomorrow at 11:00. Moved and carried that the Association adjourn until 9:30 a. m. Friday. Song by choir. Dismissed by Moderator.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Called to order by Moderator at 9:30 a. m. by singing No. 124 in Favorite Songs and Hymns. Opening prayer by Ernest Owen. Scripture lesson 24th Psalm.

Renewed call for Petitionary Letters. Received none.

Renewed the Call for Correspondence from Sister Association:

From Salem—Rev. A. W. Cook, Bro. and Sister Chester Cook, Juanita Mazrace.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your Committee, submit the following report. We find in the treasury a balance of \$25.45; sent in for minutes and Association purposes, \$34.55; for home missions, \$79.96; superannuation, \$36.25. Amount in treasury, \$177.21.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON MISSIONS

We, your Committee on Missions, make the following report. We recommend that each church provide at least \$1.00 per month for each member to send to the Association for Missions to be used for both building and evangelizing.

Respectfully submitted,

ABIGAIL CHURCH.

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN HOME MISSION BOARD

With regret that I can not be there in person, I am giving you this brief report: It has come to pass that not much mission work appears available without using a tent. We have been saving our mission funds to that end. Amount in my charge, \$107.50. A. G. Squires has balance and can report some. It's a good time to collect funds now. I will add to my own contributions of \$8.00.

My school work now helps to show us that we need our Association held on Friday and Saturday. Our church growth will be largely due to additions of children. Most school work does not promote their spiritual growth. We are losing some of our own children to other denominations—a serious leak. May God prosper us as a denomination.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. NELSON.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your committee, make the following report: We urge that each church have and maintain a Sabbath School and request that the pastors of the various churches assist and see that the Sabbath School is conducted in the proper manner so as to be a benefit to the church and cause.

Respectfully submitted,

BLOUNTSTOWN CHURCH AND PASTOR.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE

We, your committee, recommend the following:

1. That all the Free Will Baptist abstain from strong drinks.
2. That all Free Will Baptist read and familiarize ourself with the 5th chapter of Isaiah.
3. That we practice temperance in words, natural appetite, passions and temper.
4. That all Free Will Baptist vote a dry ticket every time we get an opportunity in county, state and nation. Brother, how can we expect to keep down strong drinking when we are voting for an officer or a wet administration?

ERNEST OWEN, Chairman,
REV. JOHN M. RICH,
REV. J. W. ROBERTS.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee, make the following report: May each church in our Association earnestly work and pray for our denomination to be stronger in the coming year than ever before. Be it further resolved that each church cooperate in every way and send a delegation to the State Association which will convene at Piney Grove church on the first Friday in January. Be it resolved also that each church in our Association make a special effort to cooperate with the \$50,000 National Auxiliary campaign.

We suggest that each of our churches maintain a lively Sabbath School and Mid-week Prayer Service and cooperate with the Ladies' Auxiliary.

May each church that does not have a Free Will Baptist League organize one during the coming year.

Be it resolved by this body of delegates and ministers present, constituting the Free Will Baptist Liberty Association, to require from henceforth all applicants applying for ordination to function in the gospel ministry of the Free Will Baptist church to be examined in the faith and ordinances of above said Free Will Baptist church, to ascertain the applicant's qualification to preach and practise the same above said faith and ordinances.

Should the applicant fail to qualify because of not being familiar with doctrinal views and ordinances, failing to give Bible reference to establish the above said faith and practise, then the ordination shall be postponed to some future date.

Should the applicant fail to be fully in accord with the Free Will faith and practice, then the applicant shall not be ordained.

Unless the applicant subscribes to Free Will Baptist faith and practise in full, as printed in the treatise.

Resolve that the pastors of our churches preach strictly Free Will Baptist doctrine and practices, and that the deacons of the respective churches keep check on these things.

Respectfully submitted,
PINEY GROVE CHURCH
MRS. ERNEST OWEN,
MRS. EARLIE PEEL,
MRS. BEDDIE OWEN,
MRS. REDMON RILEY.
Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We submit the following report: We as a Christian people should make every effort possible to give our people a special education.

We recommend the budget plan and give education a place on the budget. By doing so we can support all education facilities of the church and furnish good books and literature for our people to read.

This report read and adopted in church while in conference. This 18th day of September, 1944.

REV. JOHN M. RICH, Moderator.

W. R. PIPKIN, Church clerk.

ST. JOHN CHURCH.

CHURCHES AND COMMITTEES AS ASSIGNED FOR 1945

Beulah—Nominations.

St. John—Temperance.

Pleasant Hill—Sabbath School.

Piney Grove—Education.

Poplar Head—Obituaries.

Spring Hill—Resolutions.

Abagail—Finance.

Blountstown—Divine Service.

Cowarts Creek—Missions.

Moved and carried to have 300 minutes printed, Corresponding Letters forms 100.

Moved and carried to pay the clerk \$15.00 for his service.

Moved and carried to offer resolution of thanks to Piney Grove and community for caring for the Association.

Moved and carried to elect officers for the Association for 1945. For Moderator, Rev. J. H. Chesnut; clerk, Ernest Owen; Executive Committee, Chairman Ernest Owen, W. R. Pipkin, J. Foster, E. L. Branch, Earlie Peel.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the delegates and messengers which compose the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association, do sincerely thank the good people of Piney Grove 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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for Corresponding Letters and enrollment of delegates.
3. Call for Petitionary Letters.
4. Call for Correspondents from Sister Conventions.
5. Assignments of Committees to the churches.
6. Appointments of Correspondents.
7. Reading the Corresponding Letters.
8. Hearing Reports of Committees.
9. Election of Moderator and Clerk.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION'S ORDAINING BOARD

Rev. T. E. Ross

Rev. A. B. Nelson

Rev. J. H. Chesnut

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

Daniel Walters

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES AND PASTOR	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Con. of Faith	Total Received	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Total Members	Meeting Days
Piney Grove—Lee Mixon	Earlie Peel, Chipley, Fla.	4	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	162	2nd & 4th Sun.
Liberty—Daniel Walters	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla.	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	33	4th Sunday
Beulah—James W. Roberts	E. A. Hatcher, Graceville, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	57	3rd Sunday
Pleasant Hill—J. A. Pettis	Ethel Harrell, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	94	4th Sunday
Cowarts Creek—S. T. Shuites	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	143	1st Sunday
St. Johns—Daniel Walters	W. R. Pipkin, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	128	3rd Sunday
Blountstown—C. E. Morris	Vera Mae Simpler, Blountstown..	3	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	63	1st & 3rd Sun.
Abigail—Daniel Walters	W. T. Morris, Vernon, Fla.	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	2nd Sunday
Poplar Head—Daniel Walters	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla.	1	2	0	0	3	2	0	0		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 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 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 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. Conferences 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 conferences 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 other 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 24-27; 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; Acts 3:18-38; 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.

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DECORUM OF LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Article 1. This Association shall be composed of delegates from churches in good standing only, and shall be called together by the Moderator of last session if present. If absent, by his assistant, or 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 arise 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 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.