

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Fifty-Seventh Annual Session

— OF THE —

**West Florida Liberty Free Will
Baptist Association**

— HELD WITH —

Beulah Church

GRACEVILLE, FLORIDA

October 18 and 19, 1945

OFFICERS

BRO. J. H. CHESNUT Moderator
BRO. ERNEST OWEN Clerk and Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ERNEST OWEN, Chairman

W. R. PIPKIN
J. FOSTER

EARLIE PEEL
E. L. BRANCH

The next session of the Association will convene with Liberty Church on Thursday, Friday and Saturday before the Third Sunday in October, 1946. Rev. Coy Watson to preach the Introductory Sermon.

The next Union Meeting will convene with Spring Hill on Saturday before the Second Sunday in August, 1946. Rev. Daniel Walters to preach the Introductory Sermon.

PROCEEDINGS

Fifty-Seventh Annual Session

West Florida Liberty Free Will

Baptist Association

PROCEEDINGS

Proceeding of the Fifty-seventh Annual Session of the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association.



According to previous appointments the Fifty-seventh Annual Session of the West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association met with Beulah Church, October 18 and 19, 1945.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song by choir. Introductory sermon by Rev. Daniel Walters, subject, "So Build We the Wall," from 4th chapter of Nehemiah. Dismissed one and one-half hours for dinner.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION

After song and prayer Association was called to order by Moderator, with the reading of the Twenty-third Psalm.

A call was made for corresponding letters from the sister churches. The following letters were received and delegates seated:

SPRING HILL—J. L. Smith, Callie Smith, Lottie Smith and Vicie Watkins.

PINEY GROVE—C. C. Owen, John Coley, Ambros Retherford, A. H. Retherford, Vea Peel, Ina Riley, Vera Owens, Etha Mae Owen.

BLOUNTSTOWN—F. M. Knight and W. M. Cockron.

ABIGAIL—Thelma Cook, Leola Walters and Louise McFarlin.

LIBERTY—Dee Dykes, Arthur Cook, J. Foster, Goldie Brock, and Marie Dykes.

POPLAR HEAD—Henry Mears, Sister Henry Mears, G. W. Usery, Effie Squires, and Jennie Chesnut.

ST. JOHNS—A. B. Cook, W. R. Pipkin, N. E. Chesnut, J. D. Strickland, Vera M. Cook, Earl Cook and Lucile Cook.

PLEASANT HILL—Bro. and Sister Charlie Mears, Sister Robbie Lee, Goldie Harrell and J. W. Yates.

BEULAH—Harvey Fowler, Horace Fowler, E. A. Hatcher and B. H. Champian.

COWARTS CREEK—Bro. and Sister A. Fowler, Bro. and Sister Coy Vann, R. B. Fowler, and D. T. Hill.

A call for petitionary letters. Received none.

A call was made for correspondence from sister associations and received the following:

From Union Hill Association—Rev. J. A. Pettis.

From Chattahoochee Association—Rev. Coy Watson.

From Salem Association—W. M. Calloway, A. F. Filingim.

Report of Committee on Divine Service

Bro. Martie Mears to preach at 3:30 o'clock. Bro. J. A. Pettis to bring the message at 7:30 o'clock Thursday P. M. and Bro. G. L. Shuites to preach at 11:00 o'clock Friday morning.

Bro. Mears brought an interesting message from First chapter of Proverbs Thursday evening, after which the Association adjourned to meet at 9:30 Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Opening song "America," prayer by G. W. Owens; scripture, Fifth chapter of Matthew.

Renewed call for petitionary letters. Received none.

Renewed call for correspondence from sister associations. Received none.

Report of Committee on Education

We, as the Free Will Baptist denomination, should strive to have a better educated denomination for the on-coming generation. Our children will be better educated than we are, so our church must keep pace with them, or as a denomination we will fail.

We recommend that each church maintain a Sunday School and a Ladies' Auxiliary for we believe this to be very important to the religious education of youth and general laity.

We further recommend that one of our denominational papers be found in every home.

We feel that every church should boost our F. W. B. Bible College and help to support this work when possible.

When our denomination is better educated, we will have a greater denomination. The Master expects us to do our best with the talents He left in our keeping.

Respectfully submitted,

PINEY GROVE CHURCH.

Report of Committee on Temperance

We, your Committee on Temperance, make the following report for your consideration:

(1) That we as Christians of the Free Will Baptist Faith, though living in a wet administration, do live sober and free from strong drink.

(2) That all Free Will Baptists read and study the Fifth chapter of Isaiah.

(3) That we teach our young people the dangers of strong drink to the natural as well as the spiritual mind.

(5) That we especially speak and vote against strong drink in our community, around our Army camps where our boys are tempted daily.

(6) That, we as Free Will Baptist, vote a dry ticket every time we get an opportunity in our county, state and nation. Brethren how can we expect to keep down strong drink when we vote for an officer or a wet administration. Let us do our part with God's help.

Respectfully submitted,

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

Report of Committee on Sabbath School

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

Respectfully submitted,

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH

Report of Committee on Obituaries

We find that the Lord at His will has taken from our midst the following:

From Piney Grove: Sidney J. Williams, who was a member of the F. W. B. church about thirty years, and Sarah Alice Dorch. Sister Dorch died on Jan. 17, 1943, and was a faithful member of our church, beloved to all.

From St. John's Church: Sister Martha Scott, who died Nov. 4, 1944. Sister Scott was a faithful and loyal member to the church, and we feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Bro. Jim Chitty died in July, 1945. He had been a member of St. John's church since 1923.

We, the committee, feel that their service here has been manifested in our midst, and that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Respectfully submitted,

POPLAR HEAD CHURCH.

Report of Committee on Finance

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

Balance left over from 1944	\$ 22.50
Sent in for Minutes and Association purposes	44.50
For Missions	200.00
Superannuation	49.34
Amount paid retired ministers	49.34
Total in treasury	\$267.00

Respectfully submitted,

ABAGAIL CHURCH.

Report of Committee on Missions

We, your Committee on Missions, beg to submit the following:

Seeing the great need for mission work, also for Evangelization, we suggest that the Moderator together with the Clerk select five brethren from different sections of the Association to look after the weaker churches and to watch for opportunities to start a new work in their respective fields. They are to secure a minister of repute to conduct revival services in places where there is a favorable prospect to establish a new work. These brethren are also to act as the Home Mission Board for this Association.

There shall be a treasurer appointed by the Moderator separate from above said board.

Above said board shall select from themselves a chairman and a secretary.

The home mission funds shall be subject to said board for expenses. All receipts and disbursements must be recorded and reported at next session of the Association.

We suggest that each member of the separate churches pay to the mission funds at least one dollar per year if possible.

We further suggest that all the former suggestions and resolutions concerning missions be repealed.

Respectfully submitted,

G. L. SHUITES, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Resolutions

We, your Committee, 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 F. W. B. League organize one during the next year.

Resolved that all services be omitted at each local church on the date of the Union Meeting and that of the Preachers' and Deacon's meeting for the purpose of having more, especially preachers to attend the services.

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

Resolved that no applicant who is not thoroughly familiar with F. W. B. doctrine and Bible references of same shall be ordained to preach in our churches.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. DANIEL WALTERS.

Report of Ladies' Auxiliary Work

BLOUNTSTOWN CHURCH: Paid out for repairs, etc., for church, \$58.61; donated for relief, \$94.00; total cash disbursements, \$152.61.

BEULAH CHURCH: Spent for paint to paint church, \$48.80; gave to pastor, 26 quarts of peaches in August; donated \$2.00 to pastor in September; gave for flowers and relief, \$4.50; total in treasury now, \$29.75.

PINEY GROVE CHURCH: Paid out for floor paint for church, \$18.75; paid out for carpets, \$17.15; total paid out, \$35.90; total in treasury now, \$15.00.

Churches and Committees Assigned for 1946

Nominations—St. John's.

Temperance—Pleasant Hill.

Resolutions—Piney Grove.

Sabbath School—Spring Hill.

Divine Service—Liberty.

Education—Abagail.

Finance—Blountstown.

Missions—Poplar Head.

Obituary—Coward's Creek.

Ladies' Auxiliary—Beulah.

A motion was made and carried to pay clerk \$15.00 for his service. The clerk donated this money to the mission fund.

A motion was made and carried to have 300 minutes and 100 corresponding letter forms printed.

The following officers were elected for the Association for 1946:

Rev. Daniel Walters—Moderator.

Ernest Owen—Clerk.

Executive Committee—Chairman, Ernest Owen, W. R. Pipkin, J. Foster, Earlie Peel, and F. M. Knight.

The following offerings were taken:

For Bro. Duncan, received \$17.40.

For Bro. J. M. Rich, received \$25.00.

For Bro. Martie Mears, received \$15.00.

After a rising vote of thanks to Beulah church for their hospitality, the Association adjourned.

Resolution of Thanks

We the delegates and messengers which compose the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association do sincerely thank the good people of Beulah church for the hospitality shown us while among you. We pray God's richest blessings upon you.

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 Associations.
5. Assignment of Committees to the Churches.
6. Appointment of Correspondents.
7. Reading the Corresponding Letters.
8. Hearing Reports of Committee.
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

Superannuation Board

Redmon Riley

F. M. Knight

W. R. Pipkin

David Cook

Mission Board

T. D. OWENS

David Cook

D. Dykes

Henry Mears

Charley Mears

Rev. A. B. Nelson, Treasurer

Names of Ordained Ministers

A. B. Nelson

J. H. Chesnut

T. E. Ross

J. C. Carnley

John M. Rich

W. M. Duncan

G. L. Shuites

Daniel Walters

Martie Mears

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 acknowledgements; 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 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 more 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 recognized 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES AND PASTOR	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	Baptism	By letter	Restored	Confession Faith	Total received	Dis. by letter	Expelled	Died	Total	Meeting Days
Piney Grove—Lee Mixon	Earlie Peel, Chipley, Fla.	5	3	0	2	10	0	0	2	157	2nd & 4th Sun.
Liberty—Martie Mears	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	26	4th Sunday
Beulah—J. N. Roberts	E. A. Hatcher, Graceville, Fla. .	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	58	3rd Sunday
Pleasant Hill—J. A. Pettis	Ethel Harrell, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	49	4th Sunday
Cowart's Creek—S. T. Shuites ...	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.	7	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	147	1st Sunday
St. John's—Daniel Walters	W. R. Pipkin, Bonifay, Fla.	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	128	1st & 3rd Sun.
Blountstown—S. T. Shuites	Vera M. Simpler, Blountstown	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	65	1st & 3rd Sun.
Abagail—Daniel Walters	W. T. Morris, Vernon, Fla.	7	2	0	3	12	0	0	0	21	2nd Sunday
Poplar Head—Daniel Walters ...	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla.	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	60	1st Sunday
Spring Hill—L. C. Mixon	Grady Rich, Bonifay, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		2nd Sunday