

**Minutes of The**  
— OF THE —  
**Fifty-eighth Annual Session**  
— OF THE —  
**West Florida Liberty Free Will**  
**Baptist Association**  
— HELD WITH —  
**Liberty Church, Vernon, Florida**  
**October 17 and 18, 1946**



**OFFICERS**

BRO. DANIEL WALTERS ..... Moderator  
BRO. ERNEST OWEN ..... Clerk and Treasurer

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Ernest Owen, Chairman

W. R. Pipkin      Claud Hicks      Earlie Peel      F. M. Knight



The next session of the Association will convene with Poplar Head Church on Thursday, Friday and Saturday before the Third Sunday in October, 1947. Rev. A. B. Nelson to preach the Introductory Sermon.

The next Union Meeting will convene with St. John on Saturday before the Second Sunday in August, 1947. Rev. A. H. Retherford to preach the Introductory Sermon.

---

---

# *Proceedings . . .*

*Fifty-eighth Annual Session  
West Florida Liberty Free  
Will Baptist Association*

*1946*

---

---



**FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION****WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

According to previous appointments the Fifty-Eighth Annual Session of the West Florida Free Will Baptist Association met with Liberty Church, October 17th and 18th, 1946.

**Thursday Morning Session**

Opening song by choir. Introductory sermon by Rev. Coy Watson from Isaiah 27. 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 James 3, 1-18.

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

PINEY GROVE—A. H. Retherford, G. W. Owen, Ina Riley, Vera Owens, Vea Peel, Fleming Sowell, Cora Sowell, Leslie Roberts, Wilson Roberts.

ABIGAIL—D. J. Cook, W. T. Morris, Vonceil Anderson, Dessie Bell, Inez Parrish.

PLEASANT HILL—Goldie Harrell, Whit Lawrence, C. C. Harrell, H. Brown.

COWART'S CREEK—A. Fowler, C. B. Croley, H. B. Lashley, M. C. Dixon, Sister K. B. Fowler, S. O. Fowler, J. C. Fowler, W. H. Silcox.

LIBERTY—Arthur Cook, Claud Hicks, Mrs. R. C. Gunn, D. Dykes, Hattie Dykes, John Cook.

POPLAR HEAD—A. J. Pitts, Roxie Pitts, G. W. Ursery, Effie Squires, Bobbie Woodham.

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

ST. JOHN—Earl Cook, A. B. Cook, N. E. Chesnut, Dixie Pipkin, Mae Cook, Laura Harris, Edith Redmon.

BEULAH—Bryant Hatcher, B. H. Champion, Harvey Fowler.

A call for Petitionary Letters. Received none.

A call was made for Correspondence from Sister Associations and received the following:

From Union Hill Association—Bro. Barefoot.

From Chattahoochee Association—Rev. Coy Watson.

From Salem Association—Bro. J. D. Mears, Rev. J. C. Eldridge, Rev. J. C. Watson, Bro. Carrol.

**Friday Morning Session**

The Association was called to order by Moderator. Inspiring talk by Bro. Duncan followed. Bro. Duncan is the only living charter member of this Association.

Renewed call for Petitionary Letters. Received none.

Renewed call for Correspondence from Sister Associations. Received none.

### Report of Committee on Resolutions

1. We recommend that each church of this Association secure enough Treatise of the F. W. B. Doctrine and Practices to supply each family of our church with one copy, and encourage our members to study them, in order that we all may know more about what we believe and why we believe it.

2. We recommend that the chair appoint a committee for the purpose of securing a teacher, selecting a place and appointing a time for our Association as a whole to meet for the purpose of acquainting ourselves more with our belief, practices and doctrine. In this school the teacher selected will be paid by the Association and he will preside over the meeting. He will also teach us the order of business, how to carry on, and parliamentary usage.

3. We recommend that each church of this body adopt the rule of calling their respective pastors not later than July 31.

4. We recommend that there be a committee appointed on stewardship for the purpose of bringing in a report each year.

Respectfully submitted,

PINEY GROVE CHURCH.

### Report of Committee on Education

We your Committee on Education beg to report that we as Free Will Baptist, a Christian Denomination should give more time, money and thought to the advancement of education in our home, churches and bible schools. The younger generation of all denominations are receiving better and higher education. If we want to grow and keep pace with other denominations, we must provide education. Therefore, we resolve to improve our Sunday schools and church societies of all kinds; keep our denominational literature in our homes and to contribute to our colleges; and keep in mind that an educated denomination means a greater denomination. Our Master requires us to be diligent in His business and learn of Him.

ABIGAIL CHURCH.

### Report of Committee on Temperance

We your committee recommend the following:

1. That all Free Will Baptists abstain from strong drink.

2. That all Free Will Baptist familiarize themselves with Isaiah 5.

3. That we practice temperance in words, appetite, passions and temper.

4. That all Free Will Baptists vote a dry ticket every time there is an opportunity in county, state and nation.

Respectfully submitted,

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH.

An interesting talk was given by Bro. T. D. Owens on the above subject.

### Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools

We have a good Sabbath School at Liberty and this committee suggests the following:

That we start our boys and girls to Sabbath School. This is a good way to get them away from so much joy-riding. It takes coopera-



tion by every one. May we suggest that our members come and bring the children to our Sabbath Schools. May each church try to have a Sabbath School next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
LIBERTY CHURCH.

#### **Report of Committee on Obituaries**

We, the Committee on Obituaries, find that God has called from among our midst the following members:

From St. Johns Church: Sister Roxie Leavins passed away July 31, 1946, at the age of 78. Sister Mary Kelley passed away Oct. 27, 1945, at the age of 79. Sister Georgiann Yates passed away July 15th, 1946, at the age of 92. Sister Bushie Lee passed away Dec. 8, 1945, having reached a ripe old age.

Piney Grove church lost a faithful member, Sister Mamie Loyd.

From Pleasant Hill Sister Ransie Yates passed away Feb. 12, 1946, at the age of 83.

From Liberty Bro. Olen Tutton passed away at an early age in life, and Bro. Matt Hall was called from our midst.

From Abigail, Bro. A. L. Bell passed away May 9th, 1946, at the age of 76.

We all sorrow in the loss of these dear brothers and sisters, but we feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

A. B. COOK,  
GOLDIE HARRELL,  
EFFIE SQUIRES,  
Committee.

#### **Report of Committee on Finance**

Balance left over from 1945 .....	\$ 40.00
Sent in for minutes and Ass'n. purposes ....	43.50
For Missions .....	95.00
Superannuation .....	30.00
Amount paid retired ministers .....	30.00
Total in Treasury .....	\$ 83.50

#### **Report of Ladies' Auxiliary Work**

We your committee on Ladies' Auxiliaries find four Auxiliaries in our Association namely, Piney Grove, Liberty, St. John and Blountstown. We recommend that all our churches organize and maintain the Ladies' Auxiliary, for we feel that the ladies hold a very important place in our church and should be recognized in their work.

G. W. OWENS,  
VEA PEEL, Committee.

#### **Report of Committee on Missions**

(Was given orally by Bro. A. B. Nelson)

#### **Report of Committee on Nominations**

We, your Committee, suggest that the Association convene with Poplar Head church on Thursday before the third Sunday in October. Bro. A. B. Nelson to preach the introductory sermon, and that the union meeting convene with St. John's church, Rev. A. H. Retherford to preach the introductory sermon.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

A motion was made and carried to take an offering for the purpose of buying books for younger preachers. Offering amounted to \$27.00. Business session then adjourned until one thirty, after which Bro. J. H. Chesnut brought a spirit-filled message based on the book of Isaiah.

### Friday Evening Session

Association called to order by Moderator. After reading and commenting on 15th chapter of Proverbs, the Moderator proceeded with a continuation of the business session.

Association accepted Bro. J. Foster's resignation as member of the Executive Committee and elected Bro. Claud Hicks in his place.

Motion was made and carried that Moderator appoint an educational and a stewardship board. Educational board—N. E. Chesnut, D. J. Cook, G. W. Owens.

### Financial Report of Home Mission Board

Amount on hand from last session .....	\$390.00
Amount spent this year:	
Check to Rev. Daniel Walters for work at Southport .....	20.00
Check to Bro. Charley Mears, singer for Bro. Walters .....	10.00
TOTAL .....	30.00
Amount received at this session .....	95.00
TOTAL in Treasury .....	\$455.00

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. NELSON, Sec. and Treas.

Board on Stewardship—Ernest Owen, D. Dykes, Vera Owens.

A motion was made and carried that the clerk send \$5 to the State Association and \$5 to the National Association.

A motion was made and carried that the clerk have 500 minutes printed.

The following officers were elected for the Association in 1946:

Rev. Daniel Walters—Moderator.

Ernest Owen—Clerk.

Executive Committee—Ernest Owen, W. R. Pipkin, Earlie Peel, F. M. Knight, and Claud Hicks.

After a rising vote of thanks to Liberty Church for their hospitality, the Association adjourned.

### Resolution of Thanks

We, the delegates and messengers which compose this Association, do sincerely thank the good people of Liberty Church for the hospitality shown us while among you. May your church grow and prosper and your community be blessed.

### Committees Assigned Churches for 1947

Finance—Piney Grove.

Education—Blountstown.

Sabbath School—St. John.

Auxiliary—Liberty.

Missions—Cowart's Creek.

Temperance—Beulah.

Resolutions—Poplar Head.

Stewardship—Abigail.

Divine Service—Pleasant Hill.

Nomination—Spring Hill.

### 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 Association.
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; 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 members 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 the 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.—Mat. 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 delegate 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 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 from 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 Chapt.) 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—Daniel Waters.....	Earlie Peel, Chipley, Fla. ....	15	0	1	5	21	1	0	1	163	2nd & 4th Sun.
Liberty—Martie Mears .....	J. Foster, Vernon, Fla. ....	14	0	0	1	15	0	0	2	45	1st & 3rd Sun.
Beulah—Lee Mixon .....	E. A. Hatcher, Graceville, Fla. ....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	3rd Sunday
Pleasant Hill—J. A. Pettis .....	Ethel Harrell, Bonifay, Fla. ....	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	54	4th Sunday
Cowart's Creek—S. T. Shuites ....	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala. ....	4	4	0	0	8	2	0	0	154	1st Sunday
St. John—Daniel Walters .....	E. C. Cook, Bonifay, Fla. ....	6	0	0	0	6	2	0	4	127	1st & 3rd Sun.
Blountstown—S. T. Shuites .....	Vera M. Simpler, Blountstown ..	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	67	1st & 3rd Sun.
Abagail—Martie Mears .....	W. T. Morris, Vernon, Fla. ....	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	23	2nd Sunday
Poplar Head—J. A. Pettis .....	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla. ....	2	3	0	0	5	1	0	0	61	1st Sunday