

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Sixty-Second Annual Session

— OF THE —

West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

HELD WITH
A BIGAIL

~~Piney Grove~~ Church

TWO MILES SOUTH OF VERNON, FLORIDA

October 12 and 13, 1950

OFFICERS

REV. JOHN M. RICH.....Moderator
N. E. CHESNUT.....Clerk and Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill George A. J. Pitts G. W. Owens D. J. Cook D. Dykes

The next session of the Association will convene with Pleasant Hill Church on Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1951, Location 6 miles south of Bonifay, Fla. Rev. Rufus Hyman to preach the introductory.

The next Union Meeting will convene with Beulah Church, south of Graceville, Fla., on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1951. Rev. A. B. Cook to preach the introductory.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OF
THE WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Which Convened with Abigail Church Oct. 12-13, 1950

The Association was called to order at 10 a. m. Song service by the congregation. Opening prayer by Rev. J. C. Watson.

Call for report of Committee on Standing of Churches and Character of Ministers. Bro. Early Peel was added to this committee.

**Report of Committee on Standing of Churches and
Character of Ministers**

We, your committee, make the following report: We find the standing of churches is very good, and that Rev. Daniel Walters and also Rev. Martie Mears be brought before the Ordaining Council for trial now, and when they have come before them, be voted on in this session of the Association and get through with this once and for all time, and we ask that Rev. A. H. Retherford be added to this Ordaining Council, and Rev. A. H. Retherford was added to the Council.

J. E. SIMS, Chairman.

The Moderator gave a talk on "Fellowship in the Churches."

Bro. Ernest Owen announced the funeral service of Sister G. W. Owens and the Association adjourned at noon so friends could attend the funeral.

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

St. John Church—J. E. Sims, N. E. Chestnut, Raymond Nelson, Oma L. Dinkins, Henry Redmon, Dixie Pipkin and Bob Walsingham.

Poplar Head—Dewey Spears, Roxie Pitts, Effie Squires, Roy Chesnut.

Abigail—D. J. Cook, May Cook, Bessie Taylor.

Grace—Audrey Ashcraft, A. B. Sparks, Harvey L. Henderson.

Beulah—Bryant Hatcher, B. H. Champion, Harvey Fowler, W. O. Skinner.

Liberty—Claude Hicks, Dee Dykes, Arthur Cook.

Pleasant Hill—C. C. Harrell, J. W. Yates, Earl Cook and Goldie Harrell.

Happy Hill—Lonnie Parker, Gettis Collins.

Piney Grove—W. H. Tools, Ernest Owen, Vea Peel, Louise Owen, Wilmer Seaver.

A call for delegates from sister associations, and received and seated the following:

Salem Association—Lee Fackler, O. L. Hammock, W. M. Broom.

State Association of Georgia—Rev. Coy Watson.

Seated as visitors: G. I. Owens, J. C. Watson, Sister Coy Watson, Rufus Hyman, J. A. Pettis and wife, Francis S. Davis, J. W. Morris, Mrs. W. F. Croft.

Appointment of Committee on Temperance—Earl Cook, Raymond Nelson and W. M. Broom.

Cowart's Creek Church asked for a letter of dismissal from the Liberty Association, which was granted. The business session of the Association adjourned until 9:30 Friday morning.

Report of Committee on Divine Service

We, your Committee on Divine Service, appoint Rev. John M. Rich to preach at 7:30 p. m. Thursday and Rev. Coy Watson, to preach Friday at 11:00. Abigail Church, welcome address by Rev. A. H. Retherford. Song by congregation, "Amazing Grace." Sermon by Rev. A. H. Retherford. Text: John 4: 26; 3: 16; Matthew 7: 12, 22, 27, 31. Adjourned for noon.

The congregation reassembled at 7:30 Thursday. Opening song by choir. Opening prayer by Bro. Arnie Holland, followed by song, prayer and testimonial service. Sermon by Rev. John M. Rich. Text: "If God Be For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?" Prayer by the Moderator. An altar call was made and two came for prayer. Dismissed by Moderator.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song by choir. Opening prayer by Rev. R. O. Johnson. Song by congregation. Devotional by Rev. Audrey Ashcraft. Subject: "The Return of Jesus." Renewed call for letters and received Rev. Trim Finch from Salem Association. A call for petitionary letters and received none.

Report of Committee on Education

We, your Committee on Education, submit the following report: Inasmuch as it takes an education to best qualify the individual for the duties of life, both spiritual and temperal, we recommend that every reasonable effort be made to educate the children.

POPLAR HEAD CHURCH

Moved and carried to use all available home mission funds on the Encampment Building.

Report of Committee on Resolutions

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

Item 1. We ask that the resolutions in the 1949 minutes be carried out. We ask that our ministers adhere to our church doctrine and that we allow no foreign doctrines or practices to be brought into our churches and that all churches or ministers who are guilty of bringing other church doctrines be dealt with.

Item 2. We ask that the Home Mission Board act only when all board members are present and that the treasurer be bonded.

Item 3. Due to quite a bit of confusion and disturbance in our churches, that no minister in our Association preach or hold revivals in other denominations other than holding funerals, or in case of emergency, and likewise other denominations do the same by us.

Item 4. We also recommend that our churches conduct two revivals each year, one in the Spring and one in the Summer.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

Song by choir. Sermon by Rev. Coy Watson. Scripture lesson, 1st chapter of James. Welcome address by Bro. D. J. Cook. Dismissed for noon by Rev. A. B. Cook.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association reassembled at 1:30. Song by choir.

Report of Committee on Temperance

We, your committee on Temperance submit the following report: We must study temperance from all angles. We must practice temperance in words, appetite, passion and temper. If we practice them we can build up our standard of temperance so as to be good examples and followers of the Lord. 1st Timothy, 3rd chapter, verses 2 and 3. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach. Proverbs 20th chapter, verse 1. Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

COMMITTEE: E. C. Cook, Raymond Nelson, W. M. Broom.

Report of Committee on Finance

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

For Minutes	\$38.50
Home Mission	31.79
Education	81.54
Superannuation	2.00
Foreign Mission	42.84
Amount in Treasury	42.67
Total.....	\$239.34

BEULAH CHURCH COMMITTEE

Appointment of Committee on Obituaries—Vea Peel, Oma L. Dinkins and Mae Cook.

1949 Auxiliary Report Adopted

We, your committee, report as follows: Seeing the need of more and better work in our churches, suggest that all churches who do not already have Sunday Schools, Ladies' Aid, Young People's League, also a prayer meeting, should organize them.

The time has come when we should give our young people good religious entertainment to prevent them from going to worldly places of amusement, so let us use every opportunity to improve ourselves and our churches.

LIBERTY CHURCH

1949 Report of Committee on Stewardship Adopted

We, your Committee on Stewardship, submit the following: We recommend that all pastors in Liberty Association teach and practice tithing and free will offerings.

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH

Report of Committee on Nominations

That St. John's Church get the Ministers' and Deacons' meeting and it will convene on the third fifth Sunday in 1951; and Piney Grove Church get the Sunday School Convention and it will convene on the second fifth Sunday in 1951.

PINEY GROVE CHURCH

Report of Rev. A. H. Retherford

I have served four churches—one half-time and three quarter-time. I have traveled approximately 2,500 miles; have conducted eight revivals; have baptized two, have two for baptism now, have 11 who say they have found the Lord. Helped in one funeral. I have received \$525.00. I am asking the Association to pray that the Lord will lead me to the lost and needy for Christ, whatever the sacrifice may be.

REV. A. H. RETHERFORD

Report of Rev. A. B. Cook

I was delegate to the Union Hill Association. I was there Oct. 21-22, 1949. Preached at Beulah from January until July. Received for my service \$38.31. Traveled 1353 miles. Preached one funeral. Total money received \$54.31. Visited 13 churches and three Associations.

REV. A. B. COOK

Report of Rev. R. O. Johnson

I pastored one church half time. Received nine members—five for baptism, two by letter, two on confession of faith. Baptised one undenominational. Received \$456.90. I traveled approximately 2600 miles. This has been an inspiring year for me.

REV. R. O. JOHNSON

Rev. Daniel Walters and Rev. Martie Mears cases were placed in the hands of the ordaining counsel for disposal.

Officers Elected: Rev. John M. Rich, Moderator; Rev. J. H. Chesnut, Vice Moderator; Bro. Archie Cook, Clerk and Treasurer.

Paid Moderator \$15.00 for his service. Paid Clerk \$15.00 for his services.

Moved and carried, to retain the same Executive Committee.

Moved and carried to retain the same Board on Stewardship—Ernest Owens, D. Dykes and Vera Owens.

Same Board on Superannuation—R. Riley, W. R. Pipkin, David Cook, F. D. Owens.

Report of Committee on Obituaries

As we come to the close of another Associational year, we want to recognize our dead. God in His infinite love and mercy saw fit to call from our midst these, our beloved brethren and sisters:

Pleasant Hill—Bro. Jordan Yates.

Piney Grove—Sister Joe Gay, Sister Samantha Owens.

Beulah—Sister Matilda Sasser.

St. John's—Bro. E. L. Nelson and Bro. Ed Shira.

We bow in humble submission to Him Who doeth all things well.

OMA L. DINKINS
MAE COOK
VEA PEEL

Visiting Brethren

Brother Joe Tharp, from Salem.

Brother W. A. Clark from Union Hill.

Delegates Assigned to Visit Sister Associations

To Union Hill—B. H. Champion and A. B. Cook.

To Salem—Rev. John M. Rich, Rev. A. B. Cook, B. H. Champion.

To State Line—Rev. John M. Rich.

Delegates to State Association—Sister Roxie Pitts, B. H. Champion, D. J. Cook, Mae Cook and Lonnie Parker.

Report of Rev. Rufus Hyman

I have served two churches this year, St. John's and Piney Grove, two Sundays each; have received 20 members by baptism, 6 by statement or letter; have been in six revivals. This has been a great year. I have received for my work \$1250.12. I have two half-time churches for 1951, St. John's and Love Wood. I have led Piney Grove into the building of a parsonage with a full time pastor for another year.

REV. RUFUS HYMAN

Ordained Ministers

A. B. Cook
J. M. Rich
R. O. Johnson

A. H. Retherford
J. H. Chesnut

OUR HONORED DEAD

Jordan Yates

Sister Matilda Sasser

Sister Joe Gay

E. L. Nelson

Sister Samantha Owens

Ed Shira

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.
2. Call for corresponding letters and enrollment of delegates.
3. Call for petitionary letters.
4. Call for correspondents of Sister Associations.
5. Assignment of committees to churches.
6. Appointment of correspondents.
7. Reading of corresponding letters.
8. Hearing reports of committees.
9. Election of Moderator and Clerk.
10. Miscellaneous business.

Ordaining Council—Rev. John M. Rich, Rev. J. H. Chesnut and Rev. A. H. Retherford.

Mission Board—J. E. Sims, Ernest Owens, Early Peel, Rev. John M. Rich, Claud Hicks.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and Messengers that compose the Liberty Free Will Baptist Association, do sincerely thank Abigail Church and surrounding community for their goodness and hospitality shown us while in their midst; also for the bountiful spread and refreshments served at noon. Our prayers that God will remember and bless one and all.

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEES ASSIGNED TO CHURCHES FOR 1951

Poplar Head—Temperance.
Abigail—Finance.
St. John's—Education.
Liberty—Nominations.
Beulah—Auxiliaries.
Piney Grove—Resolutions.
Pleasant Hill—Divine Service.
Happy Hill—Obituaries.
Grace—Stewardship.



CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last conference in Association year, or if they prefer, it 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 given 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 the church, but when the moderator is 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 by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall 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 in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recordings and writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the minutes of Association.

7. When a clerk is appointed, all of the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk, shall be immediately delivered 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 holds a two days' meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every church member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline, and the 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 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 and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call of absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren called in as help from sister churches shall be allowed to vote.

14. Any ordinary member of the Baptist Church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is irreproachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desires to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

15. We receive members by experience of baptism; or 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 to 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 recorded in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letters without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer 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 for their former evil.

22. A vote shall not be taken upon question without a move and a 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 any 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 subject 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 from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks he must nominate some other brother as moderator to act 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 saits' feet as often as the church sees fit, the expense 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 in one true and living God; the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.—1st John 5:7.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things, and by whom our salvation is made secure.—Heb. 2-9; St. John 3:16; 1st John 2:2.

3. We believe that in the beginning 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 this means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Romans 5:15 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.—John 3:16; Romans 1:16; 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—John 5:10; 2nd Tim. 3:16.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost.—Rev. 22:17.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and faith without work is dead.—Mark 1:15; James 2:17,22.

8. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free and attainable to all mankind.—Matthew 11:28,29,30; Titus 2:11,12; St. John 12:32.

9. We believe commemoration and feet washing are ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.—St. John 13:1-17; St. John 3:5; 1st Corinthians 11:23-32.

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances.—St. John 6:53-54; St. John 13:8.

11. We believe 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 judgment will fix forever the final state of man in Heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.



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 someone 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 the 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. 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 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 anyone.

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., 3rd Chapter) 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 fails 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 Pastors	Clerks and Addresses										Meeting Days
		Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Confession of Faith	Total Received	Dism. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Total	
Piney Grove—C. A. Huckaby.....	Earley Peel, Chipley.....	7	0	0	1	8	4	0	2	203	2nd, 3rd 4th Sun.
Liberty—Martie Mears	Inez Cook, Vernon	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	51	1st & 3rd Sun.
St. John's—Rufus Hyman.....	Velma Livingston, Bonifay.....	3	0	0	2	5	2	0	2	126	1st & 3rd Sun.
Beulah—A. B. Cook.....	Mollie Skinner, Chipley.....	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	43	1st & 3rd Sun.
Happy Hill—J. A. Pettis.....	Ruby Parish, Caryville.....	5	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	18	4th Sun.
Pleasant Hill—A. H. Retherford....	Ethel Harrell, Bonifay.....	5	2	0	0	7	1	0	1	50	2nd & 4th Sun.
Abigail—Lee Mixon	M. A. Hudson, Vernon.....	2	0	0	2	4	0	5	0	19	2nd & 4th Sun.
Poplar Head—A. H. Retherford....	Lonnie Squires, Bonifay	5	1	0	4	10	2	0	0	52	1st & 3rd Sun.
Grace—Aubrey Ashcraft	J. A. Stevens, Pensacola.....	0	29	0	0	29	0	0	0	29	Full time.