

MINUTES

OF THE

Seventeenth Annual Session

OF THE

Union Association

OF

United Free Will Baptist

WHICH COMPLETED WITH

NEW BETHEL CHURCH

WORTH COUNTY, GEORGIA

October 21-23, 1963

OFFICERS

Rev. J. F. Ashmore, Moderator	.....	Tifton, Ga.
Rev. W. L. Harrell, Assistant Moderator	.....	Orange, Ga.
J. J. Fowler, Clerk and Treasurer	.....	Route 1, Warwick, Ga.

Executive Committee

A. S. Falson	.....	Woolfrie, Ga.
B. J. Worthington	.....	Shiloh, Ga.
F. H. [unclear]	.....	Warwick, Ga.
J. B. [unclear]	.....	Warwick, Ga.
Clayton [unclear]	.....	Warwick, Ga.

Quorum [unclear]

A. L. [unclear]	.....	
A. L. [unclear]	.....	
J. D. [unclear]	.....	

## PROCEEDINGS

**Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Session of The Union Association of United Free Will Baptist convening with New Bethel Church, Worth County, Georgia, October 22-23, 1942.**

The members and delegates of The Union Association were called to order at about 10:30 A. M., October 22, 1942 by Rev. W. A. Sellars who led the Devotional Service. Prayer was offered by Rev. C. J. Harvey, Rev. S. S. Miller, Rev. W. L. Barrow.

Rev. T. A. Pannell of Moultrie, Ga., preached the introductory sermon using for a text Hebrews 12-1.

After preaching, the pastor J. F. Ashmore gave the welcome address in behalf of the church. The assembly was dismissed for dinner by Rev. W. R. Lawhorn. Dinner was served at the church.

The body was called to order at 1:30 P. M. Prayer was offered by Rev. G. T. Wells. At this time the Moderator addressed the body using for a scripture lesson the first chapter of Psalms. At this time the Moderator declared the association ready to transact any business that should come before it.

First—Invited visiting Brethern and Sisters to seats in our body. At this the Moderator appointed as reading clerks, C. J. Harvey and J. F. Green.

Next called for letters from churches of this Association as follows:

CANADY CHAPPELL—Thomas County, Ga. Delegates, J. H. McKinney, B. H. Bradley, E. O. Palmer.

GREEN WOOD—Mitchell County, Ga. Delegates, Sister C. J. Harvey, Sister Clyde Harmon and J. B. Kearns.

SPRINGHILL—Mitchell County, Ga. Delegates Mrs. H. E. Morey, Mrs. Carrie Bridges and L. N. Thompson.

THOMASVILLE—Thomas County, Ga. Delegate, J. H. Russell.

PROSPERITY—Turner County, Ga. Delegates, Mrs. Elma Goff, Alfred Goff and H. E. Jones.

BETHLEHEM—Colquitt County, Ga. Delegates, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Croft and Mrs. Hiram Alderman.

ST. PAUL—Tift County, Ga. Delegates, M. H. Hinson, Ralph Crosby and Mrs. Alma Woody.

NEW JERUSALEM—Colquitt County, Ga. Delegates, Cicero Williams, Mrs. Eula Mae Williams, Mrs. Minnie Wyard.

CLEMENTS BRIDGE—Mitchell County, Ga. Delegates, Mrs. T. J. Joiner, Mrs. D. B. Morey, and T. E. Bundy.

MIDWAY—Colquitt County, Ga. Delegate, W. L. Lee.

LIBERTY—Colquitt, County, Ga. Delegates, Mrs. Eliva Nelson, Mrs. Pearl Welch and Ellis May.

SALEM—Jefferson County, Florida. Delegates, Mrs. H. M. Branch, Mrs. J. P. Wyrick and M. G. Boykin.

NEW HOPE—Colquitt County, Ga. Delegate, W. L. Barrow.

NEW BETHEL—Worth County, Ga. Delegates, Mrs. Jody Hobby, J. F. Green and W. T. Farmer.

Moved and carried to receive church letters and to seat delegates in body.

Next. To call for corresponding delegates from sister Associations. Rev. W. R. Lawhorn and wife from the Chattahoochee Association; Rev. M. T. Goff from the Little River Association; North Florida Association by letters.

Next to call for petitionary letters.

Next. To appoint preaching committee: J. F. Green, M. H. Hinson and W. L. Lee.

Next. To hear report of Preaching Committee.

We your Committee ask that Rev. W. R. Lawhorn preach Thursday night and Rev. G. T. Dell preach Friday at 11 A. M. W. L. Lee, chairman moved and carried that the Moderator appoint all Committees.

Education: W. L. Lee, M. H. Hinson and J. H. Bradley.

Destitution: Ralph Crosby and others.

State of Churches: A. L. Sellars and others.

Ministers and Deacons: Mrs. Clyde Harmon, Mrs. J. T. Jones and E. O. Palmer.

Literature: A. L. Sellars and others.

Resolutions: W. L. Hanell, T. A. Pannell and C. J. Harvey.

Temperance: Mrs. H. E. Morey, and Mrs. C. J. Harvey.

Sabbath Schools: Mrs. J. R. Kearns, Mrs. H. M. Branch and Mrs. Ella V. Nelson.

Nominations: Pearl Welch and J. P. Wyrick.

Finance: W. T. Farmer, J. C. Weathers and J. H. McKinney.

Next. To appoint correspondence to sister Associations.

To the Chattahoochee, W. L. Barrow and A. L. Sellars.

Georgia Union by Minutes.

Little River, C. J. Harvey, and J. F. Ashmore.

South Georgia by Minutes.

North Florida, W. L. Barrow.

Midway, C. J. Harvey.

Next. Moved and carried that we pay the expense of correspondence to our Associations.

Moved and carried that our Clerk have 300 Minutes printed.

Moved and carried that Rev. C. J. Harvey write our circular letters to the Association.

Moved and carried that Brother W. L. Harrell send circular letter for this session to our Clerk for print.

Moved and carried to retain the same Executive Committee.

Moved and carried that we elect an Ordaining Council and that one member of the Council be replaced each year.

A. L. Sellars, W. L. Harrell and J. C. Weathers were elected Ordaining Council.

Moved and carried adjourn until 9 o'clock Friday.

At this time we were dismissed for supper, which was served at the church.

After supper the body returned to church for the preaching service. Rev. W. R. Lawhorn of the Chattahoochee Association brought a wonderful message, truly filled with the Spirit of God.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1942

We were again called to order at 9:30. Prayer by Rev. M. T. Goff. After prayer the Moderator read a scripture lesson, Isaiah 6-1-7 verses and gave a timely talk on the unity of the church.

Next. To call for reports of committees as follows.

#### EDUCATION

We your committee find very little interest put forth toward our education program. We humbly ask that our people wake up to a sense of our duty toward our educational program also recommend that this body make a donation toward building a training camp and send as many as two to the camp each year.

W. L. LEE, Chairman.

#### DESTITUTIONS

We your committee find all churches supplied with Pastors.

RALPH CROSBY, Chairman.

#### LITERATURE

We your committee find that our people are using our literature in Sunday School, League and Ladies society work. We urge the use of our own literature when possible.

W. A. SELLARS, Chairman.

#### STATE OF CHURCHES

We your committee find our churches in order and Spiritual Condition fair.

A. L. SELLARS, Chairman.

#### SABBATH SCHOOL

We find that out of 15 churches of our Association only three reports a Sunday school. We ask each church to try to have a good Sunday School.

MRS. J. R. KEARNS, Chairman.

**MINISTERS AND DEACONS**

We find all Ministers and Deacons in good order.

MRS. J. F. HARMON, Chairman.

**TEMPERANCE**

We find that in Proverbs 20-1, we are admonished not to use strong drink. That wine is mocker and who soever is deceived thereby is not wise. We ask that our people be temperate in all things.

MRS. H. E. MOREY, Chairman.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Be it resolved that we do discuss merits or demerits of any resolution offered by us but do retain the right to explain any part not clear to body.

2. That we elect some qualified man to preach a Doctorial sermon to each church during the year. And that the church pay expense of same.

3. That a committee on league work be appointed the same as a regular committee.

4. That this body be governed by regular order of business or eliminate the same from Minute.

5. That we no longer have a Nomination Committee and this business be handled by the Body.

6. That this Association connect its self with the State Association. And that we appoint some one to represent us there.

C. J. HARVEY, Chairman.

**NOMINATIONS**

We recommend that the next session of this body meet with Canady Chappell Church at its regular time of convening and Rev. W. L. Barron preach the introductory sermon.

PEARL WELCH, Chairman.

**FINANCE**

We find sent by churches of the Association \$54.75. Also find the Association due Treasurer \$2.01 balance in hands of committee \$52.74.

W. T. FARMER, Chairman.

Mrs. J. F. Harmon was elected to represent this body at the State Association.

Next. To appoint a committee on league work, W. L. Hanell, J. C. Weathers, Pearl Welch, Alma Woody and J. P. Wyrick were appointed.

Moved and carried to amend our order of Association Business so as to elect officers at the close of session.

Moved and carried that our Ordained Deacon's be allowed same voice as our ministers.

Next. To elect officers for the next Session of this Association, election by ballot. Rev. J. F. Ashmore, Moderator; Rev. W. L. Hanell, Assistant Moderator; J. J. Fowler, Clerk and Treasurer.

Next. To vote a Card of Thanks to church and community for the way they entertained us while in their midst.

Next. To adjourn for dinner.

We again reassembled in church at 2 P. M. for preaching by Rev. G. T. Dell. Bro. Dell used for a Text: Isaih 66-10. Bro. Dell brought a wonderful message to much interested audience.

Moved seconded that we adjourn to meet with Canady Chappell, Thomas County, Georgia on Thursday before fourth Sunday in October 1943.

REV. J. F. ASHMORE, Moderator.

REV. W. L. HANELL, Asst. Moderator.

J. J. FOWLER, Clerk and Treasurer.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Received from Finance Committee .....	\$52.74
Paid Correspondence expense .....	3.24
Paid Clerk hire .....	10.00
Balance in Treasury .....	\$52.50

**OUR DEAD**

MIDWAY CHURCH—Sister Tinnie Lewis, born August 7th, 1900, died May 13th, 1942.

Sister Betty Jordan, birth date unknown, died October 2nd, 1942.

Sister Martha Murphy, born September 27th, 1856, died Sept. 27th, 1942.

MRS. MATTIE GAY, Church Clerk.

NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH—Sister Mattie Harris died during year of 1942, date of birth not known.

T. C. GOBEL, Church Clerk.

CLEMENTS BRIDGE CHURCH—Bro. Jim L. Vinson, born December 21st, 1899, died February 10th, 1942.

T. E. BUNDY, Church Clerk.

NEW BETHEL CHURCH— Bro. L. Williams, born June 29th, 1878, died January 15, 1942.

Robt. L. Clark, date of birth not known, died during the year of 1942.

J. J. FOWLER, Church Clerk.

#### MINISTERIAL ROLL

J. F. Ashmore .....	Tifton, Ga.
W. F. Clark .....	Thomasville, Ga.
C. T. Rentz .....	Moultrie, Ga.
John M. Newton .....	Moultrie, Ga.
A. L. Sellars .....	Camilla, Ga.
W. A. Sellars .....	Camilla, Ga.
C. J. Harvey .....	Camilla, Ga.
W. G. Boyd .....	Moultrie, Ga.
W. L. Hanell .....	Omega, Ga.
R. M. Massey .....	Tifton, Ga.
J. C. Weathers .....	Cordele, Ga.
G. T. Dell .....	Berlin, Ga.
J. M. Smith .....	Moultrie, Ga.
T. A. Pannell .....	Moultrie, Ga.
T. J. Touchton .....	
Joe Williams .....	Fair Mount, Ga.
W. L. Barrow .....	Monticello, Fla.
J. L. Sloan .....	Avon Park, Fla.

#### LICENTIATES

L. N. Croft .....	Berlin, Ga.
E. J. Spillers .....	Sylvester, Ga.
J. H. Lavender .....	Sylvester, Ga.
E. B. Norman .....	Moultrie, Ga.
J. H. Russell .....	Thomasville, Ga.
B. W. Clenney .....	Camilla, Ga.
N. L. Lamb .....	Camilla, Ga.

#### GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

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 recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to 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 delivered to him by his predecessor. Also, it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastors to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes.

8. The church shall hold a two-days' monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

9. It shall be the duty of every 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.

10. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever of the church according to the Covenant (Article 5) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect; but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

11. Conference 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 the reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgments. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches, shall speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

13. Any orderly 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 unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall be valid, unless withdrawn, the members who make them shall be liable to be taken under dealing with the church.

15. 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.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing, to attend the trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined 'til the question has been put to the church. Will you hear the testimony of the witness?

18. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church book.

19. 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 for their misconduct.

20. Expelled members shall 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.

21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling, those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep to the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

27. When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

28. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is to call the speaker to order.

29. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints' feet at least once a year.

30. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

31. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

32. That each minister preach and practice the same doctrine, and principles. And each church do the same as set up by Christ and follow the apostolic doctrine and follow it closely.

33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two successive monthly conferences.

#### CHURCH COVENANT

1. Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace into the knowledge of our divine Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to devote our time and talents to the interest of pure and undefiled religion, we do solemnly covenant with each other to walk together in love and brotherly kindness and to glorify God through life as the only hope in death.

2. We agree to exercise Christian love and affection for each other as members of the household of faith, that the knowledge of truth may be glorified in us and by us, to the end that we may be perfect in the will of God through Christ Jesus concerning us.

3. We endeavor to uphold the public worship of Almighty God and ordinances of His church, not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of the means with which we are blessed for the ministry among us and other necessary expenses of the church.

4. We will not neglect the devotional exercises of secret prayer and the duties of family worship, and the training up of our children and those under our care with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven.

5. We agree to neglect our secular or worldly avocation to attend the stated meetings of the Church and to labor for its prosperity in the most holy faith believing that if we do this we let our light shine; if we fail to attend to the sacred duties we prove to be a stumbling block to the world and reproach to the church.

6. We believe that all Christians are endowed with certain talents and influences, for the improvement of which they will be accountable to the Great Head of the church; that if there are unruly members in the church, it is our duty to approach such in the spirit of love and to admonish them to forsake their evil doings, if they will not hear thee, take one or two or more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established; then if they will not hear the church, then let them be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

7. We believe the Wordly dance and drinking ardent spirits with and commingling with drunkards are sins which should be condemned by the church.

#### DECORUM OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceding session shall preside until their successors shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceedings shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

9. After motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move a reconsideration.

10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave of absence without permission from the body.

11. This Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

13. No church shall liberate any minister coming from any other denomination until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and received credentials bearing their approval.

#### CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall hereafter be known as the Union Free Will Baptist Association.

2. It shall be composed of: (1) The ministers, both ordained and licensed, and Ordained Deacons, belonging thereto; (2) Legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirements of churches: Each church shall be required to send up an annual report to the Association in which they shall make a brief statement of the pastor, report the character and usefulness of the minister whose membership is with them, give name and post office of the Church Clerk, give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded, and died, the number of members, and the amount paid for Associational purposes.

4. Each church in the Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own government without suspension or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.

5. This body shall be considered an advisory council whose duty it is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled, and while there it shall be its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the Association and to use their best influence to promote a moral and benevolent means and institutions such as education, Sabbath Schools, missionary work, etc.

6. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our articles of faith and conform to its usages.

8. That all churches sending to this Association shall be allowed not more than three delegates.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority of votes.

**PETITIONARY LETTER FROM A CHURCH TO AN ASSOCIATION**

----- Free Will Baptist Church of Christ  
This the ----- day of ----- A. D., 19-----

To the ----- Free Will Baptist Association  
sendeth greetings: We constitute a Free Will Baptist church by  
Elder ----- with ----- mem-  
bers. We have adopted the Articles of Faith, Covenant and Decorum  
of the Free Will Baptist church. We are at peace. We have called as  
pastor, Elder -----

We send as our delegates, Brethren -----

We do humbly petition ----- Free Will  
Baptist Association for membership in the same. We send for min-  
utes \$----- Hoping our humble petition will be granted,  
we are,

Your brethren in Christ,

-----, Moderator

-----, Church Clerk.

**CHURCH LETTER**

----- Free Will Baptist Church of Christ  
This ----- day of ----- A. D., 19-----

This is to certify that -----  
is a member of the above named church in good standing and is  
hereby at his or her request dismissed from us. Done by order of  
the church in conference. This letter will be void after six months.

-----, Moderator

-----, Church Clerk.

**HOW TO ORGANIZE A CHURCH**

When any number of converts, not less than five, desire to con-  
stitute a church, the following order should be observed: (A) The  
officiating minister shall inquire into the Christian character and  
ability of the members to sustain the church. This being satisfac-  
tory, (B) The minister shall then read the Articles of Faith, and  
finding they have obeyed and adopted the same. (C) He shall then  
read the Church Covenant, while the congregation joins in singing  
a suitable hymn. (D) He shall have the members to extend to each  
other the right hand of fellowship. (E) He shall then offer a prayer  
of consecration. (F) He shall then declare the body organized.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business shall be as follows: (1) The election of a  
Clerk. (2) The election of deacons. (3) The election of a treasurer.  
(4) The election of a pastor. (5) The selection of a name. (6) The  
selection of a day of worship. (7) Adjournment.

**ORDER OF ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS**

1. The body at each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. Call for church letters and have them read, and names of ministers and delegates enrolled.
3. Call for Petitionary Letters.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
5. Call for Corresponding Messengers.
6. Appoint Committees: (a) Preaching; (b) Denominational Literature; (c) Temperance; (d) Church and Destitution; (e) Education; (f) Ministers; (g) Sunday Schools and Literature; (h) Resolutions; (i) Finance; (j) Card of Thanks; (k) League Work.
7. Unfinished business.
8. Report of Committees.
9. To elect Moderator and Clerk.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

**FORMS**

**FORMS FOR LICENSE**

This is to certify that the bearer, Brother -----  
----- of the County of -----  
State of ----- is a regular member of the Free Will  
Baptist church, in the said county of -----  
State of ----- is hereby licensed to preach the  
gospel for one year. Done by order of the church in conference.

This ----- day of ----- A. D., 19-----

Signed ----- Moderator.

-----  
Ordaining Council.



