

## **Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection**

**This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.**

The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness* and other news publications. Other resources include books, historical journal articles and church histories that are cited as documentation for the biography.

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**Cleon Sands** was ordained by Airline Baptist Church, Mayo and served as pastor. He was married to Leona Cone Sands and they had three children.

# C. Sands Ordained Pastor

MADISON — New Hopeful Baptist Church, west of Madison, ordained **Cleon Sands** to the gospel ministry, and Junior Driggers and John L. Diamond as deacons in a joint ceremony Sunday afternoon. The ordination of Sands was done at the request of Airline Baptist Church, south of Mayo, in the Lafayette Association, where he has been called as pastor.

James Land, chairman of Airline deacons, and his associates, Clifford Jackson and Bishop Jackson, came as correspondents from Airline, and to assist in the ordination.

Driggers and Diamond, elected deacons of New Hopeful, were presented to the Council by the **Rev. Austin Kelley**, pastor.

Following examination and recommendation of the Council, the **Rev** Elbert C. Tyner, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Madison, preached the ordination sermon. The prayer of ordination was offered by the **Rev** Dean Smith, pastor of Midway Baptist Church. The laying-on-of hands was conducted by Reverend **Kelley** with all members of the council participating.

The right hand of Christian fellowship was given to the **Rev** and Mrs. Sands, deacon and Mrs. Junior Driggers, and Deacon and Mrs. John L. Diamond. The service was concluded by singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

The **Rev** Mr. Sands is married to the former Leona Cone of Greenville and they have two daughters and a son. They live west of Madison.