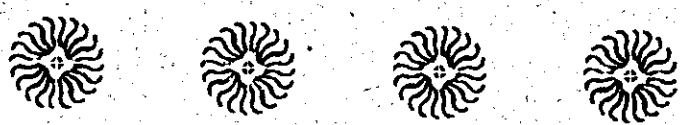


MINUTES
—OF THE—
Thirteenth Annual Session
—OF THE—
VERNON
Freewill Baptist Association

HELD WITH
Poplar Springs Church, Lamar County, Ala.,
October 15th, 16th and 17th, 1892.

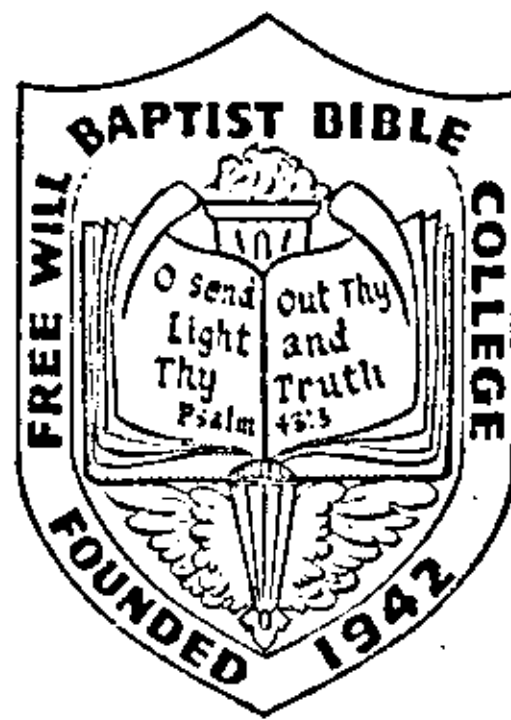


OFFICERS:

D. G. W. HOLLIS,	- - - - -	MODERATOR.
JAMES N. McNEIL,	- - - - -	CLERK.

The next session of the Vernon Association will meet with
Mt. Harmony Church, Lamar County, Alabama,
on Saturday before the 3rd
Sunday in Oct. 1893.

VERNON, ALA.:
COURIER PRINTING CO., PRINTERS.
1892.



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mr. J. M. Hollis

in memory of

Mrs. Susie McDaniel Hollis

PROCEEDINGS.

The 13th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association was held with Poplar Springs Church, Lamar Co., Ala., October 15th to 17th, 1892. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. W. B. Taylor. After recess and refreshments the association convened, the former moderator in the chair. After singing and prayer by the moderator, proceeded to business in the following order:

1. By electing James N. McNeil to act as clerk pro tem.
2. Letters from the different churches called for and read and the names of the delegates enrolled as per statistical table.
3. Opened the door for the reception of new churches into the body. Received four from the Mt. Moriah Association, Ur. 7, Mt. Zion, Mt. Harmony, and Shady Grove, and they were cordially received, the moderator extending unto their delegates the hand of welcome.
4. Proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk for the ensuing year, whereupon, D. G. W. Hollis was elected moderator, James N. McNeil clerk, and S. M. Gosey corresponding secretary.
5. Called for correspondence from sister associations. Rev. W. A. Nelson and Robert Franks came forward with a letter from the Jasper Association giving a glowing account of the prosperity of said association, which was gladly received and appreciated. The moderator extending unto them the hand of welcome.
6. The following committees were then appointed: On preaching, G. H. Sanders, David Wheeler, J. T. Sandifer, with the deacons of Poplar Spring Church. On documents, Revs. J. A. Brown, S. B. Gosey, B. F. Mixon, T. W. Springfield, M. D. McGee with the moderator and clerk. On temperance, Rev. W. B. Taylor, T. B. Palmer and E. F. Collins. On finance, Jason Robertson, J. W. Collins and Thomas Lollar. On Sabbath schools, Revs. J. T. Nabors, Thomas Harrison, and Brother M. Hollis. On deceased members, Rev. J. W. Taylor, and Brethren C. A. Chaffin and S. P. Pickle. On credentials, J. W. Harrison, W. C. Wheeler, E. F. Collins, G. W. Jordan and W. S. Dill. On resolutions, Revs. S. B. Gosey, J. A. Brown, and Brethren A. A. Burgin and F. Cannon.
7. The committee on preaching report as follows: "M. D. McGee preach tonight, followed by T. G. Harrison," who filled the appointment and preached with great zeal and satisfaction to a good and respectable congregation. Preaching this evening by J. W. Taylor.

8. On motion adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. W. A. Nelson.

Sabbath morning dawned beautiful and by preaching time a good congregation had assembled, to whom Rev. T. W. Springfield delivered a short discourse from the text, "Buy the truth and sell it not." By 11 o'clock a large respectable and well ordered concourse of people had arrived, many of them with intense anxiety to hear the Rev. W. A. Nelson, who had been absent for the past ten years, having established the Jasper Association, and gained a great reputation, and returned as a corresponding messenger, and who had been appointed to preach at 11 o'clock. Text, "The soul that sins shall die," which was handled with power and had a telling effect on the people. This was followed by a masterly argument on Free Salvation and Free Communion, and the duties of christians in commemorating the death of Jesus Christ, by our worthy moderator, D. G. W. Hollis, after which the elements of the Lord's Supper were administered to a host of communicants. B. F. Mixon preached, at 4 o'clock, one of his theological, scientific discourses, which was able and grand. D. G. W. Hollis, at night, preached one of his long and powerful discourses, followed by a good revival.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1892.

The association convened according to adjournment. After singing prayer was offered by the moderator. After re-adjustments called for reports of committees.

Report Of the Committee On Documents.

The committee on Documents report as follows: We recommend the former order of business. We recommend that the next annual session of this body be held with Mt. Harmony Church. We recommend that T. W. Springfield superintend the printing of this minute to pay for 400 copies out of minute fund and retain the balance on hand for his services. We recommend two Union meetings this year. One at Mt. Willing church, and one at Unity church.

Report adopted.

J. A. BROWN, Chairman.

Report Of Committee On Temperance.

The committee on Temperance report as follows: We believe that the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors is one among the greatest evils by which the the christian church is surrounded. Many men who might have been bright and shining lights in the church and ornaments to society, have fallen into this evil and are now ruined. Therefore we urge ministers

and all God's people to use their utmost endeavor to put down this great evil.

Report adopted.

W. B. TAYLOR, Chairman.

Report Of Committee On Sabbath Schools.

We believe there has been some improvement in Sabbath Schools the past year, but we think there could be more by an earnest effort. We believe that the Sabbath School is one of our greatest institutions, and a great help in the up building of the christian cause. In youth is the time to make good and lasting impressions. We are commanded to teach all nations, therefore we urge on our ministers and all that is concerned to make an earnest effort to build up the Sabbath School interest. We recommend that each school select its own literature, but in no wise to neglect the Bible, as it is the best we can get on all occasions, but we do not object to some good literature when it is to the interest of the school.

• Report adopted.

T. G. HARRISON, Chairman.

Report Of Committee On Finance.

Committee of Finance report as follows: We find total amount of funds sent up from the different churches for the printing of the minutes to be \$15.45.

Report Of Committee On Deceased Members.

The committee on deceased ministers, deacons and members report as follows: We regret to note the death of our beloved brother, H. M. Ayers, Mt. Harmony church, a faithful soldier of Jesus Christ. Also, Sister M. A. Williams of same church; Sister Ann Stanford of Fairview church; Sister Martha Oaks and Sister J. E. Taylor of Poplar Springs church; whose deaths leave a vacancy in our hearts, a vacancy in the church, and above all a vacancy in the family that none can fill, but I trust our loss is their eternal gain. We, therefore, tender our love and sympathy to the bereaved churches and families, and may we all see the death of the righteous, and may our last end be like theirs. And we earnestly request any church that has lost a minister, deacon or member, to report the same to the next association in their church letter.

Report adopted.

J. W. TAYLOR, Chairman.

Report Of Committee On Credentials.

The committee on credentials report as follows: We find by close examination that all our ministers are in good standing as far as we know, and are standing by and preaching the doctrines of church strictly.

Report adopted.

E. F. COLLINS, Chairman.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Mt. Moriah association, T. W. Springfield and J. T. Nabors. To the Jasper association, J. A. Brown, S. B. Gosey, W. T. Butler, T. G. Harrison and T. W. Springfield. To the Barnesville association, S. M. Perkins, J. T. Black and T. W. Springfield. To the Tupelo association, J. A. Brown, T. W. Springfield and D. G. W. Hollis.

Appointed two Union meetings, one to be held with Mt. Willing church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in July next, M. D. McGee to preach the introductory sermon, J. T. Nabors alternate. The other to be held with Unity church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in August next, B. F. Mixon to preach the introductory sermon, S. M. Perkins, alternate.

On motion Jason Robertson was appointed treasurer.

On motion the treasurer was requested to turn over the money on hand to T. W. Springfield to pay for the printing of the minutes and the distributing of the same, which was done accordingly.—Amount \$15.45.

Appointed the next meeting of the association to be held with Mt. Harmony church, 5 miles South of Vernon, to commence on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1893, W. B. Taylor to preach the introductory sermon, J. T. Black alternate. The business of the association being done the following report was made by the committee on resolutions: That our thanks are due and are hereby tendered Poplar Springs church and the citizens of the entire community, and especially the ladies, for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our session.

S. B. GOSEY, Chairman.

On motion adjourned to meet with Mt. Harmony church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1893.

Rev. W. A. Nelson of the Jasper Association, having been appointed by the committee to preach the farewell address, did from these words, "See that ye fall not out by the way," preach a thrilling discourse, which brought the gushing tears from almost every eye. After which the moderator made some grand, noble and appropriate remarks, and while a song was being sung the parting hand was taken amid shouts of joy and tears of grief. Prayer by W. T. Butler and benediction by the moderator.

D. G. W. HOLLIS, Moderator.

JAMES N. McNEIL, Clerk

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session. Former Clerk shall also officiate until the body is fully organized.

2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by the delegates present elects.

4. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during session.

5. A majority of the delegates present shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of churches into our body, then it must be unanimous.

6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in case of a tie; and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question after others have spoken, providing he appoints some one to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall arise and address the Moderator.

8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.

9. No person shall be entitled to speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave from the Association, nor more than 15 minutes at a time.

10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association, of Ala., and being composed of delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the affairs of the churches.

3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory body, and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, &c. It may, however, in extreme cases, call aid from sister churches.

4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-thirds vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer; who shall be chosen at each session by a majority of votes.

6. This Association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by a previous annual session, and shall not adjourn finally until all the business is transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

8. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance Cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary work, &c.

9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions, unless no other member is competent to act in that capacity.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe there is one true and living God, who is the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, self-existent Creator of all things, and revealed under the personal distinction of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

2. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Truth for its matter; that it reveals the principals by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of this world, the centre of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

3. We believe that man was created holy, under the law of his Maker but from voluntary transgression fell from that happy state, in consequence of which, all mankind are now depraved, and wholly unable of their own free will and ability to recover themselves from the fallen state in which they are by nature.

4. We believe that God has not fixed the future state of mankind by an absolute and unconditional decree, but salvation is offered in the Gospel free to all, and if sinners are lost forever it will be their own fault.

5. We believe that Christ by his death and sufferings made an atonement for the sins of all mankind in general, and every

individual in particular; however, that none but those who believe in Him can be partakers of the divine benefits.

6. We believe that true faith can not proceed from the exercises of our natural faculties and powers, or from the force and operation of free will, since man in consequence of his natural corruption is incapable either of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

7. We believe in the general application of the Grace of God to fallen man sufficiently to enable him morally and actually to obey the requirements of the law of liberty. Ja. 1c., 25v.; this is to act saving faith. John 1., 9v.; however, none but those who believe or acquiesce in Christ will be saved thereby.—Acts 17, 32; Rom. 2, 19; John 3, 19.

8. We believe in the free moral agency of man, by the grace of God, before and after conversion, that he laid under no invincible necessity, by his Creator, to act in any given way, that if he lives after the flesh, he shall die, but if he through the spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, he shall live, and therefore man is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation. Heb. 11-12, 13; Rom. 12, 14; Mark 13, 12; Eze. 18, 24; Rev. 2 and 3c.; Eze. 33, 13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4, 1; Heb. 3, 5; 1st Cor. 1c. 12 and 22v.; 1st Peter 1, 10.

9. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the faith of fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ governed by his laws, and exercise the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

10. We believe that Christian baptism is immersion in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that believers are the proper subjects.

11. We believe the Lord's Supper is of perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church, in the case of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment; that the joys of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal, upon principals of grace and justice.

13. We believe in open or mixed communion, and the churches of our body are authorized, through their pastors to invite Christians of all orthodox churches, who are in good standing in their respective churches, to commune with us at the Lord's table.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	POST OFFICES.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Received by Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Restored.	Died.	Total.	Paid for Minutes.
Vernon.	Vernon, Ala.	G. B. Taylor.	F W Springfield and J. N. McNeil.		3					26	50
Springfield.	" "	D. G. W. Hollis.	D G W Hollis, M Hollis, J W Taylor, G W Jer-	9	6	1				125	2 06
Union Chapel.	Jewell, "	J. A. Brown.	F M Lollar, J W Collins, E F Collins.	9	1		2		1	80	1 55
Pilgrims Rest.	Vernon, "		G H Sanders.							22	50
New Hope.	Gattman, Miss.		A J Willis and J T Sandifer.								
New Centre Point	" "	J. A. Brown.	J Tate and S Pickle.						2	75	56
New Pleas. Ridge	Splunge, "	J. A. Brown.	T B Palmer and W B Harris.			5			1	41	1 10
Mt. Willing.	Guin, Ala.	W. B. Taylor.	W B Taylor, C A Chaffin, Thos. Lee, D Motes.	5	12	4				105	1 25
Poplar Springs.	Jewell, "	B. F. Mixon.	J W Harrison, R N Terry, L Price. 3 ministers.	18	1	2	1	1	1	86	2 15
Fairview.	Guin, "	J. A. Brown.	W S Dill and F Cannon.								60
Center Point.	Crews Depot, "	S. M. Perkins.	Bounson Hollis.								
Unity.	Star, "	M. D. McGee.	David Wheeler.		2	1				23	75
Mt. Zion.	Millport, "	J. A. Brown.	A A Burgin.	2					2	36	1 00
Mt. Harmony.	Hightoga, "	J. R. Robertson.	M D McGee, J R Robertson and W C Wheeler.				3	10	2	116	2 25
Shady Grove.	Kennedy, "	M. D. McGee.	P A Johnson, R A McCoy and J T Natons.							51	1 5
TOTAL.				43	25	13	6	11	9	786	1545