

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Fourteenth Annual Session

— OF THE —

VERNON

Free Will Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Mt. Harmony Church, Lamar County, Ala.,

October 14th, 15th and 16th, 1893.



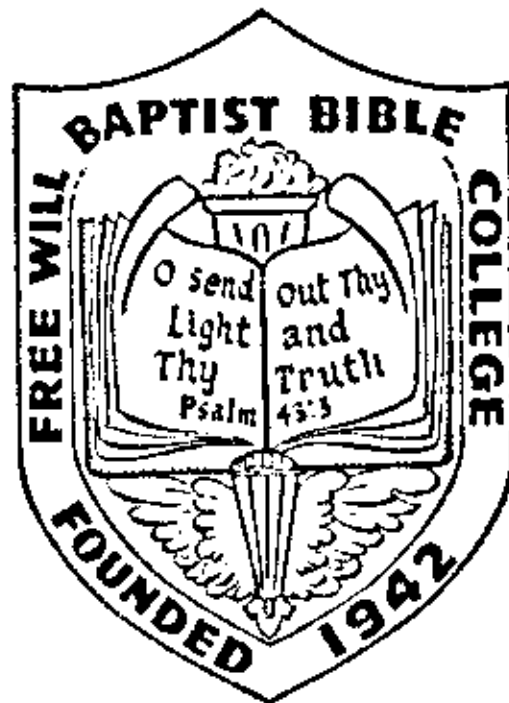
OFFICERS:

D. G. W. HOLLIS, — — — — — MODERATOR.

T. W. SPRINGFIELD, — — — — — CLERK.

The next session of the Vernon Association will meet
with Mt. Willing Church, five miles south of Guin,
Alabama, on Saturday before the 3rd Sun-
day in October 1894.

COURIER PRINT.. VERNON, ALA.



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mr. J. M. Hollis

in memory of

Mrs. Susie McDaniel Hollis

7781

87

4381-16 by 10/17/1944

4681, 16 by 10/17/1944

4774 by 10/17/1944

PROCEEDINGS.

The 14th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist association was held with Mt. Harmony church Lamar Co. Ala., October 14th to 16th 1893. 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, prayer was offered by the moderator, the Association then proceeded to business in the following order:

1. By electing T. W. Springfield to act as clerk pro tem.
2. Letters from the different churches called for and read, the names of the delegates enrolled as per statistical table.

3. Opened the door for the reception of new churches into the body. Received one from the Mt. Moriah Association, Mt. Pleasant, which was cordially received the moderator extended unto the 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 and T. W. Springfield clerk.

5. Called for correspondence from sister associations; whereupon a letter was presented from the Jasper Association by her messengers Revs. T. C. Elliott, S. M. Perkins and Bro. Robert Franks who reported peace and prosperity and were greeted with a warm and hearty reception, also a letter and messenger from the Mt. Mariah Association. Revs. J. D. Byars, J. E. Mathews, Bros. Robert Fields and A. J. Taylor who were cordially received.

6. The following committees were then appointed; on preaching, T. W. Cline, W. I. Barker, J. W. Lindsey, with the deacons of Mt. Harmony church; on documents, Revs. J. A. Brown, J. R. Robertson, J. T. Black, B. F. Mixon, W. B. Taylor, with the Moderator and Clerk; on temperance, Rev. T. G. Harrison, Bros. J. T. Sandifer and P. A. Johnson; on finance, A. J. Robertson, J. T. McManus and J. H. Dill; on Sabbath school, Rev. I. T. Neighbors, and Bros. T. M. Lollar, John R. Cole, J. H. Stacy and G. C. Crews; on deceased members Revs. D. N. McGee, J. W. Taylor, T. W. Buttler, Bro. L. F. Collins; on credentials J. W. Harrison, T. L. Hays, W. F. Cannon, W. V. Russell, J. A. Cash, Lenard Hollis, and W. B. Neighbors.

7. The committee on preaching report as follows: Rev. J. A. Brown tonight; Rev. J. D. Byars tomorrow morning at 9 a. m. Rev. T. C. Elliott at 11 a. m., and Rev. J. E. Mathews at 3 p. m.

8. On motion adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 a. m.

SUNDAY SERVICE.

The brethren appointed to preach filled their appointments promptly, sustaining their reputation as ministers of the Gospel. After the 11 o'clock sermon was delivered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to a host of communicants. The Revs. J. A. Brown and D. G. W. Hollis officiating. Preaching at night by D. G. W. Hollis.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Monday, October 16, 1893.

The association convened according to adjournment, after singing, prayer was offered by J. A. Brown, after readjustment called for reports of committees.

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 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 endeavors to put down this great evil.

Report adopted. W. B. TAYLOR, Chairman

Report of 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 the Mt. Willing church. We recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes; that he have 300 copies printed; that he have them printed wherever he thinks proper; that he retain of the minute fund all over paying for the printing of the minutes for his services. We recommend two union meetings, one to be held with New Centre Point church, the other with Springfield church.

Report adopted. J. A. BROWN, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

We find that there has been but little if any improvement in the way of Sunday schools the past year, that we as a people are far too neglectful of that important part of christian labors, that our children should be taught from a Bible standpoint and not from a denominational standpoint; that they

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should be taught to love and respect all christians as the Bible commands. That they might be brought up and grow in the love and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Report adopted. I. T. NEIGHBORS, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Deceased Members.

We regret to note the death of our beloved Hiram Hollis, Sr. of Springfield church, he died as christians should; also Bro. T. B. Moore a deacon of Vernon church; Bro. A. A. Pearce of New Center Point church; Sister Bell Gallop of Poplar Springt church; Sister Emily E. Tate of Mt. Harmony church whose death leaves a vacancy in our hearts, in the church and above all a most sad vacancy in the family circle which none can fill, but hope our loss is their eternal gain. We therefore tender our sympathy to the bereaved churches and families and when we must die may we all die the death of the righteous and may our last end be like His.

Report adopted. M. D. McGEE. Chairman.

Report of Committee on Credentials.

The committee on Credentials report as follows; We find by close examination that all of our ministers are in good standing in their churches so far as we could ascertain and are standing by and preaching the doctrines of our church strictly, and are broadening as far as their financial affairs will admit.

Report adopted. J. W. HARRISON, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Finance.

We your committee on Finance report as follows; We find total amount of funds sent up from the different churches for the printing of the minutes to be \$16.05.

A. J. ROBERTSON, Chairman.

On motion the committee on finance was instructed to turn over the minute fund to the clerk, which was done.

Returned Correspondence.

To the Mt. Moriah Association, J. R. Robertson, D. L. Cook, T. L. Hays, T. W. Springfield: To Tupelo, J. A. Brown, D. G. W. Hollis, J. W. Taylor, W. B. Taylor, T. W. Springfield: To Jasper, J. T. Black, J. A. Brown, B. F. Mixon, J. W. Taylor, W. B. Taylor, T. W. Springfield: To Barnsville, T. G. Harrison, J. T. Black, S. B. Gosey, W. T. Buttler, G. C. Crews: To Culman, T. W. Springfield, D. G. W. Hollis, J. R. Robertson.

On motion appointed two union meetings, one to be held with New Cente Point church, to coyene on Saturday before

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the 4th Sunday in July next. D. G. W. Hollis, to preach the introductory sermon J. R. Robertson alternate. The next one to be held with Springfield church commencing on Saturday before the 1st Sunday in August next. D. M. McGee: To preach the introductory sermon and J. A. Brown, Alternate.

On motion appointed the next Annual session of this body to be held with the Mt. Willing church, five miles South of Guin, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October 1894. B. F. Mixon, to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. G. B. Taylor alternate.

On motion the following resolution was offered by G. B. Taylor, that our thanks are due and are hereby most heartily tendered Mt. Harmony church and citizens of the entire community and most especially the ladies for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our session.

On motion adjournment to meet with Mt. Willing church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October 1894.

The business of the Association being done the moderator made a few appropriate and feeling remarks after which a song was sung and prayer offered by T. W. Springfield, then the old tune called parting hand was sung during which many tears were shed and many shouts went up and while taking the parting hand many promises were made to meet one another in heaven. Benediction by T. W. Springfield.

D. G. W. HOLLIS, Moderator.

T W. SPRINGFIELD, 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 vote 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, provided 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 church.

3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory body, and shall control its own internal affair 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-third 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 principles 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 shall 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 cannot proceed from the exercise 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., 25; this is to act saving faith. John 1, 9; however, none but those who believe, or acquiesce in Christ shall 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; Mar: 13, 12; Eze. 18, 24; Rev. 2 and 3.; Eze. 33, 13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4, 1; Heb, 3, 5; 1st Cor. 1. 12 and 22; 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, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishop 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 judgement; 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 OFFICE	PASTOR	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Received by Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Restored.	Deceased.	Total Number	Paid for Minutes.
Vernon.	Vernon, Ala.	G. B. Taylor.	F. W. Springfield, J. M. Lawrence and G. B.							22	50
Springfield.	" "	J. W. Taylor.	I. T. McManus, Artie A. Pennington and L. Hollis.	1	2	6	1		1	25	2 00
Union Chapel.	Jewell, "	S. B. Gosey.	T. M. Lollar, W. V. Russell and E. F. Collins.							77	1 70
Pilgrims Rest.	Vernon "		G. H. Sanders, W. C. Morton.							22	50
New Hope	Gattman, Miss.	J. T. Black.	I. T. Sandifer.							23	50
New Centre Point	" "	J. A. Brown.	I. T. Black and M. M. Pickel.	1		2	1		1	54	50
Mt. Willing.	Guin, Ala.	S. B. Gosey.	G. C. Crew, W. I. Barker and W. B. Taylor.	4	5	16	2			27	1 30
New Plest. Ridge	Splunge Miss.		Not Represented								
Poplar Springs.	Jewel, Ala.	J. A. Brown.	J. W. Harrison, S. E. Harrison and P. L. Mellox.	11	4			1		161	1 50
Fairview.	Guin, "	J. A. Brown.	W. F. Cannon and J. H. D. H.							60	35
Unity.	Millport. "	D. G. W. Hollis.	Reuben Todd, J. W. Cline and J. H. Cash.	1						41	1 15
Mt. Zion,	Star, "	M. D. McGee.	J. R. Cole and T. L. Hays.	2						23	1 00
Mt. Harmoy.	Hightoga, "	D. G. W. Hollis.	I. P. Robertson and A. J. Robertson.			5	7		1	99	2 40
Shady Grove.	Kennedy, "	J. K. Robertson.	J. R. Robertson, P. A. Johnson and W. B. Neighbors.							21	1 25
Mt. Pleasant	Molloy, "	D. G. W. Hollis.	J. H. Stacy, J. M. Lindsey and F. M. Savlors.							106	2 00
Total,				36	11	24	14	1	2	868	16 5