

895

Minutes of the Vernon Association.

The Sixteenth Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Unity church, Lamar county, Ala., on the 19th, 20th and 21st days of Oct., 1895.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis. After an intermission of an hour for recreation and refreshments, the association convened according to adjournment. The former clerk being absent, it was moved that Bro. James Harrison be appointed clerk pro tem., after which the association proceeded to business in the following order:

1st. The former moderator and pro tem. clerk took their seats.

2d. Singing and prayer by the moderator.

3d. Letters from the churches were called for and read, and the names of delegates enrolled upon statistical table.

4th. Open the door for the reception of new churches into our body. Whereupon petitionary letter was presented and read from Military Grove church, and said church was received.

5th. Proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk and corresponding secretary. Whereupon D. G. W. Hollis was elected moderator, J. T. Hayes clerk, and D. G. W. Hollis secretary.

6th. The moderator-elect came forward, and after a few appropriate remarks, he resumed business in the following order:

1st. Called for correspondence from sister associations, whereupon messengers from the Mt. Moriah association came forward and presented a letter of greetings bearing the following named brethren, to-wit: Brethren Thomas Alexander and J. M. McAdams, who were cordially received by the moderator, who extended the right hand of fellowship to them.

2d. Invited visiting ministers to seats with us. None present.

3d. Resolved, That the moderator be empowered to appoint all committees.

4th. The following committees were appointed: 1st Committee on preaching, Bros. Lon Bergin, G. W. Hollis, G. C. Crew, with the deacons of Unity church; committee on documents and order of business, Revs. J. A. Brown, W. T. Butler, F. G. Harrison, W. B. Taylor, P. L. Maddox, M. D. McGee, J. R. Baker, with the moderator and clerk; committee on temperance, B. A. Cash,

Hope church; sister Margaret Stapp, of Mt. Harmony church; Bro. John Akins, of New Center Point church; sister Sidney Depreast, of New Center Point church. We trust that all the above names departed this life in the triumph of a living faith, and that our loss is their eternal gain, and we furthermore tender our sincere sympathy to the bereaved families and churches. We trust when we die that we shall meet them where Sabbaths never end and associations never adjourn.

W. S. Dill, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

6. We, your committee on credentials of ministers, beg to submit the following report, viz.: That by careful examination of our ministers, we find all in good standing in their respective churches, and they are standing by and preaching the doctrine of free salvation strictly, and are furthering the same as far as their financial ability will admit.

J. H. Dill, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

7. We, your committee on documents and order of business, beg to submit this report, viz.: We recommend the former order of business. We recommend that the next annual session of this association be held with Springfield church. We furthermore recommend two union meetings, one to be held with Mt. Harmony and the other at Military Grove church. We recommend that the names and postoffices of all the ministers be appended to the minutes. We recommend that the form of church letter in minutes of the 15th session of this association be appended to our next minutes. We recommend that Bro. D. G. W. Hollis superintend the printing of the minutes, and allow him to have them printed where he can get it done best and cheapest; that he retain all money over and above cost of printing the minutes for his trouble. Furthermore we recommend that the proceedings of the union meeting be appended to this minute, and we recommend that the query of the two sons of the father spoken of in Luke xv be discussed at the union meeting of Mt. Harmony as to what and whom they represent.

J. A. Brown, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

8. We, your committee on Sabbath schools, beg to submit this report, viz.: We find that there has been little, if any, improvement in the way of Sabbath schools in the past year, and that we, as a denomination, are too negligent of that important part of our duty to our children; therefore, we earnestly suggest that our ministers use all their influence to organize Sabbath schools in each and every church in our association.

J. R. Baker, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

9. We, your committee on temperance, beg leave to submit this report, viz.: Seeing and believing that the temperance move-

J. T. Cole, W. F. Cannon, W. T. Harris; committee on finance. John Harris, Henry Ayres, Moses Hollis; committee on Sabbath Schools, Rev. J. R. Baker, J. H. Dill, T. M. Cruth, Andy Willis and J. D. Williams; committee on deceased members, W. S. Dill, M. V. Brewer, W. C. Morton, P. A. Johnson and S. E. Maddox; committee on credentials of ministers, Bros. J. W. Harrison, G. W. Haster, A. M. Ervin, J. L. Beasley, W. J. Lampkin, Brunson Hollis and J. F. Jones.

5th. The committee on preaching reports as follows: Revs. W. B. Taylor, to preach on Sunday at 9 o'clock a. m., and J. A. Brown at 11 o'clock a. m. J. R. Baker preached at 3 o'clock p. m. T. G. Harrison at 12 o'clock on Monday.

6th. The business of the day being finished, Bro. M. D. McGee moved to adjourn until Monday morning at 8 o'clock. A song was sung and prayer was offered by Bro. J. R. Baker.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

7th. At the hour of 9 a. m. a large crowd had assembled, and Bro. W. B. Taylor ascended the stand and delivered his address to an attentive audience from the text: 8th chapter and 5th verse of the Songs of Solomon. After an intermission of 30 minutes, J. A. Brown preached from the 22d chapter, 15th verse of Luke. He was followed by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, after which the Lord's Supper was administered to a host of communicants. Bros. T. G. Harrison, M. D. McGee and D. G. W. Hollis officiated. This service was closed by an old-time hand shaking and shouts of praise to God were heard from all parts of the house. Preaching at 3 o'clock by Bro. G. R. Baker from the text: 13th chapter, 13th verse 1st Corinthians, followed by P. L. Maddox, and the Holy Spirit attended the services.

MONDAY'S SESSION.

8th. The association convened according to adjournment, and after singing prayer was offered by the moderator.

1st. The roll of churches was called and delegates answered to their names. A quorum being present, the association proceeded to business.

2d. Omitted reading the minutes of Saturday's session.

3d. Called for ministers of other orders to seats with us. None present.

4th. Moved that the reports of committees be read.

5th. Report on deceased members. We, your committee on deceased members, beg leave to submit the following report:

After a thorough investigation of the entire association, we find the following names of our beloved brothers and sisters that have departed this life during this associational year, viz.: Sister Polly Lee, of Mt. Willing church; bro. Elisha Alsop, of New

8
6. We believe that the 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, and that he is 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, 30; 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 exercises the gifts 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 principles 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.

79 FORM OF CHURCH LETTER.

Vernon, Lamar County, Ala., Sept. , 189

Dear Brethren: We, the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, who worship at , send greetings. We have been looking forward with pleasant anticipations to the time when we could meet with you by letter and delegates to represent us in the annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association to be held with church, which convenes on Saturday before the third Sabbath in Oct., 189

Brethren, we met in conference on Saturday before the Sunday in and elected delegates as follows: Bros. G. A. C—, B. A. L— and O. L. H—, whom we deem worthy to be seated with you, to aid you in all your business transactions, and to bear this letter of recommendation from our beloved church. † Brethren, we are at peace with one another. We have had the faithful services of Rev. J. T. B—, who has served us faithfully, and we have subscribed to him for his services the sum of dollars. We have had our protracted meeting, and God met with us and we feel like we are on our road to eternal prosperity. We trust that the business of the association may be transacted in peace and harmony, and that all things may be done in decency and order, and with an eye single to the advancement of God's Kingdom in these ends of the earth. We ask an interest in the prayers of the association.

Our statistics are as follows:

Received by Baptism,
 " Letter,
 Dismissed by Letter,
 Excluded,
 Restored,
 Deceased,
 Total Membership,
 Paid for Minutes,

Meeting days on Saturday before the
 Sunday in each month.

This done in conference of before the
 Sunday in 189

Rev. T. B. H—, Moderator.

J. M. S.—, Church Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	POST-OFFICES.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Received by Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Restored.	Deceased.	Total.
Sprangle, A.	Vernon,	D. G. W. Hollis,	M. A. Hollis, M. A. Perkins and T. A. Irvin,	5	5					15
Union Chapel,	Jewell	T. G. Harrison,	S E Maddox, E W Harrison and H F Hankins	1	1	3				77
Pilgrim's Rest,	Vernon,	W. Y. Butler, and	W C Morton, J M Sanders,	1	1					23
New Hope,	Gattman,	T. G. Harrison	Andy Willis,			2		1		18
New Center Point,	Gattman,	J. R. Black,	S P Brown and W H Rigen,			2		2		61
Mt. Willing,	Guin,	J. A. Brown,	W J Barker, G C Crews and Thos. Lee,	15	10	25	3	1	1	91
New Pleasant Ridge,	Splunge, Miss,	W. B. Taylor,	J W Harris, W T Harris and A M Irvin,							50
Poplar Springs,	Jewell,	J. A. Brown,	J W Harrison, P L Maddox, J A Brown, W Y Butler	3	2	11	5			72
Fairview,	Guin,	J. A. Brown,	W F Cannon, W S Dill, and J H Dill,	5						44
Unity,	Star,	J. A. Brown,	J R Cole, R C Stacy, J L Beasley & T G Harrison,	8	1					47
Mt. Zion,	Millport,	M. D. McGee,	B F Cash and A A Bergin,	6						49
Mt. Harmony,	Hightog,	D. G. W. Hollis,	LP Cole, Henry Ayres, J D Williams,	13	1	5		2	1	116
Shady Grove,	Kennedy,	D. G. W. Hollis,	P A Johnston,							
Mt. Pleasant,	Molloy,	D. G. W. Hollis,	W J Lampkins, H Stacy, M V Brewer,	11	5	2	1	0		114
Taylor's Springs,	Crews,	J. A. Brown,	Brunson Hollis, G W Hollis,	9	3	2		9		35
Military Grove,	Crews	J. A. Brown,	F M Cruth, G W Hester,	12	9					21