

MINUTES,

—OF THE—

Eighteenth Annual Session

OF THE

VERNON FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD AT

Fairview Church Lamar County Ala.

October 16, 17, and 18, 1897.

OFFICERS

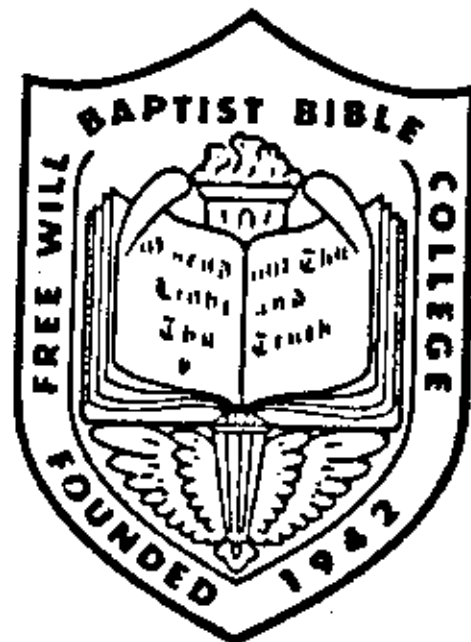
REV. T. W. SPRINGFIELD, - - - Moderator.

,, D. G. W. HOLLIS, - - - Clerk.

BRO. J. F. BARKER, - Corresponding Secretary

The next session of this Association will be held with
New Pleasant Ridge church, commencing on Sat-
urday before the 3rd Sunday in October
1898.

VERNON, ALABAMA.
LAMAR DEMOCRAT PRINTING COMPANY.
1897.



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. James Walden

VERNON FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

18th Annual Session.

THE 18TH ANNUAL SESSION

Of The Vernon Freewill Baptist Association Was Held With Fairview Church, Lamar County, Ala., on the

16, 17, and 18th days of October, 1897

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. T. W. Springfield, after which an intermission of an hour and a half for recreation and refreshments. the Association convened according to adjournment. The former moderator being present took his seat. The former clerk being absent, a move was made for Bro. D. G. W. Hollis to act as clerk pro tem, until the Association was fully organized.

1. Singing and prayer by the moderator.

2. Letters from the different churches were called for and read, and the names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table.

3. Opened the door for the reception of new churches into our body. None presented.

4. Proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk and corresponding secretary. whereupon Rev. T. W.

Springfield was elected Moderator and Bro. D. G. W. Hollis Clerk, and Bro. J. F. Barker Corresponding Secretary.

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

1. Called for corresponding delegates from sister Associations, whereupon messengers from the Tupelo Association, to-wit: O. M. Thompson, and Rev. W. R. Cowley, came forward and presented a letter of greeting to our body. And also messengers from the Jasper Association, to-wit: Rev. W. A. Nelson, Rev. M. R. Martin, and Bros. E. D. Flurry and Robert Franks, who presented a letter of greeting to our body, and the above named messengers were all cordially received, and the moderator extended to them the right hand of fellowship.

2. Invited visiting ministers to seats with us, whereupon Rev. W. I. Gregrie, of the M. E. Church South came forward and was cordially invited to a seat with us.

3. Resolved, That the modera-

tor be empowered to appoint all committees.

4. Committee on preaching to-wit: G. H. Sanders, B. F. Cline, and J. H. Cash, with the deacons of Fairview church.

Committee on Documents: and order of business, to-wit: Revs R. C. Flippo, J. A. Brown, M. D. McGee, J. B. White, T. M. Lollar with the moderator and clerk.

Committee on temperance, to-wit: T. G. Harrson, C. A. Claffin and W. I. Barker.

Committee on Finance, to-wit: S. G. Johnson, R. C. Stacy and R. G. Hollis.

Committee on deceased members, to-wit: M. C. Lockhart, E. Neal, W. J. Lindsay and F. S. Kuykendall.

Committee on Sabbath Schools to-wit: T. J. Gann, Elbert Stanford and Moses Hollis.

Committee on credentials, to-wit: J. H. May, S. W. Underwood, John Adkins, W. D. Morrow and Frank Weathers.

5. The committee on preaching reports as follows: W. I. Barker with Bro. A. Chaffin as alternate to preach to night. W. R. Cowley at 9 o'clock a m, Sunday. W. A. Nelson at 11 a m, Sunday. D. G. W. Hollis at 3 p m, Sunday, and M D McGee at 7 p m Sunday

6. The business of the day being finished, it was moved and in order to adjourn to Monday morning 10 o'clock a m. Prayer by the moderator.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

At the hour of 10 o'clock a m, a large crowd had assembled, and Bro. W. R. Cowley ascended the stand and delivered his address to an attentive audience. His discourse was well directed, on the line of free salvation to the text in the 7th chapter and 21 verse of Matt.

After an intermission of 15 minutes, Bro. W. A. Nelson preached to the text 16th chapter and 13 to 15th verses of Luke, to a large and attentive crowd. His discourse was on the pending dangers of perdition; our faith on technical names of demoninational orders, and after which the Lord's was taken by a host of communicants, and a wave of the Holy Spirit was felt by many of the congregation, while taking the parting hand, after which there was an intermission of an hour and a half; and Bro. D. G. W. Hollis filled the stand and addressed a large and attentive crowd on the subject of spiritual religion and invisible kingdom to

the text in Matt. 11th chapter and 11th verse. At the hour of 7 p m, Bro. M. D. McGee occupied the stand and delivered his discourse on the subject of the pending dangers of procrastination to the text 14th chapter and 24th verse of Luke.

MONDAY'S SESSION.

7. The Association convened according to adjournment, at the hour of 10 o'clock a m, and after singing prayer was offered by the moderator.

The Association resumed business in the following order:

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

2. On motion the reading of Saturday's minutes was omitted.

3. On motion the report of committees was received and read.

4. Report of committee on documents and order of business.

We your committee on documents and order of business, beg leave to submit the following report: We recommend the former order of business. We further more recommend the next session of this Association to be held with New Pleasant Ridge

church, Monroe county, Miss., 5 miles north of Greenwood Springs

We further more recommend two Union meetings. We further more recommend that the clerk of this Association superintend the printing of the minutes and that he have 400 copies printed and that he be allowed the option of having them printed where he can get it done best and cheapest. We further more recommend the resolution of Dr. J. S. Hollis on the amendment of the Constitution for the purpose of allowing the churches to assess the members of their respective churches for the support of the ministry. We further more recommend that the clerk be allowed all the money over and above the cost of printing and distributing the minutes for his trouble. R. C. Flipppo, Ch.

5. The above report was received and committee discharged. Then the report was taken up by sections and read and adopted by striking out the Constitutional amendment and by a slight amendment offered by the Rev. R. C. Flipppo to allow Bro. Nash the option of printing the minutes if he (Nash) would print them as cheap as anyone else.

6. We your committee on deceased members beg leave to submit the following report to-wit: The result of our investigation we find that the hand of Providence has visited our Association and removed from us the following named members to wit: Sister Alabama Pennington of Springfield church, sister N. E. Hankins of Union Chapel church, sister R. Z. Cannon of Fairview church and Bros. O. F. Kemp. W. J. Lampkins and H. Stacy of Mt. Pleasant church and W. A. McGee and sister Fannie McGee of Mt. Harmony, sister Elizabeth Welch of Mt. Willing church and sister Nancy Cash of Mt. Zion church. All the above names we understand were in good standing in their respective churches, and we trust that the Lord has taken them to the goodly land, there to walk the golden streets of the New Jerusalem and praise the name of God on harps with a thousand strings, and we hereby tender our sympathy to the bereaved families and churches and would say to them to emulate the life of Christ that your days of sorrow may have an end, and that you all may be united again in realms of a never ending bliss, and brethren, in the death of our beloved christian friends the church has sustained a great loss, and may this stimulate those who follow on to a redoubling of their diligence and may no harm come to the church. Brethren, our labors are increased in proportion to the number we have lost. So let us do our whole duty in the cause of Christ.

M. C. Lockhart, Ch.

The above report was received and committee discharged. Then taken up by the conference and adopted as read.

6. Report of committee on Sabbath schools. We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following report: We find that there has been but little if any improvement in the way of Sabbath Schools in the past year; although we have had a fine Sabbath school at Fairview church this year with a large attendance. Though we, as a denomination, are too negligent of our duty to our children in this respect, and we therefore urge it upon our ministerial brethren to organize Sabbath schools in each and every church in this Association. Respectfully submitted,

T. J. Gann, Ch.

The above report was received and committee discharged. The

report then was taken up by the conference and adopted as read.

7. Report of committee on credentials we your committee on credential beg leave to submit the following report after a careful investigation of our ministers we find all in good standing in their respective churches, and they are standing by and preaching free salvation strictly and are furthering our cause so far as their financial circumstances will admit; done with care. Respectfully submitted.

J. H. Atkins, Ch.

The above report was received and committee discharged. Then taken up by the conference and adopted as read.

8. Report of committee on finance. we your committee on finance have collected from the different churches through their delegates, a total sum of \$16.80 for the purpose of printing minutes. Respectfully submitted.

S. G. Johnson, Ch.

The above report was received and committee discharged. The conference received the report.

9. Report of committee on Temperance: We your committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report. Seeing and believing that the temperance

movement is on the increase we earnestly urge our ministers and lay members throughout the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association to use their utmost endeavors to suppress this great evil of which the church meets so much trouble.

Respectfully submitted,

T. G. Harrison, Ch.

Then the above report was received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

10. Motions and resolutions in order.

11. On motion the money in the treasurer's hands was turned over to Bro. D. G. W. Hollis for the superintending the printing of minutes.

12. On motion the moderator appointed corresponding messengers to sisters Associations to wit: To Mount Moriah, Revs. M. D. McGee T. G. Harrison and Bros. J. H. Cash, G. H. Sanders and J. R. Cole. To the Jasper Association Revs. J. A. Brown, R. C. Flippo, T. W. Springfield, J. B. White, C. A. Chaffin and Bro. W. M. Perkins. To the Tupelo Association, Revs. R. C. Flippo, T. W. Springfield, J. A. Brown and Bros. M. C. Lockhart, T. J. Gann.

13. On motion the first Union meeting was given to Mt. Willing Church and to convene on Satur-

day before the third Sabbath in B. railroad in Monroe county, July 1898. The introductory to Miss., and to convene on Saturday be preached by T. G. Harrison and before the 3rd Sabbath in October W. B. White Alternate, and the 1898. The motion carried. After second Union meeting was given ter which a song was sung and the to Springfield Church and to con- congregation taken the parting vene on Saturday before the first hand amid tears of grief and joy, Sunday in August 1898. The in- and shouts of praise went up from troductory to be preached by Bro. all parts of the house. After M. D. McGee and T. M. Lollar al- which the meeting was adjourned ternate. by pronouncing the benediction.

14. On motion Bro. D. G. W. Hollis is to preach the introducto- ry sermon at our next Association and Bro. J. A. Brown alternate. Next session of this association will be held with New Pleasant Ridge, Monroe county, Missis- sippi.

15. A resolution of thanks was offered. Resolved that our thanks are due and are hereby most heartily tendered to the members of Fairview church and citizens of the entire community, and most especially to the ladies for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them at this Association.

16. The business of the Associa- tion being completed, there was a move and second to adjourn to meet with New Pleasant Ridge church, 5 miles north of Green- wood Springs on the K. C. M. &

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be call- ed to order by the moderator who presided at the last session. Form- er 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 ma- jority of the delegates present e- lects.

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

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

6. The moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in cases of a tie, 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 rise 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 debates.

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

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association, of Alabama, and be 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 affairs in matters of discipline, etc. 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 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 influ-

ence to promote the interests 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.

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 and 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 con-

duct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

3. We believe that man was created holy under the law of his maker, but from voluntary transgressions fell from that happy estate, 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 suffering 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 benefits.

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.