

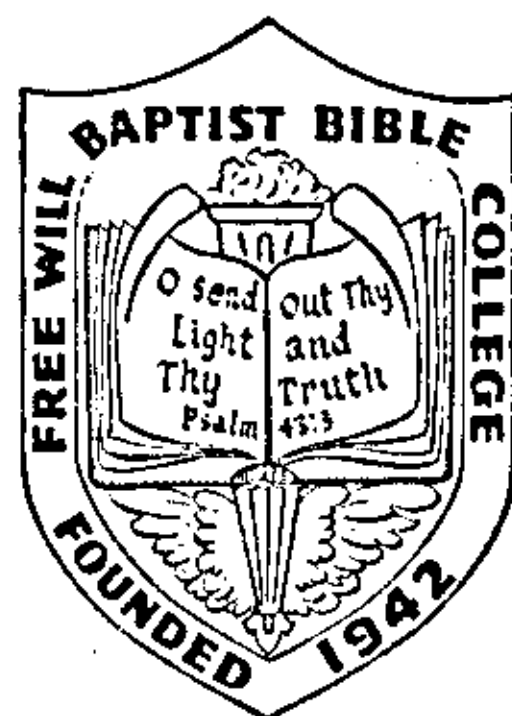
MINUTES
—OF THE—
Nineteenth Annual Session
—OF THE—
VERNON
Freewill Baptist Association,
CONVENED WITH
New Pleasant Ridge Church, Monroe County, Miss.
October 15th, 16th and 17th, 1898.

—O—
OFFICERS:

Rev. J. A. BROWN,	Moderator,
J. F. BARKER,	Clerk,
J. W. COLLINS,	Corresponding Secretary.

The next session of this Association will meet with Union Chapel Church,
eight miles East of Vernon, Lamar county Alabama, and will
convene on Saturday before the third Sabbath
in, October, 1899.

BAPTIST REVIEW JOB OFFICE,
GOLDSBORO, N. C.



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mr. J. M. Hollis

in memory of

Mrs. Susie McDaniel Hollis

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PROCEEDINGS.

The 19th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association was held with New Pleasant Ridge Church, Monroe county, Miss., on the 15th, 16th and 17th days of October, 1898.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, after which an intermission of one hour was taken for recreation and refreshments. Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association convened pursuant to adjournment. The former Moderator being absent, by motion, Rev. J. A. Brown was elected Moderator Protem until the body was permanently organized. The Moderator took the chair and called the body to order. The former clerk being present, business was resumed as follows:

1. The congregation sung a hymn, after which the moderator offered prayer.

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

3. Opened the door for the reception of new churches into the body. A letter was received from Piney Grove, which was read and adopted, and the names of the delegates ordered to be enrolled in the minutes.

4. Proceeded to elect a Moderator, Clerk and Corresponding Secretary: Whereupon, Rev. J. A. Brown was elected Moderator, Bro. J. F. Barker, Clerk, and Bro. J. W. Collins Corresponding Secretary. The officers who had been elected came forward and thanked the Association for the honor conferred upon them, and promised to discharge the duties of their respective offices to the best of their ability.

1. Called for corresponding delegates from sister Associations, and received Rev. W. R. Cowler and Bro. O. M. Thompson from the Tupelo Association. The Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship and the brethren were cordially received.

2. Invited visiting ministers of other denominations to take seats with us. None present.

3. Resolved that the Moderator be empowered to appoint all committees: Whereupon, the following are appointed:

ON PREACHING—Brethren E. Neal, J. E. Chaffin, R. N. Yerby, with the Deacons of New Pleasant Ridge Church.

ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS—Brethren W. H. McDonald, J. W. Eeds, J. R. Cole, Rev. T. G. Harrison, T. M. Lollar, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis with the Clerk and Moderator.

ON TEMPERANCE—Brethren W. R. Motes, W. Q. Haney, S. P. Hollis and J. H. Stacy.

ON FINANCE—Brethren W. M. Wallis, L. T. Cole and William Borden.

ON DECEASED MEMBERS—Brethren S. P. Brown, J. E. Williams, Noah Sorrels, J. T. Gables and J. W. Collins.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—Brethren G. C. Stanford, H. H. Dill, T. A. Weathers and Oscar Jackson.

ON CREDENTIALS—Brethren Brunson Hollis, J. W. Adair, J. A. Gosa and Jessie Jones.

5. Committee on preaching report as follows: Rev. G. T. Harrison preach tonight; Rev. L. M. Lollar, alternate. Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preach at 9 o'clock Sunday morning. And Rev. J. A. Brown follow and preach at 11 o'clock Sunday A. M.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning half past eight o'clock. Prayer and benediction by the Moderator.

SERVICES ON SABBATH.

About 9 o'clock Sunday morning a large crowd assembled on the ground and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis according to previous arrangement of the committee preached to the congregation. His text was James 1c, 17v. His sermon was well directed on the line of perfection.

After an intermission of fifteen minutes, Rev. J. A. Brown preached an interesting sermon on the line of Faith and Works. His text was Romans 4c, 4v. After which the Lord's Supper was administered, and open or

free communion was practically demonstrated by the host of Christians of all denominations present who partook of the emblems. And a wave of the Holy Spirit was felt by many of the congregation, while taking the parting hand. At the close of this service, there was an intermission of an hour and a half taken, and the congregation came together by singing. Rev. W. R. Cowley filled the stand and addressed the large and attentive congregation. His text was Gal. 6c, 7th, 8th and 9th verses. The sermon was well directed and enjoyed by the audience.

MONDAY MORNING, Oct. 17th, 1898.

7. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sung a hymn, after which Rev. T. G. Harrison offered prayer. The Moderator called the Association to order. The Clerk called the roll, and the ministers and delegates answer to their names.

It was ascertained that a quorum was present and the Moderator called for the regular order of business.

On motion, it was agreed to omit the reading of the minutes of last Saturday.

Reports of committees are called for and presented in the following order:

ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We your committee on Documents and Order of Business report. We recommend the former order of Business. We furthermore recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Union Chapel 8 miles East of Vernon. We furthermore recommend that we have two Union Meetings. We furthermore recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, and that he have them printed where he can get the work done cheapest. We, also recommend that he have 400 copies printed. And we further recommend that the Clerk be allowed all the money in his hands after paying for printing and distributing the minutes to the different churches for his services. We further recommend that the Association appoint an independent missionary for the purpose of visiting as many of the churches of this and sister Associations as he possibly can during the associational year.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. G. HOLLIS, Chairman.

On motion, the report is received and the committee discharged. Then the report was taken up by sections, and read and adopted.

ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We your committee on deceased members report: As the result of our investigation, we find that our Heavenly Father has summoned three of our faithful colaborers in Christ to their eternal home since our last session to wit: Bro. Andrew M. Jones of Union Chapel Church; Sister Ellen Parham of New Pleasant Ridge Church and sister Julia Ann Vails of Mount Pleasant Church. They all died in the faith and hope of eternal happiness. And we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. We pay this our last tribute of respect to their deceased memory. We feel that our loss is their eternal gain. They rest from their labors and their works follow them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. COLLINS, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools report: Brethren we as a denomination take but little if any interest in Sabbath School work. This seems as one grand mistake that our denomination is making. As we know that the hope of both State and church depends on the young and rising generation. We believe the Sabbath School is one of the grand moral agents in training the young and tender minds of our children to abstain from the appearance of evil. And furthermore to indelibly impress the important truths of the Bible upon their minds. To first seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness in early youth, and that all other blessings will be added. We furthermore urge it upon the ministers and laity of our Association to build up Sabbath Schools in all their churches, and report to our next session the result.

Respectfull submitted,

G. C. STANFORD, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

ON MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS.

We your committee on credentials submit the following report: After a careful investigation of our ministers, we find that all are 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,

BRUNSON HOLLIS, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged

ON FINANCE.

We your committee on Finance have collected from the different churches through their delegates a total sum of seventeen dollars and forty cents (17 40) for the purpose of printing minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM WALLACE, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

ON TEMPERANCE.

We your committee on Temperance submit the following as our 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,

J. Q. HANEY, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

The Moderator then announced that motions and resolutions were in order.

11. On motion, the money in the hands of the Treasurer was ordered to be paid over to the Clerk, Bro. J. F. Barker, to pay for superintending and printing the minutes.

12. On motion, the Moderator was empowered to appoint corresponding messengers to sister Associations; whereupon the following are appointed:

To the Mount Moriah Association Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, M. D. McGee, T. G. Harrison, R. C. Stacy and W. M. Wallace.

To the Jasper Association, brethren W. I. Barker, C. A. Chaffin, J. E. Chaffin and R. Q. Gosa.

To the Tupelo Association, (which convenes on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in September 1899), brother T. J. Irvin, Rev. J. A. Brown and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis.

13. On motion, the first Union Meeting was given to Unity Church, to convene on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1899.

On motion, Rev. J. A. Brown was elected to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, alternate.

On motion, the second Union Meeting was given to Fairview Church, to convene on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in August 1899.

On motion, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis was elected to preach the introductory sermon, Rev. T. G. Harrison, alternate.

On motion, it was agreed to hold the next session of this Association with Union Chapel church, Lamar county, Alabama, 8 miles East of Vernon, and that it convene on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in October, 1899.

14. On motion, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis was elected to preach the introductory sermon at our next Association; Rev. J. A. Brown, alternate.

15. On motion, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis and Rev. G. T. Harrison were appointed independent missionaries to preach in this and sister Associations as much as they possibly can.

16. On motion, a vote of thanks is given to New Pleasant Ridge Church, and the citizens of this community, and especially the ladies, for kindness and hospitality shown to members and visitors of the Association during our stay among them.

17. On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place above named. After which a hymn was sung, and the parting hand was taken amid tears and shouts of joy. Finally the Moderator announced the benediction, which closed one of the most harmonious sessions this Association has ever enjoyed.

J. A. BROWN, Moderator.

J. F. BARKER, Clerk.

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 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 conduct, 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 freewill 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 Him can be partakers of the 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 freewill, 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. 18, 3; Eze. 33, 13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4, 1; Heb. 3, and 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 as sociated 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 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, on 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.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Rev. J. A. BROWN, Hester, Fayette county, Ala.

" D. G. W. HOLLIS, Vernon, Lamar county, Ala.

" R. C. FLIPPO, Guin, Marion county, Ala.

" W. I. BARKER, Sizemore, Lamar county, Ala.

" C. A. CHAFFIN, Guin, Marion county, Ala.

" T. G. HARRISON, Maddox, Lamar county, Ala.

" M. D. MCGEE, Millport, Lamar county, Ala.

" J. R. ROBERTSON, Kennedy, Lamar county, Ala.

" T. W. SPRINGFIELD, Guin, Marion county, Ala.

" J. R. BAKER, Vernon, Lamar county, Ala.

" G. B. TAYLOR, Richards, Lamar county, Ala.

" R. L. GOSA, Guin, Marion county, Ala.

" W. R. FURMAN, Tennis, Lamar county, Ala.

LICENTIATE MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

T. M. LOLLAB, Alfred, Lamar county, Ala.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon Free-will 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 counsel, 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.

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 School, 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 be competent to act in that capacity.

10. Any church of this Association failing to be represented for two years in succession, its name shall be dropped from our minutes.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session. Former Clerk also officiating 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 the session.

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

6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in cases 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 appoint 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 allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the Association, nor more than fifteen 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.

NOTES BY THE PUBLISHER.—This minute is not perfect, but it is a decided improvement on any minute the Vernon Association has had printed since 1891. We printed the minutes that year, and made an effort to get them in proper shape, but from causes not necessary to mention, the work from then until now has been given to other offices and all we have ever seen of it has been botchery and an imposition on the Association.

In the first place, we have changed the table so that instead of giving the post offices of the churches, we have put it "Clerks and Post offices." There is sense and reason in this form while there is none in the other. A church can't have a post office unless it was an incorporated body; and then one of the number of incorporators would necessarily have to be named to receive the mails. To make the table complete, each church should have credit for the amount it contributed to the minute fund.

The old minute was silent as to the names and post offices of the preachers; this minute gives them in full as far as the Clerk and Corresponding Secretary could furnish them. This is an item that should appear in the minutes of all Associations to make them complete. With this minute in the hands of the brethren of the Vernon Association, they will find no difficulty in making their manuscript complete for their minutes in the future.

The Clerk calls our attention to an item in the Review which reads: "The Vernon Association voted to give us their minutes this year." This was our mistake. We took the job from the Clerk on a low bid. After paying expenses, we get eight dollars for the work.

STATISTICAL TABLE. FOR 1898.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES.								No. of Members	Paid for Minutes.
				Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Rec'd, on Conf.	Restored	Died	Excluded		
Springfield, Lamar county....	D. G. W. Hollis and S. P. Hollis.....	D. G. W. Hollis....	S. P. Hollis, Vernon, Ala	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	60	
Union Chapel, Lamar county.	T. M. Lollar, J W Collins, E Neal, J Jones.	T. G. Harrison....	J. T. Maddox, Jewel, Ala	2	2	..	..	..	1	1	92	
Pilgrim's Rest, Lamar county.	.....	D. G. W. Hollis....	W. C. Morton, Vernon, Ala.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Centre Point, Monroe co.	.....	J. A. Brown.....	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mount Willing, Fayette co....	W Q Haney, W H McDonald, J E Chaffin.	J. A. Brown.....	J. E. Chaffin, Guin, Ala.....	15	5	7	..	3	..	1	113	
New Pleasant Ridge, Monroe.	W H Gorden, W Borden, and T B Palmer	J. A. Brown.....	.....	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	56	
Poplar Springs, Lamar county	R. N. Yerby and J. A. Brown.....	J. A. Brown.....	J. M. Perkins, Rias, Ala.....	2	1	4	..	..	..	9	74	
Fair View, Marion county....	W, H. Dill and G. C. Stanford.....	W. I. Barker.....	J. H. Dill, Guin, Ala.....	7	..	1	..	..	..	..	45	
Unity, Lamar county.....	J. R. Cole, J. G. Gunnels, W. M. Wallis.	T. G. Harrison....	R. C. Stacy, Star, Ala.....	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	64	
Mount Zion, Lamar county...	T. A. Weathers.....	T. G. Harrison....	F. M. Weathers, Millport, Ala.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mount Harmony, Lamar co..	L. I. Cole, O. Jackson, J. E. Williams..	D G. W. Hollis....	L. T. Cole, Hightog, Ala.....	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	135	
Shady Grove, Lamar county..	.....	.....	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mount Pleasant, Lamar co....	J. H. Stacy and J. W. Adair.....	D. G. W. Hollis....	J. W. Lindsey, Molloy, Ala....	3	..	1	..	..	1	..	92	
Taylor's Springs, Lamag co...	J, F. Barker, B. Hollis and N. Sorrels..	J. A. Brown.....	J. F. Baker, Sizemore, Ala....	5	9	..	..	..	..	..	60	
Military Grove, Lamar county	S. W. Underwood.....	W. I. Barker.	S. W. Underwood, Crews, Ala.	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	
Piney Grove, Marion county..	J. W. Eeds, J. A. Gosa, W. R. Motes...	C. A. Chaffin.....	A. J. Motes, Guin, Ala.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	
.....		
.....		
.....	.....	.....	Total	57	27	15	..	3	3	11	847	\$17 40