

MINUTE
— OF THE
Twenyeth And
— OF THE
VERNON

Freewill Bapt.
HELD AT
Union Chapel Church
October 14th, 1899.

Association
WITH
Lamar County,
and 16th, 1899.

OFFICERS:
T. G. HARRISON,
D. G. W. HOLLIS,

MODERATOR.
CLERK.

The next session of the Vernon Association will meet with Mt. Pleasant Church, Lamar County, Ga., on Saturday before the 3d Sunday of October 1900.

MINUTE VERNON
COURIER P. M. ALA 1899.

PROCEEDINGS.

The 20th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association was held with Union Chapel church, Lamar county, Alabama, on the 14th, 15th and 16th of October 1899. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, upon the subject of the immortality of man. After which an intermission one hour was taken for recreation and refreshments and adjourned to meet at two o'clock.

Afternoon Session:

The Association convened pursuant to adjournment. The former moderator and clerk both being present they took their seats, and proceeded to business in the following order:

1. The congregation sang a hymn, after which the Moderator offered prayer.

2. Proceeded to permanent organization by calling for letters from the different churches.

3. The roll of churches was called and letters handed in and read and the names of delegates enrolled, as per statistical table.

4. Opened the door for the reception of new churches into the body; and letters were received from the following-named churches, to-wit: Friendship, Pearces' Chapel and New Mt. Pleasant. All the above letters were read, after which a motion was made, and carried, that they be received into full fellowship. The above named churches and delegates from them are enrolled in statistical table.

5. The Association being permanently organized - proceeded to elect a moderator, clerk and corresponding secretary, whereupon, Rev. T. G. Harrison was elected moderator; Rev. D. G. W. Hollis clerk; and J. R. Barker corresponding secretary. The officers elected came forward and after appropriate remarks of thanks by the Moderator for the honor conferred upon him he promised to discharge the duties of the office fairly and impartially to the best of his ability. Then the officers took their seats and proceeded to the business of the Association.

1. Called for corresponding messengers from sister Associations, whereupon, Bro. B. D. Williams, of the Mount Moriah

Association. came forward and, also, on the second day's session Bro. Thomas Alexander came in with a letter of correspondence from the above named Association, and both brethren were given the right-hand of welcome by the Moderator and accorded seats with us to aid in our council in the business of the Association.

2. Invited visiting ministers of other denominations to seats with us; none presented themselves.

3. RESOLVED: That the Moderator appoint all committees, whereupon, the following committees were appointed:

Committee on Arrangements: B. F. Cash, J. R. Cole, W. A. Minor, with the deacons of Union Chapel church.

Committee on Documents and Order of Business: Rev. G. B. Taylor, J. R. Robertson, W. I. Barker, J. A. Isbell, J. W. Porter, with the Moderator and Clerk.

Committee on Temperance: S. P. Brown, F. M. Weathers, G. R. May, R. N. Yerby, and I. P. Robertson.

Committee on Finance: T. A. Guin, W. T. Irvin, R. G. Hollis, J. H. Cash, and M. M. Pickell.

Committee on Deceased Members: A. J. Robertson, W. S. Hollis, J. W. Harris, F. M. Carruth, H. H. Dill, F. S. Kuykendoll, J. G. Sanders, W. M. Perkins, and P. A. Johnson.

Committee on Sabbath Schools: Jep Sea, Jr., H. Cox, G. W. Wiggins, A. J. Motes, and A. M. Pennington.

Committee on Credentials: J. F. Barker, J. W. Adair, G. H. Dyer, G. W. Chaffin, J. Z. Gunnell, Bunion Sullivan, U. C. Weir, G. H. Sanders, and G. C. Stanford.

4. The committee on arrangement asked leave to submit their report of arrangements for Sunday, as follows: At nine o'clock Sunday morning Rev. W. I. Barker is to preach, and Rev. J. R. Robertson, alternate. At eleven o'clock Rev. D. G. W. Hollis will preach, and Rev. G. B. Taylor, alternate.

5. The business of the day being finished a motion was made to adjourn until Monday morning at eight o'clock. A hymn was sung and the Moderator called the congregation to prayer, after which the benediction was pronounced.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

On Sunday morning at nine o'clock there had gathered a large crowd and Bro. W. I. Barker filled the stand and addressed an attentive congregation on the subject of "saving grace," the sermon was well delivered. By eleven o'clock there had gathered such a large crowd it was deemed advisable to move the seats out into the grove, this being done Bro. D. G. W. Hollis filled the stand and addressed a very large congregation up-

on the subject of "free and open communion." His discourse was on a bible line of justification for free and open communion. Then the Lord's supper was administered to a host of christians of all denominations who believed in free and open communion, and a wave of the Holy Spirit was felt by all christians while taking the parting hand. Then at the hour of eight in the evening it was arranged to have two sermons, one at Poplar Springs and one at Union Chapel. The committee arranged for Bros. J. R. Robertson and J. A. Isbell to preach at Union Chapel and Bros. W. L. Barker and J. W. Porter to preach at Poplar Springs. All the above named brethren filled their appointments to the delight of all who heard them.

MONDAY MORNING.

7. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sang a hymn, after which Rev. G. B. Taylor led in prayer. The clerk then called the roll of delegates and a quorum being present the Moderator called for the regular order of business.

1. Invited visiting ministers of other denomination to seal with us; none came forward

2. A motion was made to omit the reading of Saturday minutes.

3. Called for reports of the committees.

Committee on Documents and Order of Business:

Committee on documents and order of business beg leave to submit the following report: We your committee recommend the former order of business. We further recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Mt. Pleasant church, eight miles south-west of Vernon. We, furthermore, recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of this minute, and that he have it printed where he can get it done best and cheapest; that he have 400 copies printed and that he be allowed all the money over and above the cost and distribution of the above work for his services. We, furthermore, recommend that this Association appoint two independent missionaries to visit as many of the churches and destitute places in the bounds of this Association as they can during the year; and we, further recommend that this Association appoint a committee to visit the different Associations in our bounds in the interest of a home press as an organ for our cause. We also recommend two union meetings for the Association.

Respectfully submitted, G. B. TAYLOR, Chairman

The report was received and the committee discharged. Then a motion was made to adopt the above report by sections, the report was read and adopted as moved

Committee on Deceased Members.

The committee on deceased members report as follows: We, your committee on deceased members beg leave to submit the following report: As the result of our investigations we find that our Heavenly Father has summoned 14 of our faithful co-laborers in Christ to their eternal home during this associational year. We have lost the following named members, to-wit: S M Riggin, of New Centre Point; Sister Mary A Clinc, of Mt. Harmony; Bros. Amos Pennington, Pleasant Reed, Sisters Syntha Pennington, Mary Newell, and Hattie Smith, all of Springfield; Bro J Neal, of Union Chapel, Bro Geo Mansel, of New Mt. Pleasant; Bro R N Dowdle and wife Idella Dowdle, of Mt. Pleasant; Sisters Rachel Burgin and El-la Cash, of Mt. Zion; Sister Sarah Harrison, of Poplar Springs and all of the above named persons died in the triumph of a living faith and eternal happiness, and we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doth all things well; and we suggest that each church make a donation to the widows and orphans of their respective churches who are in destitute condition. We also think that our deacons should see after the interests of the needy widows and orphans. We pay this last tribute of respect, in memory, to the deceased's names, for we feel that our loss is their eternal gain and trust that they rest from their labors and their works follow them.

Respectfully submitted, A. J. ROBERTSON, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged. It was then taken up by the Association and adopted as read.

Committee on Sabbath Schools.

We, your committee on Sabbath schools beg leave to submit the following report: After making an investigation of the Sabbath school interests, to our shame and regret, we find but very few Sabbath schools throughout our entire Association. Dear brethren, we pray and entreat our ministers and lay members of this Association to wake up to a redoubling of their diligence in this particular matter, as we all see and know that the hope of both state and church depends upon the young and rising generation. Therefore, we should be the more interested in training the young and tender minds of our children the great importance of a knowledge of the bible that they may be better enabled to accomplish more good in the grand cause of the soul's salvation of the children of men than we have been on account of our limited training in the teachings of the bible. And, furthermore, because our heart's desire and prayer is that the world may grow better as it grows older. And we, further, request our churches throughout this Association to make re-

ports to the next annual Association what they are doing in the Sabbath school cause.

Respectfully submitted, JEPHIA SEAY, Chairman.

On motion the report is received and committee discharged. Then a motion was made to adopt the above report, which was done.

Committee on Credentials.

We, your committee on credentials beg leave to submit the following report: After a careful investigation of our ministers we find that all of them are in good standing in their respective churches and they are standing by and preaching free salvation strictly and are advancing our cause so far as their limited financial circumstances will admit. Done with care and respectfully submitted, JOHN F. BARKER, Cha'r.

Report received and committee discharged. Then by motion the report was adopted.

Committee on Temperance.

We, your committee on temperance beg leave to submit the following report: Seeing, and believing that the temperance cause is on the increase to some extent we, therefore, earnestly urge our ministers and lay members throughout the entire Association to endeavor to suppress this great evil, as we think it one of the greatest troubles to the cause of Christ.

Respectfully submitted, S. P. BROWN, Chairman.

On motion the report received and committee discharged. Then by motion the report was adopted.

Committee on Finance.

We, your committee on finance beg leave to submit the following report: We have called the roll of all the churches and through their delegates have collected the sum of \$21.50 for the purpose of printing the minutes of the twentieth annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association.

Respectfully submitted, T. A. GUIN, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged. Then on motion the report was adopted.

4. The Moderator then called for motions and resolutions.

5. Brother J. F. Barker offered a resolution for a division of the Association which met with objections, and was referred to the next session of this Association.

6. A motion to empower the Moderator to appoint all corresponding delegates to sister Associations, and said motion carried.

7. Then the Moderator proceeded to appoint delegates to meet with the sister Associations. The delegates are: To Mt. Moriah, Rev. G. B. Taylor, Brethren T. A. Guin and I. P. Rob-

ertson. To the Jasper, Revs. W. I. Barker, T. G. Harrison and C. A. Chaffin. To the Tupelo, Revs. D. G. W. Hollis, W. R. Cowley, J. A. Isbell, and Brother W. S. Hollis

8. The union meetings were appointed as follows: The first one was given to Mt. Zion, 3 miles north of Millport, Ala. and the second one was given to New Center Point, 5 miles north of Gatman, Miss. The first to convene on Saturday before the second Sabbath in July 1900, and Rev. J. A. Isbell to preach the introductory sermon and J. R. Robertson alternate. The second union meeting is to convene on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in July 1900, Rev. C. A. Chaffin to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. G. B. Taylor alternate.

9. Then the Moderator appointed Rev. G. B. Taylor to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of our Association and Rev. J. A. Isbell alternate.

10. Then Revs. D. G. W. Hollis and T. G. Harrison made their report on their missionary work and the Association made a contribution of \$10 to them for their services.

11. On motion there was two missionaries appointed for the ensuing year, to-wit: G. B. Taylor and W. I. Barker, and the Association agreed to recompence them for their services.

12. On motion by D. G. W. Hollis there was a constitutional question raised for the purpose of amending the constitution of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association. The motion to amend carried, and a committee of five was appointed to draft an amendment to present at the next Association for its ratification or rejection. The committee appointed was: D. G. W. Hollis, J. F. Barker, G. B. Taylor, M. D. McGee, and J. R. Robertson.

13. The business of the Association being finished the following resolution was offered by Brother W. S. Hollis: Be it Resolved: That a vote of thanks be tendered the members of Union Chapel church and citizens of the community, and especially the ladies for the kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

14. A motion was made to omit devotional exercises and adjourn conference, motion carried. By a move and second the Association adjourned to meet with Mt. Pleasant, on the C. A. & N. railroad when built, in Lamar county, Alabama, and to convene on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October 1900. The motion carried; after which a song was sung and the parting hand was taken by the congregation amid tears of joy and grief, and shouts of praise went up from all parts of the house; then adjourned by pronouncing the benediction.

T. G. HARRISON, Moderator.

D. G. W. HOLLIS, 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, 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 Alabama, 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 vote.

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 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 cannot 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. Jas. 1c, 5v., this is to act of saving faith. Job. 1, 9, 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 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; Mark 13, 12; Eze. 18, 24; Rev. 2 and 3cs; Eze. 33, 13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4, 1; Heb. 3, 5; 1st Cor. 1s. 12 and 22vs; 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.

Names & P. O. Ordained Ministers. Name & P. O. Licensd Ministers.

D. G. W. Hollis,	Vernon, Ala.	T. M. Lollar,	Alfred, Ala.
J. A. Brown,	Hester, "	J. W. Porter,	Guin, "
W. I. Barker,	Sizemore, "		
C. A. Caffin,	Guin, "		
T. G. Harrison,	Maddox, "		
M. D. McGee,	Hightogy, "		
J. R. Robertson,	" "		
T. W. Springfield,	Guin, "		
J. R. Baker,	Vernon, "		
G. B. Taylor,	Richards, "		
R. L. Gosa,	Guin, "		
W. R. Turmon,	Tenis, "		
J. A. Istall,	Crews, "		
W. R. Cowley,	Smithville, Miss.		

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICES	PASTORS	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Received by Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded Members.	Restored Members.	Deceased Members.	Number of Members.	Minute Fund.
Springfield.	Vernon,	Ala.	G. B. Taylor	A M Penuington, S P Hollis and W S Hollis...	6	3	1		5	65	\$1 75
Union Chapel.	Jewell,	"	T. G. Harrison	J T Collins, E Neal, and G W Wiggins ...	3	2			1	97	1 55
Pilgrim's Rest.	Vernon,	"	D. G. W. Hollis	G H Sanders and J M Sanders	2	1				30	50
New Centre Point	Gatman,	Miss.		M M Pickell, O A Irvin and S P Brown							65
Mt. Willing.	Guin,	Ala.	J. A. Brown	G W McDonald, G W Chaffin, T S Kuykendoll	5	2	19			102	1 40
New Pleasant Ridge.	Splunge,	Miss.	T. G. Harrison	J W Harris and T Evans	2					62	80
Fairview.	Guin,	Ala.	W. I. Barker	G C Stanford, J S Lockheart and H H Dill							90
Unity.	Star,	"	G. B. Taylor	J R Cole, J Z Gunnell and T F Hays.			8			50	1 35
Mt. Zion.	Milport,	"	D. G. W. Hollis	B F Cash, J H Cash and F M Weathers			2		2	43	50
Mt. Harmony.	Hightog,	"	J. A. Brown	I P Robertson, T A Guin and A J Robertson	7			1		141	1 80
Shady Grove.	Kennedy,	"	M. D. McGee	P A Johnson							75
Mt. Pleasant.	Molloy,	"	D. G. W. Hollis	J W Adair and J G Sanders	16	1	2		2	105	2 00
Taylor Springs.	Crews,	"	T. G. Harrison	J F Barker, and R G Hollis	7	4				70	1 00
Military Grove.	"	"	W. I. Barker	F M Carruth, W A Minor and J A Isbell.	6	3	3	1		42	70
Piney Grove.	Guin,	"	C. A. Chaffin	W I Barker, and A J Motes	8	14		1	1	38	80
Friendship.			G. B. Taylor	Jeptha Seay, N C Weir and G R May		2				11	50
Pearce's Chapel.	Smithville,	Miss	R. W. Cowley	G H Dyre, and J C Brasfield						87	2 10
New Mt. Pleasant	Riggan	"	"	Bunior Sullivan, and H Cox						66	1 75
Poplar Springs.	Maddox.	Ala.	W. I. Barker	R N Yerby, W M Perkins and Lee Price	1					74	75
Totals					69	32	35	3	1	1110	7721 50