

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Twenty-fourth Annual Session

—OF THE—

Vernon Freewill Baptist Association,

CONVENED WITH

Pearce's Chapel Church, Monroe county, Mississippi,

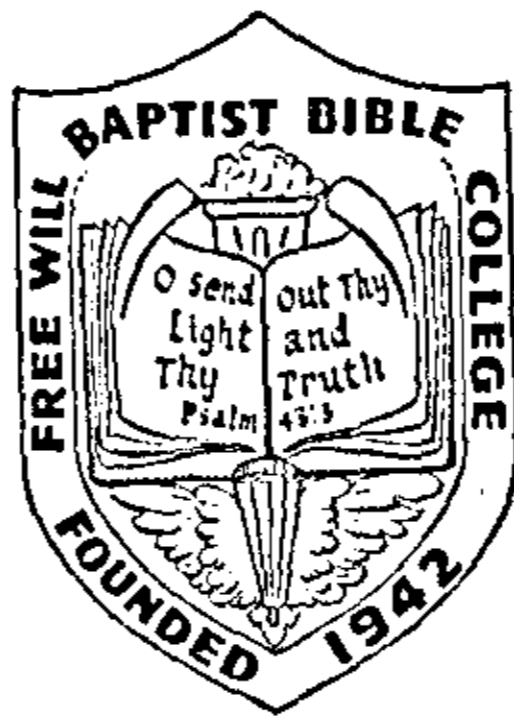
OCTOBER 15th, 16th AND 17th, 1904.

OFFICERS :

Rev. W. R. COWLEY,	Moderator.
J. E. CHAFFIN,	Clerk.
J. PEARCE,	Cor. Secretary.

The next session of this Association will meet with Springfield Church, two miles west of Vernon, Lamar county, Ala., and will convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1905.

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

PROCEEDINGS.

The 24th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association convened with Pearce's Chapel church, Monroe county, Miss., October 15th, 16th and 17th, 1904.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. T. M. Lollar; followed by Rev. J. W. Isbell. The text used was 1st Kings, 2nd chapter and 2nd verse.

The Moderator and Clerk of the last session being present took their seats, and the Moderator called the body to order and called for business.

On motion, it was agreed to take one hour for recreation and refreshments; and to meet at 1 o'clock, P. M., organize and proceed to business.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Opening service conducted by the Moderator. The congregation sung a hymn; after which, Rev. M. D. McGee led in prayer. The Moderator called the body to order, and called for the regular routine of business as follows, viz:

1st. Called for and read the letters from the different churches, and enrolled the names of the delegates. Also, enrolled the names of the ministers present, and noted as per statistical table.

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

3rd. On motion, it was agreed to permanently organize the body, which was done by electing Rev. W. R. Cowley Moderator; Bro. J. E. Chaffin Clerk, and Bro. J. B. Pearce Corresponding Secretary. The officers elected then came forward and after appropriate remarks 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. The other officers elect responded in like manner, and took their seats as official members of the Association.

4th. Called for petitionary letters, and opened the door of the Association for the reception of new churches into the body. None presented.

5th. Called for corresponding messengers from sister Associations, and received the following, viz:

From the Bear Creek Association—Rev. I. G. Boyett came forward bearing a letter from his Association. The letter was received and read, and the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship, and invited the brother to take a seat with us and aid in the counsel of business of the Association.

1st. On motion, it was agreed to empower the Moderator to appoint all the committees; and the following are appointed, viz:

2nd. ON ARRANGEMENTS—Brethren W. B. Harris, G. C. Crews and I. G. Sanders with the deacons of Pearce's Chapel Church.

3rd. ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS—Rev. C. A. Chaffin, Bros. J. B. Pearce, J. W. Harris, and Revs. J. W. Porter, J. A. Brown, J. A. Isbell, and T. M. Lollar with the Moderator and Clerk.

4th. ON TEMPERANCE—Brethren S. P. Brown, R. E. Tooke, M. M. Pickle, A. J. Motes, H. Cox, E. M. Pennington and T. W. Gilliland.

5th. ON FINANCE—Brethren T. A. Guin, C. C. Gibbs and J. L. Stapp.

6th. ON DECEASED MEMBERS—Brethren W. D. Hollis, R. M. Yearby, T. J. Adair, B. A. Minga, S. G. Johnson, T. B. Jackson and S. J. Cox.

7th. ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—Brethren W. J. Hawkins, C. B. Barnes, J. H. Barnes and J. F. Baxter.

8th. ON CREDENTIALS—Brethren T. B. Jackson, W. M. Johnson, R. Mason, G. W. Mason, R. C. Lochhart and B. F. Haliway.

9. ON QUERIES—Brethren J. B. Riggian, J. H. Franks, W. I. Maddox, O. B. Boyd and Rev. M. D. McGee.

10th. The committee of arrangements beg leave to submit the following report on devotional exercise for Sunday and Monday as follows, viz:

At 9 o'clock Sunday morning, Rev. I. G. Boyett will preach, with Rev. T. M. Lollar, alternate.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. J. A. Brown will preach, with Rev. C. A. Chaffin, alternate.

At 11 o'clock Monday Morning, Rev. J. W. Porter will preach.

Respectfully submitted,
W. B. HARRIS, Chairman.

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

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday Morning at 8 o'clock. A hymn was sung; after which, Rev. J. W. Porter led in prayer; and then the Moderator announced the benediction.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday morning, at 9 o'clock, a large concourse of people had gathered, and Rev. I. G. Boyett occupied the stand and preached to a large congregation of people assembled to hear the Word preached. His text was 1st John, 5th chapter and 7th verse.

By the hour of 11 o'clock, there had gathered a very large concourse of people and Rev. J. A. Brown occupied the stand and preached from the text Matthew 7th chapter and 24th verse. After the sermon, the Lord's Supper was administered, and a host of Christians partook of the emblems. The communion service being ended, all were dismissed.

MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sung a hymn, and Rev. M. D. McGee led in prayer. The Moderator called the Association to order. The Clerk called the roll, and the ministers and delegates answer to their names. A quorum being present, the Moderator called for the regular order of business.

1st. On motion, it was agreed to omit the reading of the minutes of Saturday's session.

2nd. Called for the reports of the various committees, and received the following, viz:

ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We your committee on Documents and Order of Business beg leave to submit our report which is as follows: We recommend the former Order of Business. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Springfield Church. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes of this Association. That he have four hundred copies printed. And that Bro. B. W. Nash do the printing, provided he will do the work for the sum contributed, less \$5 00, which is contributed to

the Clerk for his trouble We recommend two Ministers and Deacon's Meetings to be held the next associational year. The first to be held with Union Chapel Church, to convene on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1905: The second to be held with New Pleasant Ridge Church to convene on Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1905 We recommend that each minister make an annual report of his ministerial work done during the associational year.

Respectfully submitted,
C. A. CHAFFIN, Chairman.

The report was read and the Committee discharged. Then a motion was made to read and adopt the report by sections, which was done.

ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We your committee on Deceased Members beg leave to submit our report; which is as follows: We find that our Heavenly Father has summonsed seventeen of our faithful co laborers in Christ to their eternal home during this associational year. We have lost the following named brothers and sisters, to wit: Brother Walter Hill and sister D. L. Lockhart, of Fair View Church; Brother A. J. Hays and sister Rhoda Harrison, of Unity Church; Bros. J. L. Cole, George Robertson, and Bluford Robertson, of Mt. Harmony Church; Sisters B. Hollis and Mary Pennington, of Springfield Church; Sisters Rhoda E. Pickle, Martha A. Pate and Clemantine Blalock of New Centre Point Church; Bro. N. Harris of New Pleasant Ridge Church; Bro. Van Martin of Pearces Chapel Church; Sister Elizabeth Adair of Mt. Pleasant Church; Sister Mary A. Washam of Mt. Willing Church. All the above named members died in the triumphs of a living faith and in the hope of eternal happiness, and we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. And dear brethren as the Lord has summonsed these of our co-laborers in Christ our labors are increased, so let us strive to accomplish the work once assigned to these our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ; and while we mourn their loss, we feel that our loss in their death is their eternal gain. So let the various churches of the Association contribute to the widows and orphans of their respective churches who are in destitute circumstances. We pay this last tribute of respect in memory to our deceased brothers and sisters and shall endeavor to meekly say our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done by the angels in Heaven.

Respectfully submitted,
W. D. HOLLIS, Chairman.

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

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to present our report; which after a careful examination, is as follows, viz: We find but little improvement in the Sabbath School cause throughout the entire Association. Dear Brethren, we know that the hope of our country and church depends on the young and rising generation; therefore, we should be interested in training the minds of our children to believe the Church and State are based on the Bible. It is our duty to educate the minds of our children in the fundamental law which is the Bible. So let us rally to erect Sabbath Schools in all our churches.

Respectfully submitted,
W. J. HAWKINS, Chairman.

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

ON MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS.

We, your committee on Ministerial Credentials beg leave to submit our report, which after careful investigation, is as follows: We find all our ministers in good standing in their respective churches, preaching free salvation strictly and advocating our cause faithfully so far as their circumstances will admit.

Respectfully submitted,
T. B. JACKSON, Chairman.

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

ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on Temperance beg leave to submit our report, which after careful investigation, is as follows: We find the Temperance cause on the decrease; therefore, we urge the earnest co-operation of both ministers and lay members to ever urge the decrease of intemperance. Brethren be earnest in this matter. Let not the mere adoption of this report suffice; but every member of this Association should exert their influence in this good cause.

Respectfully submitted,
S. P. BROWN Chairman.

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

ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on Finance beg leave to submit our report, which is as follows: We have collected eighteen dollars (\$18 75) cents for the purpose of printing and distributing the minutes to the different churches of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,
T. A. GUIN, Chairman.

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

ON QUERIES AND RESOLUTIONS.

We, your committee on Queries and Resolutions beg leave to submit our report, which is as follows: Have we any authority for receiving persons into the fellowship of our churches who had been baptized by an excluded minister? On motion the Query was referred to the Association to answer.

Respectfully submitted,
J. B. RIGGAIN, Chairman.

The Moderator then announced that Motions and Resolutions were in order; and called for the Query which had been previously referred for the consideration of the Association as to persons being received into the fellowship of the churches of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association who had been baptized by an excluded minister.

On motion, the question was taken up for discussion and discussed, and by taking the vote of the body as a whole it was decided not to receive members into any of our churches on such baptism.

On motion, it was agreed that the Moderator appoint all

the Messengers to sister Associations. Whereupon, the following named brethren are appointed, to wit:

To the Mt. Moriah Association—Revs. J. A. Brown, D. G. W. Hollis and G. B. Taylor.

To the Jasper Association—Revs. C. A. Chaffin, J. W. Porter and T. M. Lollar.

To the Tupelo Association—Rev. W. R. Cowley and Brethren J. B. Pearce and H. Cox.

To the Bear Creek Association—Revs. J. A. Isbell, M. D. McGee and R. E. Tooke.

1st. On motion, the preaching service at 11 o'clock by Rev. J. W. Porter was omitted.

2nd. On motion, it was agreed that the Moderator appoint the minister to preach the introductory sermon at the next Association; also, to appoint the alternate. And it is further agreed that he appoint the same for the Ministers and Deacons Meetings.

3rd. On motion, it was agreed that the next session of this Association will meet with Springfield Church, two miles West of Vernon, Lamar county, Ala., and that it convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1905. The Moderator appointed Rev. J. W. Porter to preach the introductory sermon, with Rev. M. D. McGee, alternate.

4th. On motion, it was agreed to hold the first Ministers and Deacons Meeting with Union Chapel Church, and that it convene on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1905. The Moderator appointed Rev. J. A. Isbell to preach the introductory sermon, with Rev. T. M. Lollar, alternate.

5. On motion, it was agreed to hold the second Ministers and Deacons Meeting with New Pleasant Ridge Church, and that it convene on Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1905. The Moderator appoint Rev. C. A. Chaffin to preach the introductory sermon, with Rev. J. A. Brown, alternate.

6th. On motion, it is agreed that the Clerk Superintend, the printing of the minutes. That he have four hundred copies published; and that the work be given to Rev. B. W. Nash, Goldsboro, N. C., providing he will do it for \$5 00 less than the sum contributed, for the Clerk's trouble.

7th. On motion, the Finance Committee is ordered to pay the funds in their hands to the Clerk to pay for printing the minutes.

8th. On motion, it was agreed to grant letters of dismission to New Centre Point, New Hope and Union Ridge churches for the purpose of forming a New Association.

9th. On motion, it was agreed that the name of Rev. R. C. Flippo be reappended to the minutes as an ordained minister.

10th. On motion, it was agreed that the name of Rev. R. E. Tooke be appended to the minutes as an ordained minister.

11th. On motion, by Bro. J. B. Riggain, a vote of thanks was given to Pearce's Chapel Church and the citizens of this community, and especially to the sisters, for kindness and hospitality shown to us during our stay among them.

12th. On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place above named. After which Rev. I. G. Boyette led in prayer. Then the congregation sang a hymn and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy, and shouts were heard from all parts of the house.

Rev. W. R. COWLEY, Moderator.

J. E. CHAFFIN, Clerk.

J. B. PEARCE, Cor. Secretary.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

- REV. D. G. W. HOLLIS, Vernon, Lamar county, Ala.
 " J. A. BROWN, Hester, Fayette county, Ala.
 " C. A. CHAFFIN, Guin, Marion county, Ala.
 " M. D. MCGEE, Vernon, Lamar county, Ala.
 " G. B. TAYLOR, Richards, Lamar county, Ala.
 " W. R. TURMAN, Tennis, Lamar county, Ala.
 " J. A. ISBELL, Crews, Lamar county, Ala.
 " W. R. COWLEY, Smithville, Monroe county, Miss.
 " J. W. PORTER, Guin, Marion county, Ala.
 " I. P. NEIGHBORS, Kennedy, Lamar county, Ala.
 " T. M. LOLLER, Alfred, Lamar county, Ala.
 " R. C. FLIPPO, Guin, Marion county, Ala.
 " R. E. TOOKE, Splunge, Monroe county, Miss.

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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, 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.

ART. 2. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a treasure of heavenly instruction ; that it has God for its author, Truth for its matter, and Salvation for its end ; that it reveals the principles upon which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of this world the center of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

ART. 3. We believe that man was created holy, under the law of his Maker, but from voluntary transgression fell from that holy state, 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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 of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

ART. 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. 1:5, this is to act saving faith. John 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.

ART. 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 3 chs. ; Eze. 33:13 and 28 ; 1st Tim. 4 1 ; Heb. 3:5 ; 1st Cor. 1:12 and 22 ; 1st Peter 1:10.

ART. 9. We believe that the 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 exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word ; that its only proper officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

ART. 10. We believe that Christian Baptism is immersion in water, in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost ; and that believers are the proper subjects.

ART. 11. We believe the Lord's Supper is of perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church, in the form of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

ART. 12. We believe in open and free 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.

ART. 13. 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 the principles of grace and justice.



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.

ART. 2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

ART. 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.

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

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

ART. 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, providing he appoint some one to the chair while he is speaking.

ART. 7. Only one person shall speak at the same time and he shall arise and address the Moderator; and after recognition by the Moderator, proceed.

ART. 8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or use words of personal reflection.

ART. 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.

ART. 10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

ART. 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 ministers and delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

ART. 2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the affairs of the churches; unless they depart from the articles of faith of this Association. In case any church departs from the articles of faith and supports doctrines of heresy, or allows any minister of her body to teach doctrine not in keeping with our articles of faith, the same shall be dealt with by the association as it may see proper according to the teachings of the Bible.

ART. 3. Each church of this association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, etc., though the association shall rule in matters of doctrine and general interest, though the church may in extreme cases call in aid from sister churches,

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 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.

ART. 7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

ART. 8. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the best interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance Cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary Work, &c.

ART. 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.

