

J. E. Chaffin
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MINUTES
of the
Twenty-fifth Annual Session
of the
Vernon Freewill
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Convened with Springfield Church. Lamar County
Ala., October 14th 15th and 16th 1905.

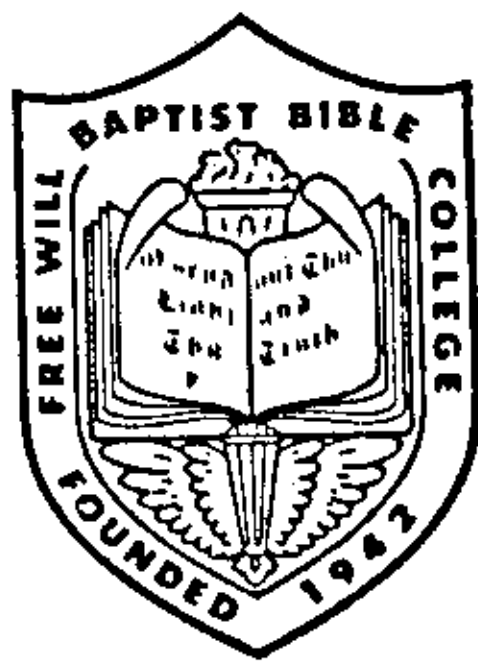
OFFICERS:

Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Moderator.

J. E. Chaffin, Clerk.

Rev. G. B. Taylor, Corresponding Secretary.

The next session of this Association will meet with Union
Chapel Church 6 miles east of Vernon, Lamar
county Ala., and will convene on Satur-
day before the 3rd Sunday in
October, 1906.



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. James Walden

PROCEEDINGS.

The 25th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association was held with Springfield Church, Lamar County, Alabama, Oct., 14, 15 and 16, 1905.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. M. D. McGee. Text, John 3rd chapter, 14th verse.

After the sermon an intermission of one hour was taken for recreation and refreshments. Then adjourned to meet at 1 o'clock.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association convened pursuant to adjournment. The former moderator being absent, there was a move made and carried that Rev. D. G. W. Hollis serve as moderator until permanently organized.

1st. The congregation sang a hymn and the moderator led in prayer.

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

3rd. The roll of the churches was called for, and the letters handed in, and the names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table. Also enrolled the names of ministers present.

4th. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body, which was done by electing Rev. D. G. W. Hollis moderator, Bro J. E. Chaffin clerk, and Rev. G B Taylor corresponding secretary. The officers elected then came forward and after appropriate remarks by the moderator for the honors conferred upon him he promised to discharge the duties of the office fairly and impartially to the best of his ability.

5th. Invited visiting ministers of other denominations to take seats with us. None present.

6th. Called for petitionary letters. None present.

7th. Called for corresponding messengers from sister associations and received a letter of correspondence from the State Line Association.

1st. On motion it was agreed to empower the modera-

tor to appoint all committees and the following are appointed, viz:

2nd On arrangements—Brethren J E Robertson, C H Graves, J W Leach with the deacons of Springfield church.

3rd On Documents and order of business—Revs G B Taylor, J A Brown, J A Isbell, T M Lollar and the moderator and clerk.

4th On Temperance—R T Green, A L Pennington, J L Taylor, A J Motes and W W Barnes.

5th On Finance—M Hollis, T B Jackson, S L Cowley W I Maddox and J T Taylor.

6th On deceased members—S M Brown, D W Pennington, C F White, C H Cox and M C Lollar.

7th On Sabbath Schools—R C Stacy, Eugene Lindsey C B Barnes, D W Dill and J Z Gunnells.

8th On Credentials—W H Parker, J L Beasley, and H R Harris.

9th On Queries—T M Lollar, J E Chaffin, W M Wallis, W Y Turner and R T Green.;

10th The committee on arrangement begged leave to submit the following report on devotional exercises for Sunday as follows: At 9 o'clock Rev G B Taylor, 11 o'clock Rev J A Brown, at night Rev J A Isbell, 11 oclock Monday D G W Hollis.

The business of the day being ended a motion was made and carried to adjourn until Monday morning at 8 o'clock Then a Lymn was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. T M Lollar, after which the benediction was pronounced by the moderator.

SUNDAY'S SESSION.

On Sunday morning at 9 o'clock there had gathered a large concourse of people and Rev G B Taylor filled the stand and addressed a large and attentive congregation. His text was Luke 9th chapter and 23 verse.

At the hour of 11 o'clock Rev J A Brown filled the stand and addressed a very large crowd of people from the text Roman, 3rd chapter, 23 verse. After which the Lord's Supper was administered to a host of christians.

The congregation was then dismissed for refreshments.

By consent of the committee Rev J A Isbell preached at 4 o'clock p m, text Matt. 24th chapter, 35 verse.

MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sung a hymn, after which the moderator led in prayer.

1st The Clerk called the roll of delegates and ministers and a quorum being present, the moderator called for the regular order of business.

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

3rd Called for reports from various committees and received the following:

ON DOCUMENT 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 recommend that the next session of this association be held with Union Chapel Church, beginning on Saturday before the third Sabbath in Oct., 1906. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes of this Association. That he have four hundred copies printed. That he have it done where he can get it done best and cheapest. That he be allowed five dollars for his work. We recommend two minister's and deacon's meetings to be held the next associational year; the first to be held with Friendship Church, the second to be held with Fairview Church. We recommend that each minister make an annual report of his ministerial work done during the associational year, and we recommend that each church make a report in their letters to the association of all money paid out for pastoral care.

Respectfully submitted,

G. B. TAYLOR, Chairman.

The report was read and the committee discharged.
Then the report was re-read and adopted as read.

 ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your committee on deceased members, beg leave to submit the following report: We find that our Heavenly Father has summoned eight 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: Bros James Cole, David Brasfield and sister Sarah A Wright of Pearces Chapel church, Sister Lyda Brown of Corinth church, Sisters Martha Weir, Madora Weir of Friendship church, Bros J E Williams, H M Ayres of Mt Harnony 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 summoned 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 bros 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,

S M BROWN, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on sabbath schools, beg leave to present our report which is as follows: After a careful examination 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,

R C STACY, Chairman,

On motion the report was adopted and the committee was discharged.

ON MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS.

We, your committee on ministerial credentials beg leave to submit the following report: After a careful investigation of the standing of our ministers, we find that all of them are faithfully standing by and defending the cause of free salvation so far as we know except Bro I T Nabors, whom we learn is physically unable to go and preach the same. Respectfully submitted,

W H PARKER, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee was discharged.

ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on temperance beg leave to submit the following report. We have examined five witnesses and find intemperence is on the increase, therefore we urge the co-operations of all our ministers and members of the church to aid in stamping out the great curse of our land. Respectfully submitted,

R T GREEN, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee was discharged.

ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on finance. beg leave to submit the report: After calling for the minute money of the different churches we find we have paid for minutes the sum of \$16.80. Respectfully submitted,

M HOLLIS, Chairman.

On motion report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON QUERIES AND RESOLUTIONS.

We, your committee on queries and resolutions, beg leave to submit the following report: Query, will we still let the proceeding of the Vernon Association held with Mt. Harmony church, stand in favor of leaving off the invitation to visiting ministers of other denominations as counsel with us or will we re-instate the precedent of the usages of our orders.

Respectfully submitted,

T M Lollar, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On motion the query was taken up and discussed, and by taking a vote of the association, said we would invite ministers of other denominations to seats to aid in counsels.

The committee an arrangement reported that Rev D G W Hollis would preach the farewell sermon.

By motion adjourned for refreshments till 1 o'clock.

The moderator called the body together and the congregation sung a hymn, and Rev J A Isbell led in prayer, after which the clerk called the roll of delegates and a quorum being present, proceeded to business as follows:

The moderator called for new business.

By motion the money be turned over to the clerk for the purpose of printing and distributing the minutes.

By motion the moderator be empowered to appoint messengers to sister associations. To the Mt Moriah Association Revs G B Taylor, M D McGee, Bros R L Green and W M Wallis. To the Jasper Association, Rev J W Porter, T M Lollar and Bros J T Taylor and G C Crews. To the Tupelo Association, Revs J A Brown, W R Cowly, J B Pearce, and Eugene Lindsey. To the Bear Creek Association, Revs C A Chaffin, J A Isbell, J E Robertson and J H Franks. To the State Line Association, Rev D G W Hollis, R E Took and Bros J E Chaffin, A J Motes

and M N Shelnutt.

By motion the Association received New Hope Church back into this association.

By motion granted New Pleasant-Ridge Church a letter of dismissal to join the State Line Association.

By motion omitted the farewell sermon to be preached by Rev D G W Hollis.

On motion the moderator appointed Rev J A Isbell to preach the introductory sermon at the next association with Rev G B Taylor Alternate.

On motion the moderator appointed Rev M D McGee to preach the introductory sermon at the first Union meeting and Rev J A Brown Alternate, which begins on Friday before the third Sunday in July, 1906.

On motion the moderator appointed Rev T M Lollar to preach the introductory sermon at the second Union meeting and Rev D G W Hollis Alternate, which begins on Friday before the 1st Sunday in September, 1906.

On motion the resolution of thanks was read as follows
We tender our thanks to the good people of Springfield Church and the citizens of this community and especially the ladies, for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

T M LOLLAR, Chairman.

On motion the resolution was adopted and the committee discharged.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet with Union Chapel Church, 5 Miles east of Vernon, Lamar County, Ala., on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1906. Then the congregation sang a song and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy and the shouts were heard from all parts of the house.

D G W HOLLIS, Moderator.

J E CHAFFIN, Clerk.

REV G B TAYLOR, Cor. Secretary.

NAMES AND POST OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

D G W Hollis,	Vernon, Ala.
J A Brown	Hester, "
C A Chaffin,	Guin, "
M D McGee,	Vernon, "
J R Robertson,	Hightog, "
G B Taylor,	Richards, "
W R Turman,	Tennis, "
J A Isbell,	Crews, "
W R Cowley	Smithville, Miss.
J W Portor,	Guin, Ala.
I P Neighbors,	Kennedy, Ala.
T M Lollar,	Alfred, "
R C Flippo,	Guin, "
R E Tooke,	Splunge, 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 instructions; 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 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 freewill, 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 3:9.

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 2 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 name 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 shall 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, provided he appoint same 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 interests, 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 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 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 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.

Statistical Table 1905.

Churches and Counties.	Names of Delegates	Pastors.	Clerks and Postoffices	Baptized	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Restored on Confession	Restored	Died	Excluded	Days of Meeting	Number of Members	Paid for Minutes
Springfield, Lamar Co., Ala.	A L Pennington, D W Pennington, M Hollis	D G W Hollis	W D Hollis, Vernon, Ala								1	90	1.75
Union Chapel, Lamar Co. Ala.	M C Lollar, C H Graves, w I Maddox	J W Prater	W J Hankins, Jewel, Ala	1	3			1			4	46	1.00
Mt. Willing, Fayette Co. Ala.	J E Chaffin, J T Taylor	C A Chaffin	J E Chaffin, Guin, Ala	2		3					3	67	1.25
New Pleasant R Monroe Miss	H R Harris	J Z Boyette	T A Stinson, Splunge, Miss	1							4		40
Fairview, Lamar Co. Ala	J E Robertson, D W Dill	J A Isbell	J H Dill, Guin, Ala	1		1	3				1		75
Unity, Lamar Co. Ala	J L Beasley, W M Wallis, R C Stacy	D G W Hollis	R C Stacy, Star Ala	1		1					4	39	.80
Mt. Zion, Lamar Co. Ala	Not represented												
Mt. Harmony, Lamar Co Ala.	T B Jackson, W Y Turner, W H Parker	J A Brown	L T Cole, Hightogy, Ala	2	2			1	2		3	180	2.65
Shady Grove, Lamar Co Ala.	Not represented												
Mt. Pleasant, Lamar Co. Ala	S M Brown, J Z Gunnells	D G W Hollis	J H Stacy, Vernon, Ala.	3	3						2	87	1.50
Piney Grove, Lamar Co. Ala.	A J Motes	C A Chaffin	A J Motes, Guin Ala.	3	1						2	18	.70
Friendship, Lamar Co. Ala.	R T Green, J W Leach	G B Taylor	R T Green, Richards, Ala				1				4	82	1.25
Pearces Chapel Monroe Miss.	E Lindsey, S L Cowley	W R Cowley	J B Pearce, Smithville, Miss.	4			4		3		3	127	2.00
New Mt. Pleasant "	C H Cox												1.50
Beaverton Lamar Co. Ala	Not represented												
Corinth Lamar Co, Ala	W W Barnes, C B Barnes C F White	J A Brown	J N McClung, Rias, Ala	6				5	1	2		65	1.25
Pleasant R Monroe Co. Miss													
New Hope, Lamar Co. Ala	Represented by letter	J A Isbell	Clerk's name not given								2	20	.30