

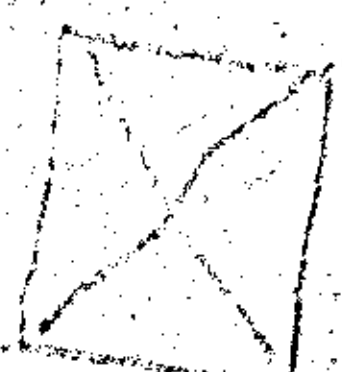
**MINUTES OF THE 26th  
ANNUAL SESSION : ; :**

**OF THE VERNON FREEWILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION : : :**

**HELD WITH UNION CHAPEL CHURCH  
Lamar County, Alabama, Oct 20, 21, 22, 1907** *Wob*

**M. D. McGee, Moderator  
J. E. Chaffin, Secretary  
D. G. W. Hollis, Cor. Sec.**

The next session of this Association  
will convene with Friendship church  
4 miles north of Steens Miss. on Sat-  
urday before the 3rd Sunday in Oct.  
1907. : : : : : : : : :



## PROCEEDINGS.

The 26th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association was held with Union Chapel Church, Lamar County, Alabama, Oct. 20, 21 and 22, 1906.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev G B Taylor. Text, Luke 9th chapter, 23 verse.

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

### FIRST DAY--AFTERNOON SESSION.

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

1. The congregation sang a hymn and Rev J E Matthews led in prayer.
2. Proceeded to permanent organization by calling for the letters from the different churches.
3. The roll of the churches was called for and the letters handed in and read and the names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table.
4. Called for petitionary letters and a letter was handed in and read, from Siloam Church, also a letter was handed in and read from Liberty Church. After examination it was found that both the above churches had adopted our Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum. By motion both of the above named churches was received into the Association and the moderator extended to them the right hand of fellowship, and the names of the churches and delegates were enrolled as per statistical table.
5. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body, which was done by electing Rev M D McGee, moderator; Bro J E Chffin, clerk and Rev D G W Hollis Cor.-Sec. 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.
6. Invited visiting ministers of other denominations to seats with us. Came forward Rev. Gilreath.
7. Called for corresponding messengers from sister associations. Came forward Rev J E Matthews from the Mt. Mo-

rial Association. Came forward Rev J G Boyette and Rev H C Barnes bearing a letter from the State Line Association. Came forward Bro J W Russell from the North River Association bearing a letter, and the moderator extended the right hand of welcome to all the above named Brethren. The moderator having to go home it was by motion that Rev D G W Hollis served as moderator the rest of the day.

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

2. On Arrangement—J W Harris, H D Shelnut, Lem Barrow with the deacons of Union Chapel Church.

3. On Documents and Order of Business—Revs J A Brown, T M Lollar, S M Perkins, J W Porter, J R Robertson with the moderator and clerk.

4. On Temperance—W S Dill, R D Dupree, J R Pennington, J W Adair, and A J Motes,

5. On Finance—S P Hollis, T B Jackson, R C Stacy.

6. On Deceased Members—J B Pearce, T J Adair, G W Chaffin, R C Lockhart, L T Cole, W W Barnes, Giry Wallis.

7. On Sabbath Schools—G B Taylor, I P Robertson, J M Weeks, Levi Thompson, G C Crews, R M Harris, E F Collins, J W Cunningham.

8. On Credentials—I P Robertson, J M Thompson, M P Cox, D R Barnes, Brunson Hollis.

9. On Queries—R N Yerby, F M Fowler, C F White, Pink Turner, D G W Hollis.

10. The committee an arrangement beg leave to submit the following report on devotional exercise for Sunday as follows: At 9 o'clock Rev J E Matthews, at 11 o'clock Rev J A Brown, at 2 o'clock p. m. Rev J G Boyette. The business of the day being ended a motion was made and carried to adjourn until Monday morning at 8 o'clock. Then a song was sung and prayer was offered by Rev J R Roberson, 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 J E Matthews ascended the stand and addressed a large and attentive congregation. His text was Matt. 22nd chapter, 32nd verse.

By the hour of 11 o'clock there had gathered such a very

large crowd it was thought best to move the seats to the grove, and Rev J A Brown filled the stand and preached to large and well behaved crowd from the text, 1st Corr. 3rd chapter, 11-12 verses. At the close of the sermon the congregrtion was dismissed one hour for refreshments.

At 2 o'clock p. m., Rev J G Boyette preached from the text Genn. 22nd chapter, 15-16 verses. The congregation was then dismissed.

### MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

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

1. The clerk called the roll and a quorum being present, the moderator called for the regular order of business.

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

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

#### ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We, your committee on Documents and Order of Business, beg leave to submit the following report: We recommend the former order of business. We recommend that the Association decide where the next session of this Association be held.

We recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes of this Association. That he have 400 coppies printed. That he have it done where he can get it done best and cheapest. That he have all the money above the cost of printing and distributing of the minutes for his services.

We recommend two Union meetings, one to be held with Mt. Harmony, the other to be held with Corrinth Church. We recommend that each church make an annual report to the Association in their letters, the amount of money paid out for pastoral care.

Respectfully submitted,

J A Brown, Chairman.

The report was read and the committee discharged. Then the report was 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 have sommoned twelve of our members to their eternal home



during this associational year. We have lost the following named brethren and sisters, to-wit: From Pearce's Chapel Church Bros John Pearce, and W B Brassfield. from Mt Willing Church, Sister S D Harper and Bro Willie Porter; from Mt. Pleasant Church, Sister Martha Denman; from Unity Church; Sister Martha Tate; from Springfield Church, Bro Oscar Pennington; from Corinth Church, Sisters Mary Tate and Balsora Price and Francis Brown; from Mt. Harmony Church, Sister Dora Guin. All the above named lived consistent members of the churches to which they belonged and we hope they are enjoying eternal happiness and bliss. We bow in humble submission to the Will of Him who doeth all things well. 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 in heaven.

Respectfully submitted,

J B Pearce, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

#### ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report that we very much regret that we find but little interest in Sabbath Schools among our people, and we urge our ministering brethren to lecture their respective churches on Sabbath School interest and if we can't get literature we request that they form Bible classes, as this should be a book of our study.

It is our duty to educate the minds of our children the fundamental law which is the Bible, as we are to train them in the way they should go.

Respectfully submitted,

G B Taylor, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

#### ON MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS.

We, your committee on Credentials, beg leave to submit the following report: After careful and prayerful investigation we find all of our ministers in good standing except Brother E A Palmer, who has recently joined one of our churches having

learned that he was due acknowledgements to the church which he come from.

Respectfully submitted,

I P. Robertson, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged. By motion Bro E A Palmer's case was taken up and discussed and referred to Fairview church, his home church, for consideration and was settled.

#### ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: We have inquired diligently among the delegates from the different churches and find the temperance cause is on the increase with the exception of a few churches, therefore we urge co-operation of all our ministers and lay members of the association to aid in stamping out the great curse of our land.

Respectfully submitted,

J R Pennington, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

#### ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report: After calling for the minute money of the different churches we find that we have collected for minutes the sum of \$19.60.

Respectfully submitted,

S P Hollis, Chairman.

On motion the 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: We have no queries that we wish discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

R N Yearby, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

The moderator called for new business.

By motion the moderator be empowered to appoint messengers to sister associations. To the Mt Moriah Association, Rev G B Taylor, J R Robertson, D G W Hollis, T B Jackson. To the Tupelo Association, Rev W R Cowley, J A Isbell, J B

Pearce, Levi Thompson. To the Jasper Association, Rev S M Perkins, C A Chaffin, G C Crews, and J E Chaffin. To the Bear Creek Association, Revs T M Lollar, J A Brown, A J Motes, R C Lockhart. To the State Line Association, Rev J W Porter, R N Yearby, M N Shelnut, G W Chaffin. To the North River Association, Rev S M Perkins, J A Brown, J A Robertson, T M Lollar.

On motion the moderator appointed Rev D G W Hollis to preach the introductory sermon at the next association and Rev J A Brown alternate.

On motion the Moderator appointed Rev J W Porter to preach the introductory sermon at the first Union meeting which begins with Mt Harmony Church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in July, 1907.

On motion the moderator appointed Rev J R Robertson to preach the introductory sermon at the second Union meeting which convenes with Corinth Church on Saturday before the 1st Sunday in August, 1907.

By motion Friendship Church and Beaverton Church were nominated as the places of holding the next session of this Association and by taking a vote of the association as a body of a whole said to give the next session of this association to Friendship Church.

By motion adjourned for one hour for refreshments.

The moderator called the body together and the clerk called the roll, and a quorum being present proceeded to business in the following way.

By motion the money be turned over to the clerk to defray the expense of printing the minutes.

By motion the resolution of thanks be read as follows:

Resolved, That our thanks are due and hereby tendered to the members and citizens of the surrounding community, and especially to the ladies for their kindness and hospitality shown us in supporting and taking care of us during our stay among them.

R N Yearby, Chairman.

On motion the resolution was adopted and the committee discharged.

On motion the association adjourned to meet with Friendship Church, 4 miles north of Steens, Miss., on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in Oct., 1907. Then Rev E L Ray led in pray-

er, and the congregation sung a song and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy, and shouts were heard from all parts of the house. Then the benediction was pronounced by Rev D G W Hollis.

Rev M D McGee, Moderator,

J E Ghaffin, Clerk,

Rev D G W Hollis, Cor. Sec't.

#### 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 Porter,	Guin, Ala.
I P Neighbors,	Kennedy, "
T M Lollar,	Alfred, "
R C Flipppo,	Guin, "
R E Tooke,	Splunge, Miss.
E A Palmer,	Hamilton, Ala.

#### 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.

ARTICLE 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 partakes 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 3 chs.; Eze. 33:13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; 1st Cor. 1:12 and 24; 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 preceeded 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.

#### RUSES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE I 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 churcees, 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 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, un-

less 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 from the Moderator.

### CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I 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 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 interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance Cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary Work, etc.

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.

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