

OCTOBER, 18th, 19th and 20th,

1908.

REV. D. G. W. HOLLIS, J. E. CHAFFIN,

MODERATOR. - CLERK.

The next session of this association will be held with Liberty Church, Lamar Co, Ala, six miles East of Vernon, the same to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1909.

> AYDEN, N. C. FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT. 1909.

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Vernon Free Will Baptist Association,

-HELD WITH----

Beaverton Church, Lamar County, Ala.,

OCTOBER, 18th, 19th and 20th,

1908.

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FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. James Walden

MINUTES OF THE VERNON ASSOCIATION.

The 28th annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association convened with Beaverton church, Lamar county, Ala., Oct. 18th, 19th and 20th, 1908.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. W. R. Cowley, the text was-.

After preaching, an intermission of one hour was taken for refreshments, after which the ministers and delegates were requested to meet in the house and organize and proceed to business.

Afternoon Session.

The association met pursuant to the request of the former moderator, and an appropriate hymn was sang by the congregation, after which the moderator offered prayer. The former moderator took his seat. The former clerk being absent, the moderator appointed Bro. J. E. Chaffin clerk pro tem. The moderator and clerk took their seats and proceeded as follows:

1. Bros. J. Robertson and Rev. Woods Springfield were appointed reading clerks.

2. Letters from the different churches were called for, handed in and read, and contents noted as per statistical table.

3. Called for petitionary letters. One was handed in and read from Vernon church.

By motion, the above church was received into the association and the moderator extended to the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

4. On motion, it was agreed to permanently organize the body which was done by electing Rev D. G. W. Hollis moderator, and Bro. J. E. Chaffin clerk for the ensuing associational year.

5. Called for corresponding messengers from sister

4

associations and received the following viz: From Mt. Moriah Association, Revs. Woods Springfield and J. E. Mathews. From the Jasper Association, Bro. J. A. Nelson. From the State Line Association, Bros. G. W. Mason, C. C. Gibbs.

6. Invited ministers of other denominations to seats with us. None came forward.

7. On motion, it was agreed that the moderator appoint all the committees and the following were appointed:

8. On Preaching-Bros. J. W. Adair, J. M. Thompson, M. N. Shelnutt with the deacons of Beaverton church.

9. On Documnents and Order of business-Rev. W. R. Cowley, J. A. Brown, E. A. Palmer, M. D. McGee, S. M. Perkins with the moderator and clerk.

10. Temperance-M. Hollis, J. T. Lee, W. J. Markham, L. W. Barrow, E. W. Montgomery.

11. Finance-S. G. Johnson, S. G. Bailey and C. F. White.

12. Deceased Members—C. F. White, G. W. Chaffin, R. F. Atkins.

13. Sabbath Schools-Willie Barnes, J. M. Brown, J. H. Franks, W. A. Willis, C. H. Cox.

14. Credentials-Bros. D. B. Barnes, J. S. Yealy, H. J. Rye, W. T. Justice, G. W. Wiggins, G. C. Chaffin, R. J. Cannon, B. Hollis, J. N. Reeder.

Queries-M. P. Turner, G. C. Crews, S. G. Baily.
 16th. On Publication, Education and Literature A. J. Robertson, J. M. Weeks, W. H. Rye, J. M. Hill and Rev. J. A. Isbell.

On motion, the committee on arrangments report.

We, your committee on arrangments, beg leave to submit the following report: On devotional services, Rev. M. D. McGee at 7 o'clock Saturday night; Rev. J. E. Matthews at 9 o'clock Sunday; Rev. J. A. Brown at 11 o'clock; Rev. Woods Springfield at 3 o'clock p. m; Rev. D. G. W. Hallis at 7 o'clock p. m. Respectfully submitted,

5

On motion, the association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

J. W. ADAIR, Chm.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Woods Springfield. Benediction by the moderator.

Saturday night, Rev. M. D. McGee preached to a large and attentive congregation. Text, John 3: 14, 15.

Sunday Services.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, Rev. J. E. Mathews preached to a large crowd. Text, Matthew 25: 26.

At 11 o'clock Rev. J. A. Brown preached to a large and attentive concourse of people. Text, I. Cor. 3: 11.

After preaching, the Lord's Supper was administered to a large crowd of brethren and sisters and we felt that it was good to be here and wait upon the Lord.

At 3 o'clock Rev. Woods Springfield preached to a large and well contented congregation. Text, John 14: 27.

Sunday Morning Session.

The association met persuant to adjournment.

The congregation sung a song. Prayer was offered by the moderator.

The moderator then called the body to order.

The clerk called the roll and the delegates answered to their names.

The moderator announced that a quorum was present and the association was ready for business.

On motion, the reading of Saturday's session was omitted.

1st. Called for the reports of various committees:

ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.—We, your committee on Documents and Order of Business, submit the following report:

6

1. We recommend the former order of business.

2. We recommend that the next session of this association be held with Springfield church by a majority vote.

3. We recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes of this association and that he have 500 coppies printed and that he be allowed \$5.00 for his services, that he have them printed at Ayden, N. C., if done reasonably.

4. We recommend one union meeting and that it be held with Mt. Harmony church, beginning on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in July 1909.

5. We further recommend that each church of our association report in their letters the amount paid to their pastor and also their interest taken in Sabbath Schools.

Report received and committee discharged. Then the report was reread and the sixth section taken up and discussed in regard to our association, becoming a member of the state convention, by taking a vote of of the association as a body of the whole said not to join the convention.

ON PUBLICATION EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.—We, your committee on publication, education, and literature, beg leave to submit the following report. On publication, we feel the great need of a better plan or 'system of publishing literature for the benefit of our people. On education, we feel the great need of our people being better informed on the true teachings of the Bible. We feel the great need of a better finance system in the bounds of our association that our ministers may be better provided for and the widows and orphans in their afflictions be better provided for.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. J. ROBERTSON, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON DECEASED MEMBERS.-We, your committee on deceased members, beg to submit the following report: We find that our Heavenly Father has called thicker of our faithful co-labors in Christ, to their eternal home during this associational year. Their names are as fallows: Bros. John Pearce, B. Brasfield, Verdo Thomason, R. C. Cowley, G. S. Sullivan, J. J. Johnson of Pierces Chapel. Sister Lula Dill of Fairview. Sister Sarah A. Johnson of Mt. Harmony. Bro. W. L. Martdox of Union Chapel. Bros. Quint May, and John L. Jones of Friendship. Sister Mollie Mattison of Springfield. Bro. R. D. Dupree of Si'oam. All the abave named members died in the triumph of a living faith. . and in the hope of eternal happiness, and we bow \overline{m} humble submission to the will of him that doeth all things well. Dear brethren in Christ our labors ace increased; so let us strive to accomplish the work once signed to these our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, and while we mourn their loss we feel that aut loss is their eternal gain so let the various churches of the association contribute to the widows and orphane of their respective churches who are in destitute and cumstances. We pay this last tribute of respect in manory to our deceased brothers and sisters, and shall endeavor to meekly say: "Our Father, who art in heavers. hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

> Respectfully Submitted, C. F. WHITE, Chairman

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—We, your committee on Subbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following report We find but little interest in Sabbath Schools and mo improvemnt. Respectfully Submitted,

W. W. BARNES, Cheel.

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

ON MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS.—We, your committee on Ministerial Credentials, beg leave to submit the fallowing report: After a careful investigation we find all of our ministers in good standing and standing in defence of the Free Will Baptist doctrine which is the Bible. Respectfully Submitted,

D. R. BARNES, Chm. On motion, the report was adopted and the commit-

tee discharged.

TEMPERANCE.—We, your committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report: Temperance is on the increase let us still pray that the day will speedily come when the entire use of the evil will be removed from our midst, so let us all praise God that the church may succeed in conquering this our great evil. Brethren let us continue to pray to God, until the victory is complete. Respectfully Submitted,

M. HOLLIS, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

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 the sum of \$19.90.

Respectfully Submitted, S. G. JOHNSON, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

QUERIES AND RESOLUTIONS.—We, your committee on Queries and Resolutions, beg leave to submit the following report:

Query No. 1. When a member of our faith and order has been excluded for any cause from a church of our faith and order, is it right for a sister church to receive such a member without going back and making satisfactory acknowledgement to the church where he was excluded. Respectfully Submitted, M. P. TURNER, Chairman.

The query was taken up and discussed by taking a vote of the association, as a body of the whole said for a member to go to his former church and make satisfactory acknowledgements. By motion, adjourned for refreshments. 1. Roll call a quorum being proceeded to business. 2. Called for motions.

By motion the money be turned over to the clerk.

By motion Rev. W. R. Cowley was appointed to preach the introductory sermon of the union meeting.

By motion Rev. J. A. Isbell was appointed to preach the introductory sermon at the next association, and Rev. E. A. Palmer alternate.

By motion the moderator be empowered to appoint messengers to sister associations and the following were appointed to Mt. Moriah—Revs. T. M. Loller, G. B. Taylor, Bros. J. H. Cash, T. B. Jackson. To the Jasper—Rev. J. A. Brown, S. M. Perkins, Bros. G. C. Crews and J. T. Lee. To the Tupelo—W. R. Cowley, E. A. Palmer, J. B. White, Bro. J. B. Pearce. To the Bear Creek—Revs. J. A. Isbell, J. W. Porter, Bros. M. C. Lockhart, Brunson Hollis. To the State Line—Rev. M. D. McGee, D. G. W. Hollis, Bros. J. M. Weeks, J. H. Franks, M. N. Shelnutt.

Called for new business, by motion the resolutions offered by Dr. J. S. Hollis, be carried over until next association to be discussed the first thing on Monday, the resolutions are as follows:

We your committee appointed at the last association to report on resolutions presented at the union meeting held with Union Chapel church, July 21st, 1905, submit the following as our report:

1. We believe that for the Free Will Baptist church to prosper and grow and perform her motions in the world, to her fullest extent and meet all the requirements of the church something must be done along the line of paying our preachers for their labors. The Bible says, that the laborer is worthy of his hire; also our widows and orphans are receiving but little attention from our churches, which is one of the greatest commandments of the Bible. Therefore we believe when our church fails to see to it that the ministers, widows and orphans are properly cared for, she fails in much of her duty and in so doing we believe the blessing of heaven will be diverted and the prosperity of our church grow less as the years roll by.

This being our opinion based as we trust upon prayerful consideration, and with hearts bounding full of pride for the prosperity of the church.

We recommend that some action be taken by this association that this condition be relieved, and the church be put upon the highest ground for usefulness in the world. We recommend that a committee of five be appointed, whose duty it shall be to draft a plan by which this condition may be relieved and that such committee report at this meeting of the association. Also said committee shall consider the advisability of calling a convention for the purpose of making a discipline by which our churches may be governed and controlled, for without governmet no body or organization can be properly controlled. Also said committee shall consider the question of endowing a school for the education of our young men who wish to educate them selves for the ministry, that though their efforts and labors the churches may be greatly blessed. We recommend that one other committee be added to the list of committees, whose duty it shall be to examine the various ministers of the association upon parliamentary law, provided that each minister must be sufficiently acquainted with such law as to preside over the association with discipline and punctuality, for without such provisions our association will be conducted in such a way as to bring but little respect. REV. J. A. BROWN, REV. M. D. MCGEE, Com. DR. J. S. HOLLIS.

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By motion, the names of Revs. R. E. Tooke and W. R. Turmon be dropped from our list of ordained ministers as they have joined another association.

11

By motion, the names of Revs. J. T. Harris and J. B. White be added to our list of ordained ministers.

By motion, New Pleasant Ridge church and also Pleasant Ridge church be dropped from our statistical table as they have joined another association.

On motion, the resolution of thanks was read as follows: On motion, a vote of thanks is given to Beaverton church and the citizens of the community for kindness and hospitality shown to members and visitors of the association, also to the officers of the same for the faithful manner in which they have presided over our deliberations during the entire session.

Further resolve that our thanks to Prof.D.D. Wright and Sister Hollis for their assistance in the service Sunday. C. F. WHITE, Chm.

- By motion, the resolution was adopted as read.

By motion, the association adjourned to meet with Liberty church, 7 miles east of Vernon, Lamar County, Ala., on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1909.

Then a song was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy and shouts were hear from all parts of the house. The benediction was then pronounced by the moderator.

REV. D. G. W. HOLLIS, Moderator. J. E. CHAFFIN, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ART. 1. We believe there is one true and living God, who is the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, selfexistent 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 had 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 mankind in genenal, and every individual in particular, however that none but those who believe in Him can partake of the divine benefits.

ART. 6. We believe that true faith cannot proceed

from the exercise (f 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; I Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5, I Cor. 1:12 and 24; I 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 law, 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 all Christians of 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 the 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 necesary 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 the 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.

14

ART. 7. Only one person shall speak at the same time, and he shall rise 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 from 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 depart 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. 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 exteme 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 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. S. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as 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.

MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

D. G. W. Hollis	Vernon	A1	a.
J. A. Brown			6
C. A. Chaffin			¢.

M. D. McGee	Vernon	•••••
J. R. Robertson	Hightogy	
G. B. Taylor	Richards	• 6
J. A. Isbell	Crews	66
W. R. Cowley	Smithville	Miss.
J. W. Porter	Winfield	Ala.
I. P. Neighbors		
T. M. Loller	Alfred	
T. M. Loller R. C. Flippo	Guin	
E. A. Palmer	Hamilton	
J. B. White:	Hamilton	66
I.T. Harris	Hamilton	
S. M. Perkins	Hester	46

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.	For Minutes. No Members. Meeting Days Excluded. Deceased. Restored. Rec on Conf. Dis by Letter. Baptized	
Springfield, Lamar county, Ala Union Chapel Lamar county, Ala Mt. Willing Fayette Co Ala Fairview, Lamar county, Ala Unity, """"" Mt. Harmony""""" Mt. Harmony""""" Mt. Pleasant"""" Piney Grove """" Friendship """" Pearce's Chapel, Monroe Co. Miss New Mt Pleasant, Monroe Co. Ala Beaverton, Lamar county, Ala Corinth, Lamar county Ala	M. D. McGee. M. Hollis, W. A. Willise. G. W. Wiggins, M P. Turner G. C. Crews, J. T. Lee, G C. Chaffin S. G Bailey, M C. Lockhart, R G. Cannon Not Represented A. J. Robertson, S G. Johnson. R F. Atkins, I. W. Adair. M. N Shelnutt, G W Chaffin, W J Markham L. W. Barrow J. M. Tompson, E. W. Montgomery. C. H. Cox, J. N. Reader. B. Hollis, J. M. Weeks, J. M. Hill D. R. Barnes. J. H. Franks, W. T. Justice. H J. Rye, W. H. Rye, J. M. Brown W. W. Barnes, C. F. White, J. S. Yearby	J. A. Brown J. W. Porter I. M. Loller E. A Palmer J. A Brown D. G. W. Hollis C. A. Chaffin G. B. Taylor W. R. Cowley J. A. Isbell J. A Brown	 A. L. Pennington, Vernon Ala W. J. Hawkins, Covin, Ala. Route 1 J. E. Chaffin, Guin, Ala., Route 1 J. E. Robertson Beaverton L. T, Cole, Hightogy, Ala J. H. Stacy, Vernon, Ala. Route 1 J. R. Reese, Guin, Ala, Route 2 R. T. Green, Steen Miss. Route 1 E. W. Montgomery, Smithville, Miss. R. 1. J. F. Cox J. N. McClung Vernon Ala. Route 4 W. T. Justice. Crews Ala	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	

STATISTICAL TABLE.

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