



MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Vernon Free Will Baptist Association
HELD WITH
Mt. Willing Church, Fayette County, Alabama.
October 15, 16, 17, 1910.

OFFICERS;

REV. J. W. PORTER,	- - - -	Moderator
J. E. CHAFFIN,	- - - -	Clerk
REV. D. G. W. HOLLIS,	- - - -	Cor. Secretary
REV. J. A. Isbell,	- - - -	Treasurer

The next session of this Association will be held with Pearce Chapel Church, 5 miles south of Smithville, Miss. The same to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1911.



Vernon Democrat print.

PROCEEDINGS.

The 30th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association was held with Mt. Willing Church October 15, 16 and 17, 1910.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis and E. A. Palmer. Text: Eph. 23d, 8 v.

After preaching an intermission of one hour was taken for refreshments, after which the ministers and delegates went into the house and proceeded to business.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The former moderator and clerk being present took their seats and proceeded to business.

A song was sung and the moderator led in prayer.

1. Rev. D. G. W. Hollis and Bro. W. J. Hankins were appointed recording 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. None present.

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

5. Called for corresponding messengers. Came forward Bros. W. H. Smith and H. T. Warren from the Jasper Association, and the moderator extended the right hand of welcome.

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

7. On Preaching—T. A. Guin, W. W. Barnes, J. M. Thomson, with the deacons of Mt. Willing church.

8. On Documents and Order of Business—C. A. Chaffin, D. G. W. Hollis, J. A. Brown, J. A. Isbell, E. A. Palmer, T. M. Loller, J. B. White, with moderator and clerk.

9. On Publication, Election and Literature—M. D. McGee, M. C. Loller, and Bob Simmons.

10. On Temperance—J. M. Hill, E. D. Warren and D. R. Barnes.

11. On Finance—S. D. Loftis, W. J. McGee, and J. M. Dupree.

12. On Deceased—C. F. White, J. M. Brown, J. W. Adair M. C. Lockhart, J. M. Guin, Van Hester, and J. M. Thompson.

13. On Sabbath Schools—J. M. Weeks, M. N. Shelnuth, Brunson Hollis, B. M. Mixon, C. L. Adair, G. C. Chaffin, and E. F. Loller.

14. On Credentials—I. P. Robertson, G. W. Chaffin, J. S. Yearby, A. S. Gann, and J. H. Dill.

15. On Queries and Resolutions—R. C. Lockhart, W. J. Hankins, G. C. Chaffin, M. C. Lacy, and C. H. Lewis.

On motion the committee on arrangements reported. We, your committee on arrangements, beg leave to report the following: Rev. J. A. Brown to preach at 9 o'clock, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis at 11 o'clock, and Rev. J. W. Porter at night.

T. A. Guin, Chairman.

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

Prayer was offered by the moderator. Benediction by the moderator.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock Rev. J. A. Brown preached to a large and attentive congregation. Text: Roman 3d chap., 23d verse.

By the hour of 11 o'clock there had gathered such a congregation, it was thought best and the seats were moved to the grove, and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preached to a large and well behaved congregation. Text: John 6th chap, 54th verse. At the close of the sermon the Lord's supper was administered to a large crowd of brethren and sisters. then the congregation was dismissed.

At night Rev. J. W. Porter preached to an attentive congregation. Text: Matthew 25th chap., 10th verse.

MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant 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. Revs. G. C. Elliott and R. C. Flippo, of the Jasper Association being present, there was a motion made and carried that they be accorded seats.

Called for report of various committees.

On documents and order of business—We your committee on Documents and Order of Business, beg leave to submit the following report:

1. We recommend the former order of business.
2. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Pearce Chapel, at Mt. Pleasant, to be decided by this delegated body.
3. We recom-

mend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes of this Association and that he have 500 copies printed, and that he have them printed where he can get them printed best and cheapest, and that he have \$5.00 for his work. 4. We recommend that we have a ministers and deacons' meeting to be held with Silome Church beginning on Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1911, eight miles west of Hamilton, Ala. 5. We recommend that there be a correction on the report of Documents and Order of Business of 1909; be corrected as to the 7th section being lost that was not reported in the minutes of 1909. 6. We recommend that the deacons of the various churches of this Association take into their care and charge the financial interest of their respective pastors. Respectfully submitted,

C. A. Chaffin, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Then the report was reread by sections, and each section adopted.

By taking a vote of the association, as a body of the whole gave the next association to Pearce Chapel Church.

By motion adjourned to refreshments. Prayer was offered by Rev. J. A. Isbell. Benediction by moderator.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The congregation sung a song. The moderator called the body to order. Prayer was offered by Rev. R. C. Flippo. The clerk called the roll, a quorum being present, proceeded to business as follows:

Called for report 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 need of a finance system in the bounds of our Association that our ministers may be better provided for and the widows and orphans in their affliction be better provided for. Respectfully submitted,

M. D. McGee, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On Deceased Members—We, your committee on deceased members, beg leave to submit the following report. We find that our Heavenly Father has called nine of our faithful co-laborers in Christ to their eternal home during this associational year. Their names are as follows: From Springfield church, Martha J. Harrison, Princis M. Hollis, Mose Hollis; From Mt. Pleasant church, Delfie Smith. From Pearce Chapel church, J. J. Johnson, Sallie Johnson, Lee Wright. From Silome, James Boid, A. J. Rye. All the above named members died in the triumph of a living faith and in hope of eternal happiness and we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. Dear brethren, 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 is their eternal gain, so let the churches of this Association contribute to the widows and orphans of their respective churches who are in destitute condition. We pay the 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 heaven. Respectfully submitted,

C. F. White, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On Sabbath Schools—We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following report. We find but very little interest in Sabbath Schools. We think it the duty of our ministers to make it more oppressive. Respectfully submitted.

J. M. Weeks, Chairman.

On motion, the report adopted and committee discharged.

On 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 entirely removed from our midst as a beverage; so let us all still pray God that the church may succeed in conquering that our great evil. Brethren, let us continue to pray God until the victory is complete. Respectfully submitted,

E. D. Warren, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and committee discharged.

On Queries and Resolutions—We your committee on queries and resolutions beg leave to submit the following report. We find no queries we wish discussed. Respectfully submitted,

W. J. Hankins, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On Credentials—We your committee on credentials beg leave to submit the following report. After a careful investigation we find all of our ministers in good standing, except Rev M. D. McGee, who has been de-

moralizing and trying to break down Mt. Harmony Church, which we think very unbecoming of a minister. Respectfully submitted

I. P. Robertson, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

By motion the above subject was tabled.

On Finance—We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report. After calling for the minute money from the different churches, we find that we have collected the sum of \$17.10. Respectfully submitted,

S. D. Loftist, Chairman

On motion the report was adopted and committee discharged.

Called for Motions and Resolutions—We, your committee on resolutions, beg leave to submit the following resolution: We tender our thanks to Mt. Willing Church and community for kindness and hospitality shown us while our stay among them. Respectfully submitted.

W. J. Hankins, Chairman.

On motion the resolution was adopted as read.

By motion the moderator appointed Rev. C. A. Chaffin to preach the introductory sermon at the next association.

By motion the moderator was empowered to appoint messengers to sister associations and the following were appointed: To Mt. Moriah, Rev. G. B. Taylor, D. G. W. Hollis, T. M. Loller. Tupelo, Rev. W. R. Cowley, J. A. Isbell, J. M. Thompson. Jasper, Rev. C. A. Chaffin, E. A. Palmer, J. W. Porter. Bear Creek, J. A. Brown, M. C. Lockhart, J. B. White. State Line, M. D. McGee, W. N. McCluskey, M. N. Shelmath.

On motion moderator appointed Rev. D. G. W. Hollis

to preach the introductory sermon at the ministers and deacons' meeting.

On motion the name of Rev. S. M. Perkins be dropped from list of ordained ministers as he has joined another church.

On motion the name of Rev. W. C. McCombs, be added to list of ordained ministers.

On motion the name of Rev. J. C. Cain was added to the list of ordained ministers.

On motion the name of Unity Church was dropped.

On motion the money be turned over to the clerk to superintend the printing of minutes.

By motion the association adjourned to meet with Pearce Chapel Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1911.

Then a song was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy.

Then prayer was offered by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis. Benediction by the moderator.

Rev. J. W. Porter, Moderator.

J. E. Chaffin, Clerk.

Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Cor. Secretary.

Rev. J. A. Isbell, Treasurer.

MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

D. G. W. Hollis	Bedford, R. 1	Ala
J. A. Brown	Covin, R. 2	"
C. A. Chaffin	Winfield, R. 2	"
M. D. McGee	Vernon	"
J. R. Robertson	Millport, R. 2	"
G. B. Taylor	Melborne, R. 1	"
J. A. Isbell	Crews, R. 1	"
W. R. Cowley	Smithville,	Miss
J. W. Porter	Winfield, R. 2	Ala
I. T. Neighbors	Kennedy	Ala
T. M. Loller	Covin, R. 1	Ala
E. A. Palmer	Hamilton, R. 4	"
J. B. White	Hamilton, R. 2	"

J. T. Harris	-----Philcamel	-----A'a
W. C. McCombs	-----Crews	-----
J. C. Cain	-----Smithville,	-----Miss

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 free will and ability to recover from the fallen state which they are in 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 general, 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 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 3:9.

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; 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 or 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 proceeded 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 the votes of 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 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 departs 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 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. 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 gen-

eral interest shall be settled by a two third vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

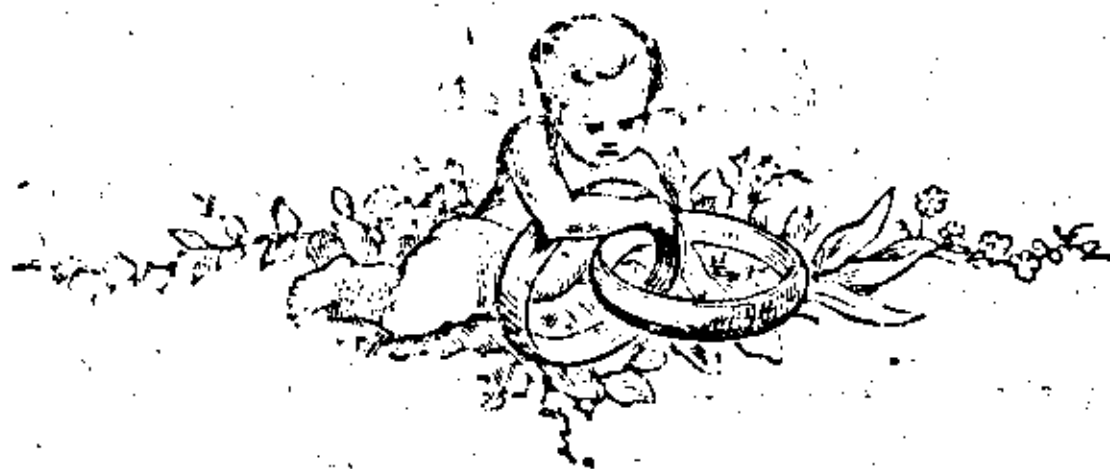
Art. 5. The officers of the Association shall be a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority of votes.

Art. 6. The 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 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 of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

Churches and County	Delegates	Pastors	Clerks and Postoffices	Baptized.....	Rec'd by Letter.....	Rec'd on confession.....	Restored.....	Deceased.....	Dismissed by Letter.....	Excluded.....	Meeting days.....	No. of Members.....	Paid for minutes.....
Vernon, Lamar co., Ala.....	W J McGee.....												50
Springfield, Lamar co. Ala.....	Not represented.....												2 00
Union Chapel, Lamar co. Ala.....	M C Loller, E F Loller, W J Hankins.....	M D McGee.....	W J Hankins, covin, Ala.....	1							4	45	1 00
Mt. Willing, Fayette co. Ala.....	J M Guin, G C Chaffin, E D Warren.....	J A Brown.....	J E chaffin, Guin, Ala., r2.....		1				2	3	4	56	1 30
Fairview, Lamar co. Ala.....	R C Lockhart, M C Lockhart, J H Dill.....	E A Palmer.....	J H Dill, Guin, Ala.....		6						1	60	1 00
Mt. Harmony, Lamar co. Ala.....	T A Guin, I P Robertson, S D Loftist.....	J A Brown.....	L E Parker, millport. Ala.....		1				4	12	3	183	1 50
Mt. Pleasant, Lamar co. Ala.....	C L Adair, J W Adair.....	M D McGee.....	J H Stacy, Vernon, r1.....	7	2			1	1		1	93	1 00
Piney Grove, Lamar co, Ala.....	M N Shelnutt, G W Chaffin, Bob Simmons.....	c A chaffin.....	W D Shelnutt, Guin, r2.....								2		1 40
Friendship, Lamar co. Ala.....	Not represented.....												
Pearce Chapel, Monroe co. Miss.....	J M Thompson.....	W R cowley.....	J B Pearce, Smithville, miss.....	23	2			4		11		144	2 10
New Mt. Pleasant, Monroe co. Miss.....	Not represented.....												
Beaverton, Lamar co. Ala.....	J M Weeks, J M Hill, A S Gann.....	E A Palmer.....	A S Gann, Beaverton, Ala.....		2								75
Corrinth, Lamar co. Ala.....	Bronson Hollis, Van Hester, C R Barnes.....	J W Porter.....	J N McClung, Vernon r4.....							1		41	50
Military Grove, Lamar co. Ala.....	M c Lacy, B M mixon.....	E A Palmer.....	B M Mixon, Beaverton.....	5			5					22	1 00
Silome, Marion co. Ala.....	J M Brown, C H Lewis, M J Dupree.....	J A Isbell.....	H J Rye, Hamilton, Ala.....	8							3	65	1 50
Liberty, Lamar co. Ala.....	J S Yerby, W W Barnes, c T White.....	M D McGee.....	c F White, Vernon, r4.....	3						1	2	89	1 55