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# MINUTES

—of the—

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION

—Held With—

SPRINGFIELD CHURCH, LAMAR CO., ALA.,

October 17th, 18th, 19th, 1914.

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Ayden, N. C.

Ayden Free Will Baptist Printing Company

Nineteen-Fifteen

**THE THRITY FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
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**VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
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**October 17, 18, 19, 1914.**

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**OFFIERS**

G. B. Taylor ..... Moderator.  
S. G. Johnson ..... Clerk.  
A. .J. .Sanders ..... Treasurer.  
S. P. Hollis ..... Cor. Secretary.

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The next session of the Association will be held  
with Liberty Church, eight miles northeast of Vernon,  
beginning on - Saturday before the Third Sunday in  
October 1915.

## MINUTES.

The Thirty Fourth Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Springfield Church, Lamar county Ala., October 17-19, 1914. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis. Text-2 Kings. Latter clause of the 40th verse and first clause of the 42nd.. After which there was an intermission of one hour for refreshments. The association convened according to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. W. W. Barnes. The moderator and clerk being present took their seats.

The moderator called the roll of churches and the letters were handed in and read and the names of delegates enrolled (See table of Statistics).

Opened the door of the association for the reception of new churches into our body. (None received).

The association being formerly opened it proceeded to elect officers. Rev. G. B. Taylor was elected Moderator; S. G. Johnson, Clerk; A. J. Sanders, Treasurer; S. P. Hollis, Cor. Secretary.

The officers elected came forward, and after a few appropriate remarks by the moderator took their seats and proceeded with the business of the association in the following order:

Called for corresponding messengers from sisters associations. None present. On motion it was agreed that the moderator be empowered to appoint all committees.

The following were appointed:

**ON ARRANGEMENTS**—Bros. L. W. Barrow, B. C. Guin, W. W. Barnes, A. M. Pennington and S. P. Hol-



lis with the deacons of Springfield church.

**ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS--**

Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, J. H. Stacy, and B. F. Cline with the Moderator and Clerk.

**PUBLICATION AND LITERATURE—R. T.**

Green, A. J. Sanders, J. T. Baxter.

**TEMPERANCE—S. P. Hollis, B. F. Cline, G. C.**

Lawrence.

**DECEASED MEMBERS—A. J. Sanders, J. S.**

Early, W. W. Barnes.

**SABBATH SCHOOLS—J. F. McGee, S. P. Hollis,**

R. T. Green.

**CREDENTIALS—J. H. Stacy, J. L. Gault, R. T.**

Green.

**QUERIES AND RESOLUTION—B. F. Cline, B.**

C. Guin, A. M. Pennington.

**FINANCE—B. C. Guin, L. W. Barrow, J. H.**

Stacy.

The committee on arrangements report as follows: Rev. D. G. W. Hollis to preach on Sunday at 9 o'clock; Rev. G. B. Taylor at 11 o'clock; Rev. Tom Finch at 3 P. M. Sunday. The business of the day being ended, a motion was made to adjourn til Monday morning. A hymn was sung and prayer was offered by the moderator, after which the benediction was pronounced.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis occupied the stand and preached to a large congregation. Text-Matt. 13:44. By 11 o'clock a large congregation had assembled and Rev. G. B. Taylor occupied the stand. He preached to a very attentive congregation. Text-John 17:18. After which, the Lord's supper was administered to a host of partakers. The congregation was then dismissed for recreation and refreshment.

At 3 P. M., Rev. Thos. Finch occupied the stand. Text-1 Cor. 1:23. His sermon was listened to by a large congregation.

### MONDAY MORNING

The association met pursuant to adjournment. There was singing, a chapter read and prayer by the moderator. The roll was called. A quorum being present the house proceeded to business. Minutes of Saturday's session was read and approved. On motion, the reports of the various committees were called for.

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### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

#### DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS—

The committee on documents and order of business report as follows: 1. We recommend the former order of business. 2. We recommend that the next session of this association meet with Liberty church, 10 miles N. E. of Vernon commencing on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October 1915. 3. We recommend that a union meeting be held with Friendship church, beginning on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1915. We insist that the various churches elect and send delegates to the union meeting. 4. We recommend that this union meeting is the place to discuss all topics and doctrinal questions pertaining to the good of the Free Will Baptist. 5. We ask that each church appoint a finance committee to act with the deacons and assist them in their respective churches in supporting the ministers and financing their churches with funds necessary to meet the needs of their churches. 6. We recommend that the association accept the treatise and practice of the Mt. Moriah Association. 7. We recommend that the association adopt a resolution denouncing the charges made by a portion of the ministers of the Beaverton association, as to the

Vernon Association being particeps in the dividing of the association which took place at Pearce's Chapel in 1911 and that we spread the same up our minutes. 8. We recommended that there be a committee appoined to draft an amendment to the second and third sections of our constitution for the better protection of our association and her local churches.

Respectfully Submitted,

D. G. W. HOLLIS, Chairman.

The report was taken up by sections and adopted mittee discharged.

The report was taken up by sections and apoted as read.

**PUBLICATION AND LITERATURE**—Committee on Publication and Literature reports as follows: We feel like we need a better system of publication for the benefit of our churches and we feel the need of a better system of Education that our young ministers may prepare themselves to preach the Gospel more fully. We recommend that our members subscribe for the Free Will Baptist, printed at Ayden, N. C., We should also get our Sunday School Literature from there.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. T. GREEN, Chairman.

The above report was adopted and committee discharged.

**TEMPERANCE**—Committee on Temperance report as follows: We find the cause of temperance on the increase and let us urge and use every effort that we can to drive intoxicating liquors from our land. We pray all brethern of all denominations to do all in their power against this great evil that is so destructive in its nature; and as we see its degenerating power over our young and



rising generation; we therefore ask the help of all Christians to aid in destroying this great evil from our land.

Respectfully Submitted,

S. P. HOLLIS, Cahirman.

The above report was adopted and committee discharged.

**DECEASED MEMBERS**—We your committee on Deceased Members beg to submit the following report: We find that our Heavenly Father has called from among us four of our co-laborers; viz, Bro. W. F. Fowler and Sister Maggie Neal of Mt. Harmony church; Bro. D. W. Hollis and Sister Elvira Pennington of Springfield church to their eternal home during this associational year. We mourn the departure of our beloved brothers and sisters; but we trust that our loss of them from among us is their eternal gain, and we bow in humble submission to the will of him who doeth all things well. Dear brethern in Christ, our labors are increased by the less of these our beloved brothers and sisters, therefore let us strive to accomplish the work once assigned to them. Having paid the latt tribute of respect to them, let us endeavor to meekly ay, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Let the churches of the association contribute to the widows and orphans who are in destitute condition.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. J. SANDERS, Chairman.

The above report was adopted and committee discharged.

**SABBATH SCHOOLS**—Committee on Sabbath Schools reports as follows: After a careful investigation, we find but very little interest taken in Sabbath Schools, there being only one Sunday School in our asso-

ciation. Therefore, We urge upon all delegates to insist upon their church to organize and sustain a Sunday School in each and every church.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. F. McGEE, chairman.

The above report was adopted and committee discharged.

**CREDENTIALS**—Committee on Credentials report as follows: After a careful examination, we find that all our ministers are in good standing.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. H. STACY, Chairman.

The above report was adopted and committee discharged.

**QUERIES AND RESOLUTIONS**—The committee on Queries and Resolutions beg leave to report as follows: 1. We recommend that all topics on doctrinal questions for the good of our order be taken out of the association and taken up in the union meetings, discussed there and brought to the association for its approval or rejection. 2. We recommend that all resolutions shall still be considered with care and then passed upon.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. F. CLINE, Chairman.

The above report was adopted and committee discharged.

**FINANCE**—We your committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report: We have collected from the various churches to pay the expense of having the minutes printed \$15.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. C. GUIN, Chairman.

The report of the Finance committee was adopted and the committee discharged.



Moved that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes and that he have 100 copies printed. Motion carried.

Moved in order that Rev. G. B. Taylor preach the introductory sermon at the next association. Motion carried.

Moved in order that Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preach the introductory at the next union meeting. Motion carried.

On motion the moderator appoint a committee to draw up some resolutions. The motion was carried and the following committee was named A. J. Sanders, D. G. W. Hollis, B. C. Guin, and B. F. Cline.

On motion, the moderator appoint a committee to draft an amendment to the constitution. The motion was carried and the following committee was named: D. G. W. Hollis B. C. Guin and J. F. McGee.

Moved that the moderator appoint corresponding delegates to the sister associations. The following were appointed:

To Mt. Moriah Association—B. F. Cline and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis.

To Tate Line Association—S. P. Hollis and A. M. Pennington.

To State Line Association—S. P. Hollis and A. M. and J. W. Adair.

On motion, the moderator appoint a committee to ascertain whether Union Chapel wishes to remain in this association. The motion was carried and the following committee was appointed: W. W. Barnes and B. F. Cline.

Called for the REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS and the following was read:

Be it Resolved by the body of this Association,

That we denounce any charge or charges made by any of the ministers or any other person of the Beaverton Association that we had any part or lot in making the divide of the association at Pearce's Chapel in the year 1911.

Be it further Resolved, That we did all that was in our power to prevent said divide and still oppose the divide on the ground that it is causing division in our local churches.

Be it further Resolved, That we denounce the action of that body for refusing to organize and assume the name of the Beaverton Association as the report showed that same was to be named and are now holding to the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

Report Submitted,

A. J. SANDERS, Chairman.

The above report was unainmously adopted and the committee was discharged.

The following was read and adopted:

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the members of Springfield church and her surroundings citizens and especially to the sisters for their kindness and hospitality shown to us during our stay among them.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. F. CLINE, Chairman.

The business of the association being finished, a motion was made and carried to adjourn, to meet with Liberty church on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October 1915. A hymn was sung and the parting hand taken amid tears of joy and grief.

G. B. TAYLOR, Moderator.

S. G. JOHNSON, Clerk.

## CCNSTITUTION.

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Section 1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama, and being composed of delegates from the different Churches forming the same, each Church being entitled to three delegates.

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 this Association as it may see proper according to the teachings of the Bible.

3. Each Church in 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.

4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-third vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority vote.

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.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this



Association must adopt its Article of Faith and conform to its usages.

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.

9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions, unless no other member is competent to act in that capacity.

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### **RULES OF DECORUM.**

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Article 1. This Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presides at the last session. Former Clerk shall also officiate until the body is fully organized.

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

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.

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

5. A majority of the delegates present shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of Churches into our body, then it must be unanimous.

6. The Moderator shall not be allowed 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 appoints some one to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at the same time,

who shall rise and address the Moderator.

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

9. No person shall be entitled to speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave from the Association, nor more than 15 minutes at a time.

10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debate is going on.

11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave from the Moderator.

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## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

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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; and 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.

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

3. We believe that man was created holy, under the law of his Maker, but from voluntary transgression fell from that happy state, in consequence of which, all mankind are now depraved, and wholly unable of their own free will and ability to recover themselves from the

fallen state in which they are by nature.

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.

5. We believe that Christ by his death and suffering 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.

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 either of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

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. 1:15, 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; Roms. 2:19; John 3:19.

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 chaps.; Eze. 33:13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; 1st Cor. 1:12 and 22; 1st Pet. 1:10.

9. We believe that a 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.

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.

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

12. We believe in open and free communion, and the church 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.

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.

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#### LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

D. G. W. Hollis .....	R. 1, Bedford, Ala.
G. B. Taylor .....	R. 1, Melborn, Ala.
T. M. Lollar .....	R. 1, Covin, Ala.

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#### STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF 1914.

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Vernon Church, Lamar County, Ala, not repre-

sented;

Springfield church, Lamar County, Ala., S. P. Hollis, J. L. Gault, A. M. Pennington, Delegates; S. P. Hollis, Bedford, Ala., Clerk; Baptized ..; Received by letter ..; Dismissed by letter ..; Dropped ..; Deceased ..; Day of Meeting 2; Total number members ..; Received for minutes \$3.; Paid Pastor ..

Union Chapel Church, Lamar County, not represented.

Mt. Harmony Church, Lamar County, Ala., B. F. Cline, B. C. Guin, J. F. McGee, delegates; D. G. W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala., Pastor; S. G. Johnson, Fernbank, Ala. Clerk; Baptized ..; Received by letter ..; Dismissed by letter ..; Dropped 8; Deceased 2; Day of Meeting 3; Total number members 126; Received for minutes \$3. Paid Pastor ..

Mt. Pleasant Church, Lamar County, Ala., J. H. Stacy, A. J. Sanders, J. T. Baxter, delegates; T. M. Lallas, Coyin, Ala., Pastor; C. L. Adair, Vernon, Ala., Clerk; Baptized 4; Received by letter ..; Dismissed by letter ..; Dropped ..; Deceased ..; Day of Meeting 1; Total number of members 107; Received for minutes \$3.; Paid Pastor \$24.75.

Friendship Church, Lamar County, Ala., R. T. Green, L. W. Barrow, delegates; D. G. W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala., Pastor; b. T. Green, Steen, Miss., Clerk; Baptized ..; Received by letter ..; Dismissed by letter ..; Dropped ..; Deceased ..; Day of Meeting 4; Total number members ..; Received for minutes \$3.; Paid pastor ..

Liberty Church, Lamar County, Ala., J. S. Yearly, G. C. Lawrence, W. W. Barnes, delegates; D. G.

W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala., Pastor; J. McClency, Vernon,  
Ala., Clerk; Baptized 1; Received by letter ...; Dismissed  
by letter 4; Dropped ...; Deceased ...; Day of Meeting  
...; Total number members 92; Received for Minutes  
\$3.; Paid pastor .....