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PROCEEDINGS
of the
Thirty-Fourth Annual Session
of the
Vernon
Free-Will Baptist Association
held with
Liberty Church
Lamar County, Ala.
October 16, 17, 18, 1915

OFFICERS:

R. N. YERBY-----Moderator
S. G. JOHNSON-----Clerk

The next session of this Association will be held with
Mt. Harmony Church, 5 miles South of Vernon,
beginning on Saturday before the third Sun-
day in October, 1916.

PROCEEDINGS.

The thirty-fifth annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association was held with Liberty church October 16th, 17th and 18th, 1915.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, text Romans 8th chapter 13th verse, after which there was an intermission of one hour for refreshments.

At 2 o'clocks the Association convened according to adjournment. The Moderator being absent it was moved and carried that Rev. D. G. W. Hollis act as Moderator pro tem, after which the congregation sang a song and Bro. L. W. Barrow led in prayer.

The Association proceeded to permanent organization by calling for letters from the various churches. The roll of churches was called and letters handed in and read and names of delegates as per statistical table.

Open the door of the Association for the reception of new churches into our body. Received none.

The Association being formally organized they proceeded to elect Moderator, Clerk and Corresponding Secretary, whereupon Bro. R. N. Yearby was elected Moderator; S. G. Johnson, Clerk, and S. P. Hollis, Corresponding 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 sister Associations. None present.

Called for visiting brethren of other denominations, whereupon Rev. T. G. Harrison came forward and the Moderator invited him to a seat with us to aid in council.

On motion it was agreed that the Moderator be empowered to appoint all committees, whereupon the following were appointed:

On Arrangements—Brothers S. P. Hollis, W. W. Barnes and J. W. Adair with the deacons of Liberty church.

On Documents and Order of Business—D. G. W. Hollis, A. J. Sanders and T. J. Adair, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Publication and Literature—A. J. Sanders, W. D. Wheeler and L. W. Barrow.

On Temperance—S. P. Hollis, J. H. Guyton and J. W. Graham.

On Deceased Members—S. G. Johnson, J. W. Adair, W. W. Barnes.

On Sabbath Schools—J. W. Graham, T. J. Adair and L. W. Barrow.

On Credentials—R. N. Yearby, J. W. Adair, W. D. Wheeler.

On Queries and Resolutions—S. G. Johnson, A. J. Sanders

and J. H. Guyton.

On Finance—S. P. Hollis, J. H. Guyton and J. W. Adair.

Report of Committee on Arrangements.

We, your Committee on Arrangements, beg leave to submit the following report: We recommend that Bro. T. J. Adair preach at 9 o'clock in the morning and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis at 11 o'clock and Rev. T. G. Harrison at 3 o'clock in the evening.

Respectfully submitted, S. P. HOLLIS, Chairman.

The committees all being appointed a Presbytery proceeded to ordain Bro. J. S. Yearby as Deacon of Liberty church.

A motion was made to adjourn until 9 o'clock Monday morning. Then a hymn was sung and prayer was offered by the Moderator, after which the benediction was pronounced.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday morning by 9 o'clock there had gathered a good congregation and Rev. T. J. Adair preached, text Jonah 2nd chapter and 9th verse.

At 11 o'clock Rev. B. G. Taylor occupied the stand and preached to a large congregation, using for a text the latter clause of the 19th and 20th verse of Neimiah, after which the Lord's Supper was administered to a host of partakers. At the conclusion of the services the congregation was dismissed for recreation and refreshments.

At 3 p. m. Rev. T. G. Harrison occupied the stand and used for a text the 84th Psalm 11th and 12th verses. His sermon was listened to by quite a large congregation after which Dr. G. W. Vaughn made a short talk.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing prayer was offered by Rev. G. B. Taylor.

The Clerk called the roll and a quorum of delegates being present the Moderator called for the regular order of business.

Moved in order that Bro. V. I. Crawford of Mt. Harmony church, take the place of Bro. W. D. Wheeler, who was called off on account of sickness in his family. Motion carried.

Moved in order that we omit the reading of the minutes of Saturday's session. Motion carried.

On motion report of committees was called for.

Report of Committee on Documents and Order of Business.

We, your Committee on Documents and Order of Business, beg leave to submit the following report:

1st. We recommend the former order of business.

2nd. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Mt. Harmony church beginning on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1916. We recommend that the union meeting be held with Mt. Pleasant church on Saturday be-

fore the first Sunday in August, 1916.

3rd. We recommend that each church elect and send delegates to the union meeting.

4th. We recommend that the union meeting shall be the place to discuss all doctrinal question pertaining to the good of the Freewill Baptist cause.

5th. We recommend that each and every church in our Association appoint a finance committee to act with and assist the deacons of their respective churches in supporting their ministers and financing their churches with funds necessary to meet the needs of their cause.

6th. We recommend and insist that each church in this Association contribute to the educational support of our young ministers to the amount of fifty cents per capita for each member in their respective churches.

7th. We recommend an amendment to the first section of our constitution so as to allow us five delegates instead of three as the constitution now provides.

8th. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of our minutes and that he have two hundred copies printed where he can get it done best, cheapest and quickest and he be allowed five dollars for his services.

Respectfully submitted, D. G. W. HOLLIS, Chairman.

The above report was received and committee discharged; then the report was taken and read by sections and adopted as read.

Report of Committee on Publications and Literature.

We, your Committee on Publication and Literature, beg leave to submit the following:

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.

Respectfully submitted, A. J. SANDERS, Chairman.

The report was received and committee discharged. The report was adopted as read.

Report of Temperance Committee.

We, your Committee on Temperance, 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 and pray all brethren 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 us in destroying this great evil from our land.

Respectfully submitted, S. P. HOLLIS, Chairman.

The report was received and committee discharged. The report was then adopted as read.

Report of Committee on Deceased Members.

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, beg leave to submit the following report:

We find that our Heavenly Father has called from among us two of our co-laborers, to-wit: Bro. W. H. Prater and Sister Alice Bobo of Mt. Harmony church, to their eternal home during this associational year. We mourn the departure of our beloved brother and sister, but we trust that our loss from among us is their eternal gain. We bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

"Dear brethren in Christ, our laborers are increased by the loss of these, our beloved sister and brother. Therefore let us strive to accomplish the work once assigned to them. Having paid the last tribute of respect to them let us 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 in heaven." Let the churches of the Association contribute to the widows and orphans who are in destitute condition.

Respectfully submitted, S. G. JOHNSON, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Committee on Sabbath Schools reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following:

After a careful investigation we find but very little interest taken in Sabbath Schools, there being only one Sunday School in our Association. Therefore we urge upon all delegates to insist upon their churches to organize and sustain a Sunday School in each and every church.

Respectfully submitted, J. W. GRAHAM, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Credentials.

We, your Committee on Credentials, beg leave to submit the following:

After a careful investigation we find that all our ministers are in good standing.

Respectfully submitted, R. N. YEARBY, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Queries and Resolutions.

We, your Committee on Queries and Resolutions, submit the following:

We find that the following topics were taken up at the union meeting held with Friendship church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in August 1915.

1st. What can we do in our churches to create a better interest in the work that belongs to the Lord? The decision was that the respective churches organize Sabbath Schools, prayer-meetings and singing choirs.

2nd. What shall we do about the Association dissolving? It was the decision to hold together.

3rd. What was meant by the word fire that John spoke of? It was the decision that the fire spoken of by John the Baptist which Jesus was to baptize with, was an allegory which represents the love of Christ in our souls to the consumption of all our sins.

Respectfully submitted, S. G. JOHNSON, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Finance.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report:

We have collected from the various churches to pay the expenses of printing the minutes \$15.00.

Respectfully submitted, S. P. HOLLIS, Chairman.

Bro. D. G. W. Hollis then made a short talk in which he stated that \$15.00 was not enough to pay the expenses of having the minutes printed and pay the clerk for his trouble, after which the following brethren came forward and paid 25 cents each: John M. Ayres, T. B. Harrison, Dr. G. W. Vaughn, Elbert Jones, W. M. Thomas and Pink Turner, making \$16.50 in all; after which the report was received and committee discharged. Then the report was adopted as read.

Called For New Business.

Moved in order that this Association liberate Rev. G. B. Taylor to go and preach where he could. Motion carried.

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

Moved in order that Bro. T. J. Adair preach the introductory sermon at the union meeting. Motion carried.

Moved in order that the Moderator appoint a committee to draft the change in the constitution. Motion carried; whereupon he made the following appointments: A. J. Sanders, S. P. Hollis and R. H. Yearby.

Moved in order that the Moderator appoint delegates to the sister Associations; whereupon the following were appointed:

To Mt. Moriah Association—Rev. B. G. Taylor, T. J. Adair and B. F. Cline.

To State Line Association—Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Bros. J. W.

Adair and W. W. Barnes.

Moved in order that the money be turned over to the clerk.
Motion carried.

The following was read and adopted:

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

Respectfully submitted, S. G. JOHNSON, Chairman.

The business of the Association being finished a motion was made and carried to adjourn to meet with Mt. Harmony church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October 1916.

A hymn was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy.

S. G. JOHNSON, Clerk.

R. N. YEABY, Moderator.

List of ordained ministers—D. G. W. Hollis, Rt. 1, Bedford, Ala.; G. B. Taylor, Rt. 1, Melborne, Ala.; T. M. Lollar, Rt. 1, Co-
vin, Ala.

List of Licensed Ministers—T. J. Adair, Rt. 1, Vernon, Ala.

CONSTITUTION.

Section 1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon Freewill 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 report from the Articles of Faith of this Association. In case any church departs from the Articles of Faith and supports doctrines of heresy, or allow 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 the 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-thirds 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 until all the business is transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles 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 Temperance Cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary Work, etc.

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

RULES OF DECORUM.

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

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

Article 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.

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

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 7. Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall rise and address the Moderator.

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

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

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

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

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; and revealed under the personal direction of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and ex-

isting 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 perfect treasure 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 center of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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; Romans 2:19; John 3:19.

Article 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 to 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 chapters; Eze. 33:13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; 1st Cor. 1:12-22; 1st Peter 1:10.

Article 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, gov-

erned 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 Epistle to Timothy and Titus.

Article 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.

Article 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 solem 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 geneal judgment; that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal; upon the principles of grace and justice.