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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**34th Annual Session**  
of the  
**Vernon Freewill Baptist**  
**Association**  
held with  
**Syloam Church**  
**September 25, 26 and 27, 1915.**

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**OFFICERS:**

**Rev. C. A. Chaffin,    =    -    -    Moderator**  
**Lee B. Lollar,    -    -    -    =    -    =    -    -    Clerk**

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The next Session of this Association will be held  
with Fairview Church, in Lamar County, Ala.  
Beginning on Saturday before the 4th  
Sunday in September, 1916.

# Proceedings

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The 35th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association met with Syloam church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1915.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. C. A. Chaffin. Text, Ephesians 2:8. After preaching one hour was given for refreshments, after which the ministers and delegates assembled in the church. The former Moderator, E. A. Palmer, and Clerk, Lee B. Lollar, being present, proceeded as follows: After a song and prayer the Moderator announced the house ready for business.

1. The Moderator appointed Bros. A. J. Robertson and C. F. White Reading Clerks.

2. The letters from various churches were called for, handed in, read and contents noted as per statistical table.

3. Called for petitionary letters. None present.

4. On motion the body was permanently organized. After which C. A. Chaffin was elected Moderator and Lee B. Lollar Clerk.

5. Called for corresponding messengers. None present.

6. On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint all committees, and the following were appointed:

On Preaching.—G. C. Crews, A. J. Robertson, Murray Thompson and Deacons of Syloam church.

On Documents and Order of Business.—Rev. J. W. Porter, A. Isbell, E. A. Palmer, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Temperance.—C. F. White, W. H. Rye, J. R. Reese, D. W. Dill, and J. P. Peoples.

On Finance.—J. M. Weeks, J. H. Dill, John Tate and G. M. Gann.

On Deceased Members.—W. N. McClusky, P. E. Maddox, W. W. Mansel,ACY Frederick M. N. Shellnut.

On Sabbath Schools.—B. C. Hudgin, Jim Finch, and E. H. Pennington.

On Ministerial Credentials.—W. B. Webster, Alvis Cowly, Lee Harris.

On Queries and Resolutions.—A. M. Pennington, John Francis, H. J. Rye, D. R. Barnes, Rob Simons.

On motion the Committee on Devotion made the following report. Bro. B. C. Hudgin preach at 9 o'clock Sunday morning, Bro. J. W. Porter at 11 o'clock, and Bro. J. Reese at 3.

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

G. C. Crews, Chairman.

Song. Prayer by Rev. B. C. Hudgins. Benediction by Moderator.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock Rev. B. C. Hudgins preached a very able sermon from Rom. 6th chapter, after which Rev. J. W. Porter rose and interested the people for some time; text 1st Peter, 3rd chapter, 18th verse. Refreshments were given, after which the people again met in the house and Bros. Reeves and Boyette explained very beautifully the 5th chapter and 1st verse of Romans.

## MONDAY—MORNING SESSION

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After a song and prayer the body was called to order by the Moderator. Calling of the roll by the Clerk. The delegates answered to their names. The Moderator then announced a quorum present and the Association ready for business.

On motion the reading of Saturday's minute was omitted.

Called for report of various committees.

We, your Committee on Document and Order of Business, recommend the former order of business.

2. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Mt. Wilting or Fairview church. The same to convene on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in Sept. 1916.

3. We recommend that each local church elect a finance committee of three members to look after the financial affairs of the church.

4. We recommend that the Association hold a union meeting, the same to convene with Beaverton church, on the 4th Sunday in July, 1916.

5. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, and that he have 500 copies printed and that he receive \$5 00 for his service.

Rev. J. W. Porter, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted by sections, each section being adopted. After taking the vote the next Association was given to Fairview church, 3 miles East of Beaverton.

On Temperance.—We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: After making an inquiry among the Delegates from different churches, we find that the Temperance Cause is on the increase, therefore, we urge the cooperation of all our ministers and lay members of the Association in stamping out the great curse of our land.

Respectfully submitted,

C. F. White 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 seven of our faithful co-workers in Christ to their eternal home during this Associational year, their names are as follows: From Pearce's Chapel, Sister Ida Harmon; from Syloam, Bros. J. M. Brown and Clarence West, Sister Carrie Young; from Piney Grove, Bro. Edd Motes; from Military Grove, Sister Sarah Franks and Bentie Justice. All the above names died in the triumph of a living faith and in hope of an eternal happiness, and we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. We recommend that our Association hold a memorial service on deceased members on Sunday at 9 o'clock of our next session.

Resp't. submitted,

W. N. McCluskey, Chm'n.

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 Sunday Schools are on a standstill. We recommend that the present Moderator of this Association appoint one man of each church to look after Sunday School.

Respectfully submitted,

B. C. Hudgins, Chm'n.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged.

On motion the Moderator appointed the following men to look after Sunday Schools: Bro. A. J. Robertson, Union Chapel; B. C. Hudgins, Fairview; M. N. Shelnut, Piney Grove; A. S. Gann, Beaverton; D. R. Barnes, Corinth; Marvin Gann, Military Grove; H. J. Rye, Syloam; J. E. Chaffin, Mt. Willing; Alvis Cowley, Pearce's Chapel.

On Queries and Resolutions.—We, your Committee on Queries and Resolutions, beg leave to submit the following report: After due consideration we find that our Association is at peace one with another we think it unnecessary to have any queries discussed. We tender our heartfelt thanks to Syloam church and community for their kindness shown us during our stay among them.

Respc't. submitted,

A. M. Pennington, Chm'n.

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 we find we have collected \$15.85.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Weeks, Chm'n.

On motion the report was adopted and committee discharged. On motion the money was turned over to the Clerk.

On Ministerial Credentials.—We, your Committee on Ministerial Credentials, beg leave to submit the following report: After a careful investigation of our ministers, we find them all in good standing with their respective churches.

Respc't. Submitted.

W. B. Webs er, Chm'n.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint messengers to sister associations: To the Jasper, Bros. J. W. Porter, and G. C. Crews; Bear Creek, J. A. Isbell and W. W. Mansel; State Line, B. C. Hudgins and J. R. Reese; Mt. Moriah, E. A. Palmer. A. J. Robertson, Lee B. Lollar, and A. M. Pennington.

On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint some one to preach the introductory sermon. Rev. J. W. Porter being appointed for the association and J. A. Isbell for the union meeting.

On motion the association adjourned to meet with Fairview church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1916. Then a song was sung and the parting hand was taken. Prayer by W. N. M. Cluskey, the benediction pronounced by the Moderator.

C. A. Chaffin, Moderator.

Lee B. Lollar, Clerk,

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#### 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 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 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 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.

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 partake 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 of think 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. 1:5 this is the act of 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 3:9.

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 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 8 chapters; Eze. 33:13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1:12 and 24; 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, 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 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 form of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self examination.

Article 12. We believe in free and open 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.

Article 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.

#### **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 reception of churches, and it shall 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 to his feet, and after recognition by the Moderator, proceed.

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.

#### **CONSTITUTION.**

Section 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.



2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the internal affairs of churches, unless they depart from the articles of faith of this association, but this association shall have authority over all its ministers in the matter of doctrine, character, etc. In case any minister in this association depart from and teach doctrine not in keeping with the articles of faith of this association, the same shall be dealt with by the 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 any brothers who feel impressed to preach the Gospel of Christ, the church shall, or may recommend such brothers to the association and on examination of the brothers' qualifications if in the judgment of this body the brother would be useful they shall confer ordination. This being done at the association by a legal presbtery.

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.

10. Any minister of this association who shall be guilty of circulating reports of any nature, or aiding in the circulating of any report that is untrue, on a brother minister that is calculated to injure his moral character and religious influence, the same shall be dealt with by this association, or any minister of this association, who is known to be guilty of using intoxicating spirits by drinking as a beverage which is calculated to destroy his influence and usefulness, the same shall be dealt with by this association as it may see proper according to the teachings of the Bible.

11. The association shall in all cases and in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of the members, or delegates present, and any church, or delegate, failing or refusing to do so is and shall be considered by the association as being out of order.



# Statstical Table of Vernon Freewill Baptist Association

Churches, Counties, States.	Delegates.	Pastors.	Clerks and Postoffices	Baptist	Received by letter	Received by faith	Restored	Deceased	Dismissed by letter	Excluded	Meeting days	total membership	Paid for Minutes
Union Chapel, Lamar, Ala.	J Robertson, Lee B Lollar, P E Maddox	J E Matthews	Lee B Lollar, Covin, Ala.	0	0						4th	56	1.50
Fairview " "	M C Lockhart, D W Dill, J H Dill	E A Palmer	J H Dill, Crews. "	2	3				3		1st	50	2.00
Piney Grove " "	M N Shelnut, J R Reese, V Hob Simons	A A Chaffin	J E Robertson, Guin, "	2	0			1	1	2	2nd	75	1.75
Beaverton " "	Lee Harris, J M Weeks	A A Chaffin	A S Gann, Beaverton, "	2	0						4th	68	.75
Corinth " "	D R Barnes, John Tate, C F White	A A Chaffin	C F White, Vernon, "	0	0						3rd	55	1.00
Military Grove, " "	W W Mansel, J P Peoples, G M Gann	E A Palmer	J P Peoples, Crews, " R 1	1	4			2			4th	56	1.50
Syloam, Marion, "	Jim Finch, H J Rye, W H Rye	J A Isbell	R M Palmer, Hamilton, "	4	1		2	3		2	3rd	87	2.00
Mt. Willing, Fayette "	W N McClusky, W B Webster, G C Crews	A A Chaffin	W B Webster, Guin, " R 2	5	7						3rd	68	2.1
Pearce's Chapel, Monroe, Miss.	J M Thompson, John Francis, Alvis Cowley, Acy Frederick	W R Cowley	J B Pearce, Smithville, Miss.	5	0			1				173	2.00