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MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
HELD WITH
MT. HARMONY CHURCH, LAMAR COUNTY, ALA.,
October 14, 15, 16, 1916

OFFICERS

D. G. W. Hollis, Moderator.

S. G. Johnson, Clerk.

The next session of this Association will be held with Mt. Pleasant church,
six miles Southwest of Vernon, beginning on Saturday, before the
third Sunday in October, 1917.

Ayden, N. C.
Free Will Baptist Printing Co
1917

PROCEEDINGS

The thirty-sixth annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Mt. Harmony church, October 14th, 15th and 16th, 1916.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. G. B. Taylor. Text: Luke 12th Chapter, 32nd verse. After which there was an intermission of one hour for refreshments.

At 2:00 o'clock the Association came together by singing; prayer by Rev. Wood Springfield.

The Moderator and clerk being both present took their seats and proceeded to permanent organization as follows:

Moved in order that we suspend the regular order of business for the committee on the proposed change in the Constitution to make their report. (Motion carried.)

Committee Report.

Be it enacted by this Association that Section 1, of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:

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 five delegates. Signed by

S. P. HOLLIS,
A. J. SANDERS,
R. H. YERBY,

Committee.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged.

Moved in order that we adopt the report as read. (Motion carried.)

The roll of churches was then called and letters handed in and read, and names of delegates enrolled as per Statistical Table.

Moved in order that Bro. J. H. Guyton from Liberty church, and Bro. A. J. Sanders from Mt. Pleasant church be made delegates of this body. (Motion carried.)

Moved in order that we suspend the regular rules for the purpose of receiving Bro. M. D. Clearman into our body as a member of same. Hereupon Bro. Clearman came forward and the Moderator gave him the right hand of fellowship. Opened the doors for the reception of new churches into our body; received none.

Moved in order that we go into an election for Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Rev. D. G. W. Hollis was elected Moderator and S. G. Johnson, Clerk.

The officers elect came forward and after a few appropriate remarks by the Moderator took their seats and proceeded with the business in the following order:

Called for corresponding messengers from sister churches, whereupon Rev. Wood Springfield presented himself from Mt. Moriah Association.

Called for visiting brethren of other denominations; none came forward.

On Motion it was agreed that the Moderator appoint all committees, whereupon the following were appointed:

On Arrangements.—Bros. A. K. Green, J. W. Adair and J. S. Yerby with the Deacons of Mt. Harmony church.

On Documents and Order of Business.—Rev. G. B. Taylor, Rev. M. D. Clearman and Rev. T. J. Adair, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Publication and Literature.—R. H. Yerby, W. C. Wheeler and W. Y. Turner.

On Temperance.—O. D. Pennington, W. D. Wheeler and A. J. Sanders.

On Deceased Members.—J. W. Johnson, J. G. Sanders and W. J. McGee.

On Sabbath Schools.—J. W. Graham, J. W. Adams and Escar Wheeler.

On Credentials.—J. H. Guyton, R. E. Hall and K. W. Jenkins.

On Queries and Resolutions.—W. W. Barnes, D. V. Gault and R. H. Yerby.

On Finance.—W. J. McGee, J. H. Guyton and J. W. Adair.

Committee on Arrangements report as follows: Rev. M. D. Clearman to preach at 9:30 a. m. Rev. Wood Springfield at 11 a. m., and Rev. J. D. Byers at 3:00 p. m., then the Association recessed until Monday morning at 8:00 o'clock.

Sunday Services.

Sunday morning by 9:30 there had gathered a good congregation and Rev. M. D. Clearman preached. Text: Acts 9th chapter, 16th verse.

At 11 o'clock Rev. Wood Springfield occupied the stand and preached to a large congregation using for a text Jeremiah 6th Chapter and 8th verse, 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 o'clock Rev. T. G. Harrison occupied the stand and preached to a large congregation. Text: Mathew 2nd chapter and 42nd verse.

Monday morning at 8 o'clock the Association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. T. J. Adair, after which the roll was called and there not being a quorum present adjourned for 30 minutes.

At 8:30 o'clock the Association met, the roll was again called, there being a quorum present, Rev. Wood Springfield was appointed to take the place as chairman on the Committee on Documents and Order of Business, in place of Rev. G. B. Taylor, who was called home on account of sickness.

Minutes of Saturday's session read and approved.

Committee on Arrangements makes another report that Rev. Wood Springfield preach at 2 o'clock, after which the report was received and the committee discharged.

Committee on Documents and Order of Business report as follows:

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

1. We recommend that we proceed after the usual order of business.
2. We recommend that we elect our Secretary as Treasurer and that he superintend the printing of the minutes and that he have 200 copies printed at the Free Will Baptist Publishing House at Ayden N C., and we pay him \$5.00 for his services.
3. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Mt. Pleasant church, beginning on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1917, and that Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preach the introductory sermon and Rev. G. B. Taylor be his alternate.
4. We recommend that the Union Meeting be held with Liberty church, beginning on Saturday before the second Sunday in August 1917, and that each church elect delegates to represent the same; Rev. T. J. Adair to preach the introductory sermon, with Rv. D. G. W. Hollis, his alternate.
5. We recommend that we elect an Executive Committee of five to take an oversight of the churches and ministers and that they act as a Finance Committee to assist in raising funds necessary to meet the needs of the cause.
6. We recommend that each church in this Association contribute to the educational support of their young ministers to the amount of 50 cents per capita for each member in their respective churches.
7. We recommend that we elect delegates to represent us in the State Conference which will convene with Blockton Free Will Baptist church, commencing on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in November, 1916.
8. We recommend that we pay the expenses of the delegates to the State Conference and that they report the amount to the Chairman of the Executive Committee on their return and that the committee pro rate and collect from each church to pay said amount.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. WOOD SPRINGFIELD, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged. Then the report was taken up by sections and adopted as read.

Report of Committee on Publication and Literature beg leave to submit the following report:

We feel the need of a better system of publication for the benefit of our churches. We recommend that our members subscribe for the Free Will Baptist, printed at Ayden, N. C., and that we get our Sunday school literature there.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. YERBY, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Temperance.

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

We find that the Temperance cause is on the increase, as we can now cross the United States from East to West through a chain of dry States; which shows that the curse of alcohol as a beverage is being driven out of the United States. Brethren let us as a denomination rally to this great

movement, by putting on the whole armor of total abstinence, as we are commanded by Holy Writ, wherein it says: "Look not on the cup when it gives forth its color, for it biteth like an adder and stingeth like a scorpion. Brethren, let us pray God to hasten the day when this, the greatest evil on earth shall be chained to the stake of death; that its deadly work on earth may end in destroying the lives of humanity and sinking the souls of millions in eternal woe and bringing misery, woe, mourning and hunger to millions of women and children. Brethren, seeing that the world has become awakened to a sense of this great curse, which has, and is giving the church more trouble than all other evils known today; let us have strict discipline in our local churches so as to eradicate the entire use of strong drink as a beverage from our entire denomination. Respectfully submitted,

O. D. PENNINGTON, Chairman.

The report was received and committee discharged. Then the report was 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 four of our co-laborers to their eternal home, to-wit: Sister Janie Moore, of Mt. Harmony, Sister Bessie McGee, of Springfield, Sister Eva Lampkins, of Mt. Pleasant, and Sister Rutha Yerby, of Liberty church. We mourn the departure of these, our beloved sisters. We trust that our loss is their eternal gain.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. SANDERS, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

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

After a careful investigation we find but very little interest taken in Sabbath Schools, therefore we urge upon all delegates to insist upon their churches to organize and sustain a Sunday School in each and every church, or unite with some other Sunday School.

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 report:

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

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. GUYTON, Chairman.

The report was received, committee discharged, then the report was adopted as read.

Report of Committee on Queries and Resolutions.

We, your Committee on Queries and Resolutions beg leave to submit the following report:

We recommend that all Queries be brought up in the Union Meeting and the decision brought to the Association.

We find that the following questions were discussed at the last Union Meeting:

1. What is the worst great evil of the spiritual being? The decision was alcoholic beverages.

2. What is the greatest opposing powers of the Protestant Churches? The decision was the Roman Catholic powers.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. BARNES, Chairman.

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

Report of the Committee on Finance.

We, your Committee on Finance beg leave to report as follows:

We have collected from the various churches to pay for the printing of minutes \$19.20.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. McGEE, Chairman.

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

Moved in order that the money be turned over to the Secretary. (Carried.)

Moved in order that we go into an election for delegates to the State Conference. (Carried.)

Whereupon the following brethren were put in nomination and elected by acclamation: Bros. R. H. Yerby, W. D. Wheeler and W. J. McGee.

Moved in order that we empower the Moderator to appoint an Executive Committee to look after the Finance of the churches. Whereupon the Moderator appointed as follows: A. J. Sanders from Mt. Pleasant; A. A. Burgin from Mt. Harmony; R. H. Yerby from Liberty; O. D. Pennington from Vernon; S. P. Hollis from Springfield; L. W. Barrow from Friendship.

Moved in order that we recess until 1:15 o'clock p. m., for refreshments. (Carried.)

The congregation came together by singing at 1:15 p. m., and proceeded in the following order:

Moved in order that we append the minutes of the Union Meeting to our minutes. (Carried.)

Moved in order that the Moderator appoint Corresponding Delegates to the Sister Associations. Motion carried, and the Moderator appointed as follows:

To Mt. Moriah Association.—S. G. Johnson, J. W. Graham, Rev. G. B. Taylor and L. W. Barrow.

To State Line Association.—J. W. Adair, S. P. Hollis, J. W. Adams and Rev. T. J. Adair.

To Jasper Association.—W. W. Barnes, R. N. Yerby, O. D. Pennington and M. D. Clearman.

Moved in order that we drop Rev. T. M. Lallars name from the roll of ordained ministers, because he belongs to another Association. (Motion carried.)

Moved in order that we enroll Rev. T. J. Adair's name as an ordained minister. (Motion carried.)

Resolved that we tender our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Mt. Harmony church and surrounding community, and especially to the sisters for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. BARNES, Chairman.

Moved in order that we adjourn to meet with Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, before the third Sunday in October, 1917. Whereupon Rev. Wood Springfield occupied the stand and preached, using for his text Psalms 16th Chapter and last verse; Matthew 13th Chapter and 43rd verse. Revelation 21st Chapter and 4th verse. After which a hymn was sung and the parting hand taken amid tears of grief and joy.

List of Ordained Ministers.

D. G. W. Hollis, Route 1, Bedford, Ala.; G. B. Taylor, Route 1, Melbourne, Ala.; T. J. Adair, Route 1, Vernon, Ala.; M. D. Clearman, Vernon, Ala.

D. G. W. HOLLIS, Moderator.

S. G. JOHNSON, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

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 five 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 allow any minister of her body to teach doctrines 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 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 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 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 operations 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, 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 of Timothy and Titus.

Article 10. We believe that Christians 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 solemn self examination.

Article 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.

Article 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 will be eternal; upon the principles of grace and justice.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNION MEETING.

The Union Meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met with Mt. Pleasant church, August 5 and 6, 1916.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. T. J. Adair, followed by Rev. G. B. Taylor. Text: Gal. 1:12. The congregation was then dismissed one hour for refreshments.

Afternoon Session.

The house was called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. G. B. Taylor. The former clerk being absent, R. H. Yerby was elected clerk pro tem. The Moderator then called the roll of the churches and the following delegates responded:

Vernon.—Not represented; Springfield, D. G. W. Hollis; Mt. Harmony, A. A. Burgins and Willie Wheeler; Mt. Pleasant, J. G. Sanders, J. H. Stacy and J. W. Adair; Friendship, L. W. Barrow; Liberty, R. H. Yerby.

The meeting then went into a permanent organization by electing the following officers:

Moderator, Rev. G. B. Taylor; Clerk, R. H. Yerby.

On motion the Moderator then appointed the following committees:

On Arrangements.—L. W. Barrow, J. W. Adair and R. H. Yerby.

On Queries and Resolutions.—J. H. Stacy, J. G. Sanders, A. A. Burgins and Willie Wheeler.

The Moderator then called for the report of the Committee on Arrangements.

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

We recommend that we have a lesson of singing at 9:30 a. m. Sunday. Preaching at 11 a. m., by Rev. T. J. Adair, and preaching at 2:30 p. m., by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. BARROW, Chairman.

On motion the report was received.

The Moderator called for the report of the Committee on Queries and Resolutions.

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

1. What is the worst great evil of the spiritual well-being? We say it is the alcoholic beverages.

2. What is the greatest opposing powers of the Protestant Churches? We say it is the Roman Catholic powers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. STACY, Chairman.

The report was received and the committee discharged. The report was then taken up by sections and discussed. Short talks were made on the first section by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, R. H. Yerby, Rev. G. B. Taylor and Rev. T. J. Adair.

On motion the first section was adopted and the second section taken up for discussion. Talks were made on the second section by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis and L. W. Barrow. The second section was then adopted.

On motion the following names were received as visitors in our meeting: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Justice, and Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Johnson.

The following resolution was then read and adopted: Resolved, that we tender our thanks to Mt. Pleasant church and community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. SANDERS, Chairman.

On motion the meeting then adjourned.

Sunday Session.

The congregation met pursuant to adjournment. The choir formed and sang a beautiful lesson. At 11 o'clock Rev. T. J. Adair preached to a large and attentive congregation. After which Rev. D. G. W. Hollis made a short talk and administered the Lord's Supper.

At 2:30 p. m., Rev. D. G. W. Hollis occupied the pulpit and preached a very interesting sermon.

REV. G. B. TAYLOR, Moderator.

R. H. YERBY, Clerk.

STATISTICAL

Churches	Delegates	Pastors and Postoffice	Cler
Vernon, Lamar Co., Ala.....	O. D. Pennington, W. Y. Turner, W. J. McGee.	Wood Springfield, Ethelville, Ala....	O.
Springfield, Lamar Co., Ala.....	R. E. Hall, J. W. Adams, D. V. Gault	G. B. Taylor R 1, Melborn, Ala.....	S.
Mt. Harmony, Lamar Co., Ala.....	J. W. Johnson, Escar Wheeler, J. W. Graham, W. D. Wheeler, W. C. Wheeler	D. G. W. Hollis, R. 1, Bedford, Ala....	S.
Mt. Pleasant, Lamar Co., Ala.....	J. W. Adair, J. G. Sanders, A. J. Sanders	T. J. Adair, R. 1, Vernon Ala.....	A.
Friendship, Lamar Co., Ala.....	A. K. Green	D. G. W. Hollis, R 1, Bedford, Ala....	H. G.
Liberty, Lamar Co., Ala.....	J. S. Yerby, R. H. Yerby, W. W. Barnes, K. W. Jenkins, J. H. Guyton	D. G. W. Hollis, R 1, Bedford, Ala....	K. W.