

Minutes

OF THE
26th Annual Session

OF THE
Vernon Freewill Baptist
Association

HELD WITH
Fairview Church
September 23-24, 1916.

REV. W. R. COWLEY, - - - - - Moderator.
L. B. LOLLAR, - - - - - Clerk.

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PROCEEDINGS

The 36th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association met with Fairview church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1916.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Porter; Text, Luke 18: 26. After preaching, one hour was given for refreshments, after which the Ministers and Delegates assembled in the church. The former Moderator, C. A. Chaffin, and Clerk, Lee B. Lollar, being present, proceeded as follows: A song was sung and prayer offered by the Moderator; then announced the Association ready for business.

1. The Moderator appointed Brethren A. J. Robertson and A. T. Gann 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.

On motion New Hope church was received into the Association.

4. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body, which was done by electing Rev. W. R. Cowley Moderator, and Lee B. Lollar Clerk.

5. Called for corresponding messengers. On motion Bro. J. J. Wesley was seated.

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

On Preaching—J. M. Thomas, A. M. Pennington, A. J. Robertson and Deacons of Fairview church.

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

On Temperance—J. M. Weeks, A. C. Frederick, J. W. Chaffin.

On Finance—D. W. Dill, M. C. Lockhart, J. W. Isbell.

On Deceased Members—A. J. Robertson, H. H. Dill, H. J. Rye.

On Sabbath Schools—J. E. Robertson, J. E. Pugh, W. A. Cooper, Will Jones, Robert Overton.

On Credentials—A. J. Motes, W. W. Mansel, Woodie Garrison.

On Queries and Resolutions—J. H. Dill, A. M. Pennington, J. Murray Thompson, Frank Frederick, Bonnie Shellnut.

On motion the committee on devotion made the following report: At 9:00 o'clock, Memorial Service, conducted by Rev. A. L. Warren and B. C. Hudgins. At 11:00 o'clock, J. W. Porter. At 2:00 o'clock, J. R. Reese and S. F. Lee.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8:00 o'clock. Song, prayer and benediction by Moderator.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock, Rev. A. L. Warren preached from Rev. 14: 13; followed by Rev. B. C. Hudgins from Matt. 25: 7.

At 11:00 o'clock the congregation was so large it was deemed necessary to hold services in the grove, Rev. J. W. Porter preaching from 1st Peter 3: 18.

At 2:00 o'clock the people assembled back in the house and listened to Rev. J. R. Reese and S. F. Lee preach from John 11: 35.

MONDAY

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

On motion the reading of Saturday's minute was omitted. Called for reports of various committees.

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 Mt. Willing church, four miles south of Guin: the same to convene on Saturday before the 4th Sun-

day in September, 1917.

3. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes: that he have five hundred copies printed, and that he have all minute funds collected above the expense of printing and mailing the minutes for his service.

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

5. We recommend the following names: A. L. Warren, S. F. Lee and B. C. Hudgins, to the Association for ordination, if found qualified after examination.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. J. W. Porter, Chairman.

Report was received and adopted by sections, each section being adopted.

TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report. After making an inquiry among the delegates from the different churches we find the Temperance cause decreasing. We, therefore, urge the cooperation of all our ministers and lay members of the association in stamping out the great curse of the land.

Respectfully submitted,
J. M. Weeks Chairman.

The report was received and adopted as read.

DECEASED MEMBERS

We, your committee on deceased members, beg leave to submit the following report. We find that our Heavenly Father has called six of our faithful co-workers in Christ to their eternal home during this associational year. Their names are as follows: From Union Chapel, Sister Barbara Jones; from Fairview, Bro. J. G. Dill; from Pin-y Grove, Bro. William T. Ford; from Syloam, Sister Martha White; from Mt. Willing, Bro. E. D. Warren; from Corinth, Rev. J. A. Brown. All the above named died in the triumph of a living faith and in the hope of eternal happiness. 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 9:00 o'clock of our next Association. We further recommend that the Association now in session appoint some minister to conduct the memorial service.

Respectfully submitted,
A. J. Robertson, Chairman.

The report was received and adopted as read.

SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following report. After consulting the delegates from the various churches, we find the interest in Sabbath Schools increasing.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Robertson, Chairman.

The report was received and adopted as read.

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 Fairview church and community for their kindness shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Dill, Chairman.

The report was received and adopted as read.

FINANCE

We, your committee on finance, beg leave to submit the following report. After calling for the minute money we find we have collected \$14.70.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. Dill, Chairman.

The report was received and adopted as read.

On motion the money was turned over to the Clerk.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

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

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. Motes, Chairman.

The report was received and adopted as read.

On motion the Moderator appointed messengers to Sister Associations as follows:

Jasper—C. A. Chaffin, A. L. Warren, S. F. Lee.

State Line—B. C. Hudgins, J. A. Isbell, J. H. Dill.

Mt. Moriah—T. M. Lollar, A. J. Robertson, J. W. Porter.

On motion the Moderator appointed Rev. J. W. Porter to preach a Memorial Sermon at 9:00 o'clock Sunday morning at the next Association. Introductory Sermon by M. R. Allen, with C. A. Chaffin alternate.

A motion carried to enter Rev. M. R. Allen's name on the minutes.

On motion Brethren J. A. Isbell, C. A. Chaffin and W. R. Cowley were appointed as a presbytery for the purpose of ordaining Brethren S. F. Lee, B. C. Hudgins and A. L. Warren as ministers of the Gospel. After a careful examination of the applicants they were found to be qualified and were ordained.

Move carried to enter their names on the minute.

The business of the Association being completed, a motion was carried to adjourn to meet with Mt. Willing church, four miles south of Guin, on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1917. After a song was sung, the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy, prayer by Brother J. A. Isbell, the benediction was pronounced by the Moderator.

Rev. W. R. Cowley, Moderator.

Lee B. Lollar, Clerk.

Ministers and Their Addresses

C. A. Chaffin	R. 2, Winfield, Ala.
J. A. Isbell	R. 1, Crews, "
W. R. Cowley	Smithville, Miss.
J. W. Porter	R. 2, Winfield, Ala.
T. M. Lollar	R. 1, Covin, "
E. A. Palmer	R. 4, Hamilton, "
W. C. McCombs	Crews, "
W. T. Smith	Smithville, Miss.
M. R. Allen	" "
B. C. Hudgins	Crews, Ala.
S. F. Lee	Guin, "
A. L. Warren	" "

ARTICLES OF FAITH

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.

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 principles upon which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the 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 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.

Art. 8. We believe in the 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. 13:14; Mark 13:12; Eze, 18:24; Rev. 2nd and 8th chapters; Ezr. 33:13, 28; 1st Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1:12 and 24; 1st 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 the fellowship of 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, are 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 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, preceded 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.

1. The 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.

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 the votes of the delegates present elects.

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

5. A majority of delegates shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of churches, and then it shall be unanimous.

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.

7. Only one person shall speak at the same time and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and after recognition by the Moderator, proceed.

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

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.

10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

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

CONSTITUTION.

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 ministers in the matter of doctrine, character &c. 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 this association as it may see proper, according to the teachings of the Bible.

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 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' qualification, 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 presbytery.

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 the association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority vote.

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 the business is transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this association must adopt our articles of faith and conform to its usages.

8. We agree as churches of this association to use our best influence to promote the interests on all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary work, etc.

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.

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.

Statistical Table of Vernon Friewill Baptist Associatin.

Church, Co., and State.	Delegates.	Pastors.	Clerk and Post Offices.	Baptized	Received by Letter	Received by Faith	Restored	Deceased	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Meeting Days	Total Membership	Paid for Minutes
Union Chapel, Lamar County, Ala.	A. J. Robertson, Lee B. Lollar, Will Jones	J. E. Mathews	L. B. Lollar, Covin, Ala.	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	58	4.00
Mt. Willing, Fayette " "	J. W. Chaffin, Wood Harrison, Ben Shellnut	C. A. Chaffin	J. E. Chaffin, Winfield. "	8	6	0	1	1	0	0	3	82	1.70
Fairview, Lamar " "	D. W. Dill, H. H. Dill, J. H. Dill	E. A. Palmer	J. H. Dill, R. 1, Crews, "	0	0	8	8	1	4	0		61	2.00
Piney Grove " "	J. E. Robertson, Huse Barnes, W. D. Motes	C. A. Chaffin	C. A. Chaffin, R. 2, Guin. "	4	1	8	0	1	0	0	1	70	1.50
Pearce's Chapel, Monroe Co., Miss.	Murray Thompson, Lester Duncan, A. C. Frederic	I. G. Boyette	J. B. Pearce, Smithville, Miss.	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	69	2.10
Beaverton, Lamar County, Ala.	M. C. Lockhart, J. M. Weeks, R. Frederick	J. W. Porter	A. S. Gann, Beaverton, Ala.	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	4	54	.75
Corinth, " " "	Not Represented	C. A. Chaffin											1.00
Military Grove, " " "	J. E. Pugh, W. W. Mansel, J. W. Isbell	E. A. Palmer	J. P. Peoples, R. 1, Crews, "	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	54	1.15
iloam, " " "	H. J. Rye, W. A. Cooper, Frank Frederick	J. A. Isbell	R. M. Palmer, Hamilton. "	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	86	2.00
New Hope, " " "	A. M. Pennington	J. A. Isbell	C. R. Hollis, Vernon. "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		26	1.00