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MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Vernon Eree Will Baptist
Association

HELD WITH
MT. PLEASANT CHURCH,
Lamar County, Ala., October 20, 21, and 22, 1917.

OFFICERS:

Rev. T. J. Adair, Moderator.
S. G. Johnson, Clerk

The next session of this Association will be held with Friendship church,
three miles Northwest of Melborne, Ala., beginning on Friday
before the Third Sunday in October 1918.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.
1918.

PROCEEDINGS

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Mount Pleasant church, October 20, 21, and 22, 1917. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. T. J. Adair. Text: Mark 10:40. There was then an intermission of one hour for refreshments.

EVENING SESSION.

At 2 o'clock P. M., the association reassembled by singing. Prayer by Bro. A. J. Saunders. The former moderator being absent, Rev. T. J. Adair was made moderator pro tem. Rev. T. J. Adair took his seat as moderator and proceeded to permanent organization as follows:

The roll of churches was called. Letters were handed in and read. The names of delegates were enrolled as per statistical table.

Moved in order that the delegates from each church supply their amount of delegates, whereupon the following delegates were enrolled:

Mt. Harmony.—V. I. Crawford, J. F. McGee.

Friendship.—E. J. Burns, Elmer Burns, L. W. Barrow.

Moved and seconded that we go into an election for moderator and clerk. Rev. T. J. Adair was elected moderator and S. G. Johnson, clerk.

After a few appropriate remarks by the moderator, the association proceeded to business in the following order:

1. Open the door for the reception of new churches into the body. Received none. Called for corresponding delegates from sister associations. None.

On motion, it was agreed that the moderator appoint all committees.

The following were appointed:

On Arrangements.—T. N. Wheeler, J. H. Guyton, O. D. Pennington, with the deacons of Mount Pleasant church.

Documents and Order of Business.—A. A. Burgin, Lee Barnes and G. A. Weir.

On motion, the moderator and clerk be added to the committee on Documents and Order of Business.

Publication and Literature.—T. J. Hankins, J. S. Yerby, Leslie Sanders.

Temperance.—Elmer Burns, J. W. Crawford, J. T. Baxter.

Deceased Members.—J. F. McGee, L. W. Barrow, J. W. Adair.

Sabbath Scrolls.—E. J. Burns, V. I. Crawford and O. D. Pennington.

Credentials.—J. T. Baxter, J. H. Guyton and J. S. Yerby.

Queries and Resolutions.—Lee Burnes, J. G. Sanders and Elmer Brewer.

Finance.—J. F. McGee, J. W. Adair, A. A. Burgin.

Committee on Arrangements report as follows: Singing Sunday morning at 9 o'clock. Preaching at 11 o'clock by Rev. T. J. Adair. Sing-

ing in the afternoon. The Association adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock the congregation met and had prayer and song service till 11 o'clock. At 11 o'clock there had gathered a large congregation. Rev. T. J. Adair occupied the stand and preached to a large and attentive audience. Text: Genesis 3rd Chapter and later clause of the 9th verse. After which the Lord's Snpper was administered to a host of partakers. At the conclusion of the service, the congregation was dismissed for recreation and refreshments. After which, the evening was spent in song service.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Association met at 8 o'clock according to adjournment. After singing, prayer was offered by the moderator.

The minutes of Saturday were read and the roll of delegates called. The moderator stated that a quorum was present. The Association proceeded to business in the following manner:

Called for reports of committees.

Report of Committee on Documents and Order of Business.

We, your committee beg leave to report as follows:

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. That we have 200 copies printed at the Free Will Baptist Publishing House, at Ayden, N. C., and that we pay him \$5.00 for his services.

3. We recommend that the next session of this association be held with Friendship church, about three miles west of Melborne, Ala., beginning Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1918. Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preach the introductory sermon and that Rev. G. B. Taylor be his alternate.

4 We recommend that we have one Union Meeting and that it be held with Vernon church, beginning on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1918. That Rev. Woods Springfield preach the introductory sermon and that Rev. T. J. Adair be his alternate.

5. We recommend that we elect an Executive Committee or five to take an oversight of the churches and ministers and that act as a Finance Committee to assist in raising funds necessary to meet the needs of the

... We recommend that each church in the association contribute to the educational support of their young ministers to the amount of 50c per capita for each member in their respective churches.

Respectfully submitted,

A. A. BURGIN, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Publication and Literature.

was then taken up by sections and adopted as read.

We, your committee 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 properly prepare themselves to preach the Gospel more fully.

Respectfully submitted,

LESLIE SANDERS, Chairman.

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

Report of Temperance Committee.

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 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 upon the cup when it gives forth its color; for it biteth like an adder and stingeth like a serpent." 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,

ELMER BURNS, Chairman.

The report was received and the 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 three of our co-laborers; to-wit, Bro. John M. Ayers, of Mount Harmony church. Bro. J. H. Atkins, of Mount Pleasant church, and Bro. Jesse Green, of Friendship church. These has been called to their eternal rest during the Associational year. We mourn the departure of our beloved brothers; 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.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. McGEE, Chairman.

The report was received and the committee discharged. Then 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:

We find that Friendship church has organized a Sunday School and it is being carried on at present. We recommend that the delegates insist upon their churches to organize Sunday Schools in each and every church, that all the children may have a chance to attend, and study the teachings of God's word, while they are young; that they may grow up prepared to make more useful members in our churches to carry on the work that the Master left for us to do that His name might be glorified.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. BURNS, Chairman.

The report was received and the 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. T. BAXTER, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Queries and Resolutions.

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

We recommend that all Queries be brought up in the Union Meeting and the decision brought to the Association. We find that there were not any Queries brought up in our last Union Meeting.

Respectfully, submitted,

W. L. BURNS, Chairman.

The report was received and committee discharged. Report was then adopted.

Report of Committee on Finance.

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

We have collected from the different churches to pay for minutes as follows: Vernon church \$2.00; Springleld church \$2.50; Mt. Harmony church \$4.00; Mt. Pleasant church \$3.00; Friendship church \$3.00; Liberty church \$3.00 Total \$17.50.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. McGEE, Chairman.

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

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

Moved that the moderator appoint delegates to the State Conference.
(Carried.)

The moderator made the following appointments:

Delegates to State Conference.—A. J. Sanders, G. A. Weir, Shelton Hollis.

Moved and carried that the moderator appoint a Finance Committee of five. The following were appointed said Finance Committee:—Willie Brown of Mt. Pleasant, J. T. Green of Friendship, J. H. Guyton of Liberty, J. W. Crawford of Mt. Harmony, Abner Hollis of Springfield.

On motion, the proceedings of the Union Meeting be appended to the minutes.

On motion, the moderator appoint corresponding delegates to sister associations. The moderator appointed the following:

To the Mt. Moriah Association.—Revs. G. B. Taylor and C. D. Springfield, Bro. A. X. Green.

State Line Association.—Rev. D. G. W. Hollis and Bros. W. C. Turner and S. G. Johnson.

Jasper Association.—Rev. M. D. Clearman and Bros. J. H. Guyton and R. N. Yerby.

Resolutions of Thanks.

Resolved, That this Association tender its thanks to the members of Mt. Pleasant church and the surrounding citizens, and especially the good sisters for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

W. L. BURNES, Chairman.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet with Friendship church on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1918. After which a song was sung and the parting hand taken amid tears of grief and joy.

REV. T. J. ADAIR, Moderator, Vernon, Ala.
S. G. JOHNSON, Clerk, Fernbank, Ala., Route 1.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

D. G. W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala., Route No. 1.

G. B. Taylor, Melborne, Ala., Route No. 1.

T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala.

M. D. Clearman, Vernon, Ala.

LICENSED MINISTER.—C. D. Springfield, Vernon, Ala., Route 1.

UNION MEETING.

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Session of the Union Meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association, met with Liberty church, August 11, 12, 1917. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. T. J. Adair with Rev. T. G. Harrison as alternate. Texts: Eph. 2:1; Matt. 25:46.

The congregation was then dismissed one hour for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The house was called to order by singing. Prayer by Rev. T. G. Harrison. The former moderator being absent; Rev. T. J. Adair was elected moderator pro tem. The moderator then called the roll of churches and the following delegates responded:

Vernon, T. J. Adair; Springfield, J. W. Adams, J. O. Boover, Kelsy Jordan, Abner Hollis and R. E. Hall; Mt. Harmony, S. G. Johnson; Mount Pleasant, J. T. Baxter; Friendship, not represented; Liberty, J. H. Guyton, Henry Perkins and R. N. Yerby.

The meeting then proceeded to elect the following officers:

Moderator, Rev. T. J. Adair; Clerk, R. N. Yerby.

The Moderator then invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

On motion, the moderator appoint the following committees:

On Arrangements.—R. N. Yerby, J. T. Baxter, R. E. Hall, Kelsy Jordan, Abner Hollis.

On Queries and Resolutions.—S. G. Johnson, J. H. Guyton, J. W. Adams, Henry Perkins and J. O. Boover.

The moderator then called for report of committee of Arrangements. The committee report as follows:

We, your committee beg leave to report the following:

We recommend singing and prayer service at 9 A. M., on Sunday, conducted by Rev. R. N. Yerby. Preaching at 11 A. M., conducted by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis. Preaching at 3 P. M., conducted by Rev. T. J. Adair

Submitted,

R. N. YERBY, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged.

Called for report of committee on Queries and Resolutions.

We, your committee on Queries and Resolutions, beg leave to submit the following: We have no queries of importance that we wish discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

S. G. JOHNSON, Chairman.

The report was received and the committee discharged.

On motion, the moderator was empowered to appoint a committee to arrange a program for the next Union Meeting.

The following committee was appointed:

R. H. Yerby, S. G. Johnson, O. D. Pennington, J. T. Baxter, J. W. Adams, and J. T. Green.

The following resolution was then read and adopted:

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the members of Liberty church and the surrounding community for their kindness and hospitality extended during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

S. G. JOHNSON, Chairman.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned. Song: "What a Friend we Have in Jesus." Prayer by Rev. T. J. Adair.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday morning the congregation met pursuant to adjournment. Song and prayer services at 9 o'clock, conducted by R. N. Yerby. At 11 o'clock, A. M., Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preached to a large congregation; after which the Lord's Supper was administered. At 3 o'clock P. M., Rev. T. J. Adair occupied the pulpit and preached an interesting sermon.

REV. T. J. ADAIR, Moderator.

R. H. YERBY, 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.

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 is, 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 the 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 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 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches	Delegates	Pastors and Postoffices.
Vernon church, Lamar County, Ala.	W. Y. Turner, O. D. Pennington, Luther Pennington, Dalton Turner.	Woods Springfield, Ethelville, Ala.
Springfield church Lamar Co., Ala.	Abner Hollis	D. G. W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala., R. 1.
Mt. Harmony church Lamar Co. Ala.	T. N. Wheeler, J. W. Crawford, A. A. Buryin, J. F. McGee, V. I. Crawford.	D. G. W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala. R. 1.
Mt. Pleasant church, Lamar Co., Ala.	J. W. Adair, J. T. Baxter, Leslie Sanders, J. G. Sanders, T. L. Brewer.	T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala.
Friendship church, Lamar Co., Ala.	G. A. Weir, W. L. Burnes, E. J. Burnes, Elmer Burnes, L. W. Barrow.	D. G. W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala., R. 1.
Liberty church, Lamar Co., Ala.....	J. H. Guyton, T. J. Hankins.	T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala,

Churches	Clerks and Their Postoffices.	Baptized	Rec. by Letter	Excluded	Dis. by Letter	Restored	Died	Meeting Days	No. Members	Minute Fund
Vernon, Lamar County	O. D. Pennington, Vernon, Ala.	4	1	0	0	0	0	4	21	\$2.00
Springfield, Lamar County	S. P. Hollis, Bedford, Ala	13	4	0	0	0	0	1	57	2.50
Mt. Marmony, Lamar County	S. G. Johnson, Fernbank, Ala. R. 1.	14	1	0	0	0	1	3	142	4.00
Mt. Pleasant, Lamar County	A. J. Sanders, Vernon, Ala., R. L.	5	1	0	0	0	1	2	105	3.00
Friendship, Lamar County	J. T. Green, Steens, Miss.	13	6	0	0	0	1	4	68	3.00
Liberty, Lamar County	T. J. Hankins, Vernon, Ala.	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	92	3.00

for the year 1919.

carried off Price

17, day of Jan 14, 1920 Eggs