

MINUTES

#1

OF THE

Thirty-eighth Annual Session

OF THE

Vernon Free Will Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Friendship Church, Lamar County, Ala.

October 18, 19, 20 1918.

OFFICERS:

R. N. YERBY

Moderator.

R. H. YERBY

Clerk.

The next session of this Association will be held with Damascus Church, 15 miles west of DeKalb, Miss., beginning on Friday before the Third Sunday in October 1919.

Proceedings

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Friendship Church October 18, 19, and 20, 1918.

Former moderator and clerk being absent, Bro. R. N. Yerby was elected moderator pro tem, and R. H. Yerby was elected clerk pro tem.

On motion the moderator called the roll of churches and the delegates were enrolled as shown in the statistical table.

Bros. A. A. Burgin and F. E. Burns were appointed reading clerks.

Opened the door for the reception of new churches into the body, Damascus Church came forward with letter and delegates and was received in full fellowship.

On motion Bro. J. G. Sanders from Mt. Pleasant Church and Bro. F. E. Burns from Friendship Church were seated as delegates.

On motion the Association went into an election for moderator and clerk. Bro. R. N. Yerby was elected moderator and R. H. Yerby clerk.

Called for corresponding delegates from sister associations. None present. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

On motion the moderator was empowered to appoint all committees. The following were appointed:

On Arrangements,—S. O. Johnson, J. G. Sanders, J. O. Green with the deacons of Friendship Church.

On Documents and Order of Business — J. E. Smith, L. W. Barrow, A. A. Burgin with the moderator and clerk

Publication and Literature,— W. L. Burnes, J. G. Sanders, Luther Hollis

Temperance,—R. H. Yerby, J. O. Boover, J. E. Smith.

Finance,—A. A. Burgin, S. O. Johnson, F. E. Burns.

Sabbath Schools,—A. K. Green, R. N. Yerby, Luther Hollis.

Credentials,—J. O. Green, J. G. Sanders, R. H. Yerby

Deceased Members,—Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, W. L. Burns
S. O. Johnson.

Queries and Resolutions,—W. L. Burns, J. O. Boover,
F. E. Burns.

Moved that committee on Arrangements make their report as early as possible Saturday morning. (Carried.)

On motion the Association adjourned to meet at 8 30 o'clock Saturday morning.

Saturday Morning.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Song, "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes." Prayer by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis.

The roll of delegates was called and the moderator announced a quorum present.

On motion the reading of the minutes of Friday was omitted.

The moderator then called for reports of committees.

Report of Committee on Arrangements.

We, your committee on Arrangements, beg leave to report as follows:

We recommend that Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preach at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

We recommend that we take up the regular work of the association until that hour.

Respectfully submitted,
S. O. Johnson, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Documents and Order of Business.

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

1. We recommend the former order of business.
2. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Damascus Church, 15 miles west of De Kalb Miss. Beginning on Friday before the third Sunday in October 1919, and that Rev. T. J. Adair preach the introductory sermon and Rev. G. B. Taylor be his alternate.
3. We suggest that the Sunday Schools of this Association organize a Sunday School Convention for the purpose of building up more Sunday School interest.
4. We recommend that we have one Union Meeting, and that it be held with Springfield Church beginning on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July 1919.
5. We recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes. That we have 250 copies printed and that he have them printed where he can get it done best and cheapest, and that he be allowed \$5.00 for his services.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Smith, Chairman.

The report was received and committee discharged. Then the report was taken up by sections and adopted.

Report of Committee on Publication 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.

We recommend that we use Union Literature in our Sunday Schools.

Respectfully submitted'

W. L. Burns, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Temperance.

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to report as follows:

We find a great improvement in the cause of temperance as the liquor traffic is fast being driven from our beloved country.

Brethren, let us pray God to hasten the day when this, the greatest of evil on earth, shall be chained to the stake of death.

To these ends, we recommend that this Association endorse the passage of the pending National Prohibition Amendment by the Legislature of Alabama.

We further recommend that all our members strictly abstain from this great evil and all other forms of intemperance.

Respectfully submitted,
R. H. Yerby, 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 make the following report:

We have collected from the different churches as follows: Springfield, \$3.50; Friendship, \$3.55; Liberty, \$3.00; Mt. Harmony, \$3.00; Mt. Pleasant, \$3.00 Damascus, \$3.00; Total, \$19.05.

Respectfully submitted,
A. A. Burgin, Chairman.

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

On motion the money was turned over to the clerk.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to

report as follows:

We find that Friendship Church has a large Sunday School and is well attended. We recommend that the delegates insist upon their churches organizing Sunday Schools that all the children may have a chance to attend and study the teachings of God's word, that they might be prepared to do what the Master left for us to do, that his name might be glorified.

Respectfully submitted,
A. K. Green, 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. O. Green, 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 report as follows:

By investigating the number of our deceased we find that our Heavenly Father has called from our various local churches the following named Brothers and Sisters to wit: Bro. Hiram Hollis, Sisters Mahaley Pennington and Josiephine Yarbrough from Springfield Church; Sister Mattie Tate and Bros, H. G. Tate and W. B. Ford from Friendship Church; and Bro. J. A. Smith from Damascus Church. All the above named Brothers and Sisters died in the triumph of a living faith and we trust that our loss is their eternal gain, and furthermore that our labors here on earth are increased to the extent of their labors while here with us. So let us strive to accomplish the work once assigned to them.

We tender our sympathies to the bereaved families, and pray God's grace to comfort and console them in their state of bereavement.

Respectfully submitted,

D. G. W. Hollis, 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, 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

Respectfully submitted,

W. L. Burns, Chairman.

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

On motion the Association recessed one hour for refreshments.

Afternoon Session.

The house came to order by singing. Prayer by J. E. Smith.

The moderator called for new business.

On motion the moderator was empowered to appoint delegates to the State Conference, whereupon the following were appointed: O. D. Pennington, R. H. Yerby and Luther Hollis, with A. A. Burgin as alternate.

On motion the moderator appointed Rev. M. D. Clearman to preach the introductory sermon at the Union Meeting.

The moderator was empowered to appoint corresponding delegates to sister associations. The following were appointed:

Mt. Moriah Association,— W. L. Burns, S. O. Johnson and B. C. Guin.

State Line Association,— J. O. Boover, A. J. Sanders

and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis.

Jasper Association,— T. J. Hankins, Rev. T. J. Adair and S. P. Hollis.

On motion the reading of the resolution of thanks was omitted until after the communion services on Sunday.

Song, "We'll Never Say Good Bye."

Recess 10 minutes.

The congregation came together by Singing.

Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preached an interesting sermon from the seventh Chapter of St. Matthew.

The Association then adjourned until Sunday morning

Sunday Services

Sunday morning the choir gathered around the organ and rendered a very interesting lesson in singing.

At 11 o'clock Rev. D. W. G. Hollis occupied the pulpit and preached to the congregation. Text St. John 6:53, after which the Lord's Supper was administered.

The following resolution of thanks was then offered:

Resolved that this Association tender its thanks to Friendship Church and the surrounding community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

W. L. Burns, Chairman.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet with Damascus Church on Friday before the third Sunday in October 1919.

R. N. Yerby, moderator Vernon Alabama, Route 4,
R. H. Yerby, clerk, Fernbank Alabama, Route 1

List of Ordained Ministers and their Post Offices.

D G. w. Hollis, Bedford Alabama, Route 1.

G. B. Taylor. Melborne Alabama, Route 1.

T J. Adair, Vernon Alabama.

M. D. Clearman, Vernon Alabama.
Licensed Minister, C D Springfield, Vernon Alabama,
Route 1

Union Meeting.

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Session of the Union Meeting of the Vernon Free will Baptist Association met with Vernon Church July 27, 1918. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. woods Springfield. Subject: The four things belonging to Christ. Texts: Phil 1:27, 2:30, 3:18, 4:13

The congregation was then dismissed for refreshments.

Afternoon Session.

The house was called to order by the former moderator Rev. T. J. Adair. Prayer by the moderator. The moderator then called the roll of churches and the following delegates responded:

Vernon, O. D. Pennington, w. Y. Turner, C. P. Graves
J. w. McGee

Springfield, Not represented.

Mt Harmony, A. A. Burgin, B. C. Guin, T. N. wheeler.
Mt. Pleasant, J. T. baxter, A. J. Sanders, J. w. Adair,
J. G. Sanders, J. L. McNees,

Friendship, Not represented.

Liberty, R. N. Yerby, P. A. Perkins, T. J. Hankins
J. S. Yerby, R. H. Yerby

The meeting then proceeded to elect the following officers:

Moderator, Rev. T. J. Adair; Clerk, R. H. Yerby
The moderator invited visiting brethren to seats with us

The moderator then appointed the following committees
-to Devotional exercises. — J. G. Sanders, R. N. Yerby
J. W. Adair, with the deacons of Vernon Church.

Resolutions— B. C. Guin, J. T. Baxter, J. S. Yerby.

Program,— A. J. Sanders, A. A. Burgin, R. N. Yerby.

The following program was then taken up and discussed.

1st. What is baptism, and what does it mean to the church? Rev. Woods Springfield, Rev. M. D. Clearman.

2nd. Why am I a Free Will Baptist? Rev. T. J. Adair, Rev. Woods Springfield.

3rd. What can best be done for the advancement of the Free Will Baptist Cause? Rev. T. J. Adair, Rev. Woods Springfield.

4th. Did Christ intend for his followers to wash each others feet? If so, why do the churches not practice it now? Rev. Woods Springfield, Rev. M. D. Clearman.

The moderator called for report of committee on devotional exercises.

The committee reported as follows:

We, your committee on devotional exercises, beg leave to report the following: Prayer meeting at 10 o'clock a m conducted by Bro. R. N. Yerby. Preaching at 11 a m by Rev. Woods Springfield. Prayer meeting at 7 p m conducted by Rev. M. D. Clearman. Preaching at 8 p m by Rev. T. J. Adair.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. Sanders, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged.

Called for report of committee on Resolutions.

We, your committee on resolutions, beg leave to submit the following:

Resolved that we tender our thanks to Vernon Church and community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

B. C. Guin, Chairman.

On motion the meeting adjourned. Song, "Cross Jordan To-day." Prayer by Rev. M. D. Clearman.

Sunday Services.

Sunday morning the congregation met pursuant to adjournment.

The house was called to order by the moderator.

Song and prayer services conducted by Rev. T. J. Adair. At 11 o'clock a m Rev. Woods Springfield preached to a large congregation. Subject, Sins against the Holy Spirit. Text, Acts 7:55.

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, 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 heresay, or allows 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 this Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall have control of its own internal affairs in matters of discipline etc., though the Association shall rule in matters of doctrine and general interest. The church may in extreme cases call in the aid of sister churches.

4. All questions of doctrine and 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 has been 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 moderator more than two successive terms, 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.

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 votes by the delegates present elects.

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

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.

6. The moderator shall not be allowed to vote, except in case of a tie, 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.

7. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall

rise and address the moderator.

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

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

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

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.

2. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instructions; that it has God for its author, Truth for its matter and Salvation for its end; that it reveals the principals by which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of this world the center of Christain Union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

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.

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.

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, none but those who believe in him can be partakers of the divine benefits.

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.

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.

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.

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 Epistles of Timothy and Titus

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 subject.

11. We believe that the Lord's Supper is of perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church, in case of bread and wine, are to commemorate together, the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

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.

13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgement; that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal; upon the principles of grace and justice.

Statistical Table,

[illegible]