

MINUTES

OF THE

38th :- Annual :- Session

OF THE

VERNON FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

PEARCE'S CHAPEL CHURCH

Begining on Saturday before the Fourth Sunday
in September, 1918.

REV. A. L. WARREN, - - - - - Moderator.

J. E. CHAFFIN, - - - - - Clerk.

The next session of this Association will convene
with Union Chapel Church on Saturday before
the Fourth Sunday in September, 1919.

The News Print, Hamilton, Alabama.

MINUTES

The Thirty-eighth session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association met with Pearce's Chapel church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1918.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. A. L. Warren. Text, Ephesians: 2:8.

After peaching, one hour was taken for refreshments, after which the ministers and delegates assembled in the church house.

The former moderator being absent, Rev. A. L. Warren was appointed moderator pro tem. The former clerk being present proceeded to business as follows:

A song was sung. Prayer was offered by Rev. M. R. Allen. Announced the association ready for business.

1. Moderator appointed M. R. Allen and J. B. Pearch reading clerks.

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

3. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body which was done by electing Rev. A. L. Warren moderator and J. E. Chaffin clerk. The moderator and clerk took their seats and after appropriate remarks by the moderator for the honor conferred upon him he promised to discharge his duties to the best of his ability.

4. Called for corresponding messengers. Rev. J. L. Conner from the Jasper association and the moderator and clerk extended to him the right hand of welcome.

5. On motion the moderator was empowered to appoint the various committees and the following were appointed:

On Preaching—W. J. Markham, H. J. Rye, Shirred Burks, with the deacons of Pearce's chapel church.

On Documents and Order of Business—M. R. Allen, W. R. Cowley, J. W. Porter, W. T. Smith, with the moderator and clerk.

On Temperance—R. C. Cooper, W. M. Crews and D. R. Barnes.

On Finance—J. A. Tate, Marvin Gann and W. J. Markham.

On Deceased Members—F. R. Brooks, Houston Porter and D. R. Barnes.

On Sabbath Schools—Lee Collins, W. M. Crews and H. J. Rye.

On Credentials—W. N. McCluskey, J. A. Tate and J. M. Thompson.

On Queries and Resolutions—Shirred Burks, Lee Collins and Alvis Cowley.

On motion the committee made their report on devotional services as follows: Sunday, Rev. A. L. Warren to preach at 9 o'clock, Rev. J. R. Conner at 11 o'clock, Rev. J. W. Porter at 3 o'clock.

On motion the association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock. A song was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. J. L. Conner.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock there had gathered a large congregation and Rev. A. L. Warren ascended the stand and preached a memorial sermon. Text, Rev. 21-4. Then the congregation was dismissed for fifteen minutes.

At the hour of 11 o'clock the congregation assembled in able discourse to a large and attentive congregation. Subject, "The Lord's Supper." Text, Luke 22-18. After the sermon the Lord's supper was administered and a host of the house by singing. Rev. J. L. Conner preached and Christians partook of the emblems. The communion service being ended the congregation was dismissed for refreshments.

At the hour of 3 P. M. Rev. J. W. Porter preached an able discourse to a large and attentive congregation. Text, II Corinthians 5-21.

MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. A song and prayer was offered by the Moderator.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. The clerk called the roll. The delegates answered to their names, after which the Moderator announced a quorum.

present and the association was ready for business.

On motion the reading of the minutes of Saturday's session was omitted.

Called for reports of various committees.

Report On Document And Order Of Business.

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

1. We recommend the former order of business.
2. We recommend the next session of this association be held with Union Chapel church, the same to convene on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1919.
3. We recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, that he have (400) copies printed and that he receive \$5.00 for his services.

Respectfully submitted,

M. R. ALLEN, Chairman.

Report received and the committee discharged. Report re-read and adopted as a whole.

Report on Temperance.

We, your committee on Temperance beg to submit the following report:

After making inquiry among the delegates from the different churches we find the Temperance cause on the increase. We, therefore, urge the co-operation of all our ministers and lay members of the association in stamping out the great curse of our land.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. COOPER, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

On Deceased Members.

We, your committee on Deceased Members beg leave to submit the following report:

We find that our Heavenly Father has called two of our faithful co-workers in Christ to their eternal home during this associational year. Their names to-wit: Sister Maddox of Union Chapel and Brother Walter Haney of Piney Grove. All the aboved named members died in the triumph of a

living faith and in hope of eternal happiness and we bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

F. R. BROOKS, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

On Sabbath Schools.

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

After consulting the delegates of the churches, we find the Sabbath School cause on the decrease, therefore, we urge our ministers to encourage the Sabbath school work in their respective churches. Respectfully submitted,

W. M. CREWS, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

Report On Queries and Resolutions.

We, your committee on Queries and Resolutions beg leave to submit our report:

We find no queries to be discussed at this association.

Resolved, "That we the officers and delegates of the 38th annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association assembled at Pearce's Chapel church, do hereby tender our heartfelt thanks to the church and surrounding community for their co-operation and generous hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE COLLINS, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted and read.

On Finance.

We, your committee on Finance beg leave to submit our report as follows:

After calling for the minute money we find we have collected \$13.10.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. TATE, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted and read.

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 careful investigation of our ministers we find them all in good standing in this association except Bro. E. A. Palmer.

Respectfully, submitted,
W. N. McCLUSKEY, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

On motion the association withdrew fellowship from Rev. E. A. Palmer until he goes back to Rocky Grove church and the State Line Association and makes satisfaction with the above named church and association.

On motion appointed corresponding messengers to sister associations:

Mt. Moriah Association—A. J. Robertson, L. B. Lollar and Lee Collins.

Jasper Association—Rev. C. A. Chaffin, J. W. Porter and J. E. Chaffin.

On motion the moderator appointed Rev. S. F. Lee to preach the introductory sermon at the next association and Rev. J. W. Porter, alternate.

On motion the moderator appointed Rev. C. A. Chaffin to preach a memorial sermon at 9 o'clock on Sunday at the next session of this association.

Called for unfinished business. None reported.

Called for new business. There was none.

The business of the association being finished there was a motion made and carried to adjourn to meet with Union Chapel church, 6 miles east of Vernon, Lamar county, Ala., on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1919.

There was a motion made and carried that Rev. J. L. Conner preach the farewell sermon. His subject was, "The Cross of Christ." At the close of the sermon there was a song sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy and stouts were heard from all parts of the house.

REV. A. L. WARREN, Moderator.
J. E. CHAFFIN, Clerk.

MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

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

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.

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.

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 mankind in general, and

every individual in particular, however, that none but those who believe in Him can partake 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 operation of free will, since man, in consequence of his natural corruption, is incapable, 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. 1:5, 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.

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; Romans 13:14; Mark 13:12; Ezek. 18:24; Rev. 2nd and 8th chapters; Ezek. 33: 13-28; 1st Timothy 4:1; Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1: 12-24; 1st Peter 1:10.

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.

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.

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.

12. We believe in open and free communion, and the churches of our body are authorized through their pastors to invite all Christians or 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 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 their chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at the same time and he shall rise to his feet and address to 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, 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 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

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