

MINUTES
—OF THE—
THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Vernon Free Will
Baptist Association

—HELD WITH—
Damascus Church
Kemper County, Miss.

October 17, 18, 19, 1919.

OFFICERS

G. B. TAYLOR.....Moderator
S. G. JOHNSON.....Clerk

The Next Session of this Association will be held with
Vernon Church, Vernon, Ala., Beginning Saturday
Before the Third Sunday in October, 1920.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Thirty-ninth Annual Session of the Vernon Free-will Baptist Association was held with Damascus church October 17, 18, 19, 1919.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. T. J. Adair, Text Rev. 22:17, with Rev. G. B. Taylor, alternate.

After sermon one hour was taken for refreshments.

At 1:30 o'clock the Association came together by singing.

The former clerk being absent S. G. Johnson was appointed clerk, pro tem.

On motion Bros. B. F. Cline and S. O. Johnson were appointed reading clerks. The letters were handed in and read, and the names of the delegates enrolled as follows:

Vernon Church—Rev. T. J. Adair and W. Y. Turner.

Springfield Church—Rev. D. G. W. Hollis and Rev. Luther Hollis.

Mt. Harmony Church—B. C. Guin, B. F. Cline, J. L. Johnson and S. G. Johnson.

Friendship Church—Rev. G. B. Taylor, Bros. W. L. Burns, J. O. Green and J. V. Weathers.

Liberty Church—W. W. Barnes, J. H. Guyton and R. N. Yerby.

Mt. Pleasant Church—A. J. Sanders.

Damascus Church—J. E. Smith, S. O. Johnson, Douglas May, Bunyon Johnson and C. M. Johnson.

On motion Bro. Eddie Barnes was enrolled as a delegate from Liberty church.

Called for new churches into our body. None.

On motion the Association went into an election for

Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Rev. G. B. Taylor was elected moderator, and S. G. Johnson, clerk.

After a few appropriate remarks by the Moderator, the body proceeded to business in the following order:

Called for corresponding delegates from sister Associations. None present.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us, whereupon Bro. Rushton Adair was seated with us to aid in the song service.

On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint all committees, whereupon he proceeded to appoint as follows:

On Arrangements—Bros. W. Y. Turner, J. H. Guyton, W. W. Barnes with the deacons of Damascus church.

On Documents and Order of Business—Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Bros. J. O. Green, B. F. Cline, B. C. Guin, W. L. Burns with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Publication and Literature—R. N. Yerby, T. J. Adair and J. V. Weathers.

On Temperance—M. L. Hollis, S. O. Johnson and A. D. May.

On Finance—J. O. Green, A. J. Sanders and Eddie Barnes.

On Sabbath Schools—T. J. Adair, C. M. Johnson and J. L. Johnson.

On Credentials—S. G. Johnson, J. E. Smith and J. H. Guyton.

On Deceased Members—Bunyan Johnson, W. W. Barnes, W. L. Burns, Luther Hollis and B. C. Guin.

On Queries and Resolutions—T. J. Adair, G. B. Taylor, and B. F. Cline.

On motion the Committee on Arrangements report as follows: that Rev. G. B. Taylor preach at 11 o'clock Saturday and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preach at 11 o'clock Sunday and Rev. Luther Hollis preach at 2 o'clock.

On motion the report was amended, for singing to begin at 9:30 Sunday morning.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet Saturday morning at 8:30.

Saturday Morning Session.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Song, "Sweet By and By." Prayer by R. N. Yerby.

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

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

On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint a presbytery to ordain Bro.. J. E Smith as deacon of Damascus church., whereupon Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, T. J. Adair and Luther Hollis were appointed.

Report on 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 Vernon church ten miles south of Sulligent, Ala., and fifteen miles north of Millport, Ala., beginning on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1920, and that Rev. D. G. W. Hollis preach the Introductory sermon and Rev. M. L. Hollis be his alternate.
3. We recommend a Sunday School Convention to be held at Springfield church two miles west of Vernon, Ala., on Saturday before the first Sunday in July, 1920.
4. We recommend a union meeting to be held at Friendship church beginning on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1920, and that Rev. T. J. Adair preach the Introductory Sermon and Rev. M. L. Hollis be his alternate.

5. We recommend that the Clerk supervise the printing of the Minutes; that we have 300 copies printed and that he have them printed where he can get it done best, cheapest and quickest, and that he be allowed five dollars for his services.

Respectfully submitted,

D. G. W. HOLLIS, Chairman.

The report was received and committee discharged. The report was then re-read and adopted by sections as read.

At 11 o'clock Rev. G. B. Taylor occupied the stand and preached to a large congregation using for his text John 14:2. After the sermon the body adjourned until 1:30 for refreshments.

Afternoon Session.

The congregation came together by singing.

The Moderator called for the report of committees.

Report of Committee on Publication and Literature.

We your Committee on Publication and Literature 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 better prepare themselves to preach the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,

R. N. YERY, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Temperance.

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

We thank God for so wonderfully blessing us in the way of driving the liquor traffic from our beloved coun-

try. We trust God that this agency of the devil may be completely destroyed from among our people and religious institutions may be built on the ruins thereof.

We pray God that all our people may strictly guard themselves against this great evil that has been the ruin of so many of our people.

To these ends we, this Association, thank God that our national Legislature has proposed in themselves that our great nation should not profit themselves with this great evil.

Respectfully submitted,

M. L. HOLLIS, 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 submit the following report:

We have collected from the different churches as follows: Friendship \$4.05; Vernon \$3.00; Mt. Pleasant \$3.00; Liberty \$5.50; Mt. Harmony \$3.75; Damascus \$3.00; Springfield \$4.00. Total \$26.30.

Respectfully submitted,

J. O. GREEN, Chairman.

Report received and 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:

We find there are only three Sunday Schools in our Association. Friendship church has a large school and is well attended. Springfield church has a Sunday School, and Damascus church has recently organized a Sabbath School.

We recommend that all the delegates insist on 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 may be prepared to do what the Master left for us to do that His name might be glorified.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. ADAIR, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Credentials.

We, your Committee on Credentials, submit the following report.

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

Respectfully submitted,

S. G. JOHNSON, Chairman.

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

Report of Committee on Deceased Members.

We find that our heavenly Father has called from our various churches the following named brothers and sisters, to-wit: Sister Etta Wallace from Mt. Harmony church; Sister Sarah Ann Holland from Friendship church, and Sister R. R. Robison, and Brothtr Lockhart Brewer and Sister Katie Lawrence from Mt. Pleasant church.

All the above named Brothers and Sisters died in the triumphs of a living faith, and we trust that our loss is their eternal gain and furthermore we realize 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,

A. B. JOHNSON, 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 report:

We have no report from the Union meeting on Queries and Resolutions to bring before this Association.

T. J. ADAIR, Chairman.

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

Called for new business. —

On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint delegates in sister Associations, whereupon he appointed as follows:

Bros. B. F. Cline, W. L. Burns and Rev. T. J. Adair as delegates to Mt. Moriah Association.

Brothers R. N. Yerby, W. W. Barnes and Rev. D. G. W. Hollis to Jasper Association.

Rev. S. M. Perkins, Rev. M. D. Clearman and Rev. T. J. Adair to State Line Association.

On motion the Moderator appointed delegates to the State Conference as follows: Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Rev. T. J. Adair and Brother R. N. Yerby.

On motion the resolution of thanks was omitted until after the 11 o'clock services Sunday, after which the Presbytery proceeded to ordain Brother J. E. Smith as deacon of Damascus church.

On motion the Association recessed until after the 11 o'clock services Sunday.

Saturday night at 7 o'clock Rev. D. G. W. Hollis

preached to a large congregation using for his text Rev. 3:18.

Sunday Morning Session.

Song service began about 10 o'clock and at 11 o'clock Rev. D. G. W. Hollis entered the stand and preached to large and attentive congregation using for his text St. John 15:12, after which the Lord's Supper was administered to a host of partakers.

The following Resolution of Thanks was offered:

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

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. ADAIR, Chairman.

On motion the resolution was received and adopted and committee discharged, after which the choir sang a song and the congregation took the parting hand.

List of Ordained Ministers and their Postoffice:

D. G. W.. Hollis, Bedford, Ala Rt. 1

G. B. Taylor, Melbourne, Ala. Rt. 1.

T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala.

M. D. Clearman, Vernon, Ala.

S. M. Perkins Vernon, Ala.

M. L. Hollis, Bailey, Miss, Rt. 3.

Licensed Ministers—C. D. Springfield, Vernon, Ala.
Rt. 1.

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 to this Association. In case any church departs from the Articles of Faith and supports doctrines of heresy, 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 the 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 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 reflection.

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 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.

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

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 subjects.

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 judgment; that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal; upon the principles of grace and justice.

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. 2nd and 3rd 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

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	PASTORS and POSTOFFICE.	CLERKS and POSTOFFICE	Baptised	Received by letter	Excluded	Dis. by letter	Restored	Died	Meeting days	Members	Paid for Minutes
Vernon, Lamar Co., Ala.....	T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala.....	O. D. Pennington Vernon, Ala.....							3	28	\$ 3.00
Springfield, Lamar Co., Ala.....	M. L. Hollis, R. 3, Bailey, Miss....	S. P. Hollis, R. 1, Bedford, Ala.....									4.00
Mt. Harmony, Lamar Co., Ala....	D. G. W. Hollis, R. 1, Bedford, Ala	S. G. Johnson R. 1, Fernbank, Ala	18	1				1	3	153	3.75
Mt. Pleasant, Lamar Co., Ala....	T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala.....	J. T. Baxter, Caledonia, Miss.....						3	2	82	3.00
Friendship, Lamar, Co., Ala.....	D. G. W. Hollis, R. 1, Bedford, Ala.	J. T. Green R. 1, Steens, Miss.....	6	3				1		125	4.05
Liberty, Lamar, Co., Ala.....	T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala.....	T. J. Hankins, Vernon, Ala.	6	1			2			99	5.50
Damascus, Kemper Co., Miss.....	M. L. Hollis, R. 3, Bailey, Miss....	I. H. Kynerd, R. 3, Bailey, Miss.....								41	3.00

Delegates—Vernon—W. Y. Turner, T. J. Adair. Springfield—D. G. W. Hollis, M. L. Hollis. Mt. Harmony—B. C. Guin, B. F. Cline, J. L. Johnson, S. G. Johnson. Mt. Pleasant—A. J. Sanders. Friendship—W. L. Burns, J. O. Green, J. V. Weathers. Liberty—W. W. Burns, J. H. Guyton, Eddie Barnes, R. N. Yerby. Damascus—J. E. Smith, S. O. Johnson, Douglass May, Bunyan Johnson, C. M. Johnson.