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MINUTES
—OF THE—
Thirty-Ninth Annual Session
OF THE
VERNON FREEWILL
Baptist Association
—HELD WITH—
Union Chapel Church
Beginning on Saturday Before the Fourth Sunday in
September, 1919.

OFFICERS

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

The Next Session of This Association Will Convene
With Mt. Willing Church on Saturday Before the
Fourth Sunday in September, 1920.

MINUTES.

The Thirty-Ninth Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Union Chapel Church, Sept. 27, 28 and 29, 1920.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. S. F. Lee, Text II Tim. 4:2. After preaching, one hour was taken for refreshments. The ministers and delegates then assembled in the church house.

The former Moderator and Clerk being present proceeded to business as follows:

A song was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. C. A. Chaffin. Announced the Association ready for business.

1. The Moderator appointed Bros. A. J. Robertson and Lee Collins 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, 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 honors conferred upon him, he promised to discharge his duties to the best of his ability.

4. Called for corresponding messengers from sister associations. Those who came forward were Bros. T. A. Guin, J. M. Graham, J. R. Cole and J. L. Stapp from Mt. Mariah Association. The Moderator and Clerk extended to them the right hand of welcome.

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

On Preaching—Walter Lockhart, A. J. Motes, J. N. McClung, with the deacons of Union Chapel Church.

On Documents and Order of Business—Revs C. A. Chaffin, J. W. Porter, S. F. Lee, T. M. Lollar, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Temperance—J. M. Hall, Acy Fredrick, W. W. Mansell.

On Finance—W. A. Towrey, Van Hester, C. H. Graves.

On Deceased Members—J. W. Chaffin, J. N. Lockhart, A. E. Cowley.

On Sabbath Schools—Lee Collins, E. D. McDaniel, J. A. Tate.

On Ministerial Credentials—A. M. Pennington, S. D. Loftis, Brunson Hollis.

On Queries and Resolutions—A. S. Gann, W. B. Webster, Walter Lockhart.

On motion the committee made their report on devotional services for Sunday as follows: Rev. A. L. Warren to preach at 9 o'clock; Rev. C. A. Chaffin at 11 o'clock and Rev. S. F. Lee at 3 P. M.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet Monday at 8 o'clock. A song was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. J. W. Porter. Benediction by the Moderator.

Sunday Services

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock there had gathered a large congregation and Rev. A. L. Warren preached to an attentive congregation.

At 11 o'clock Rev. C. A. Chaffin preached to a very large congregation; text, Gen. 49:10.

At 3 o'clock p. m. Rev. S. F. Lee preached an able discourse to an attentive congregation; text Matt. 25: 46.

Monday Session.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

A song was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. T. M. Lollar.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. The Clerk called the roll. The delegates answered to their names and the Moderator announced a quorum present and the Association ready for business.

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

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 Mt. Willing Church four miles south of Guin, Ala., and the same to convene on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in Sept., 1920.
3. We recommend that we have four hundred copies of minutes printed and that the Clerk superintend the printing of same.
4. We recommend that the Moderator of this Association visit and preach to the different churches of the Association as much as he can during the year.

C. A. CHAFFIN, Chairman.

The report received and committee discharged. Report adopted.

Report on Temperance.

We, your committee on Temperance beg leave to submit our report. After making inquiry from the different parts of the Association we find the temperance cause on the increase. We therefore urge the co-operation of our ministers and lay members of the Association in stamping out the great curse of our land.

J. M. HILL, Chairman.

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

On Deceased Members

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, beg to submit our report:

We find that our Heavenly Father has summoned six of our faithful co-laborers in Christ to their eternal home during this Associational year. Their names are as follows: from Pearce's Chapel Church Rev. W. R. Cowley; from Mt. Willing, Sisters Donnie Webster, Eliza Taylor and Ollie Collins; from Union Chapel, Sister Martha J. Collins; from Corinth Church, Sister Amanda Hester. All the above named members died in hope of eternal happiness. And as our labors are increased so let us strive to accomplish the work once assigned to these, our much beloved brothers and sisters. We bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. We pay this our last tribute of respect to these, our much beloved brothers and sisters.

Respectfully submitted
J. W. CHAFFIN, 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 from the different 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,
J. LEE COLLINS, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

Queries and Resolutions.

We your Committee on Queries and Resolutions beg leave to submit the following report. We find no Queries that we wish discussed.

Resolved, That we, the officers and delegates of the thirty ninth annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association assembled at Union Chapel Church do hereby tender our thanks to the church and surrounding community for their co-operation and generous hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. GANN, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

On Finance.

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

After calling for the minute money we find we have collected \$16.80.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. GRAVES, Chairman.

Report received and the Committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

On motion the minute 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.

Respectfully submitted,

BRUNSON HOLLIS, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

On motion the name of Rev. E. A. Palmer be dropped from the list of ministers.

On motion the Moderator appoint corresponding messengers to sister Associations. To Mt. Mariah Association Revs. C. A. Chaffin, T. M. Lollar and S. D. Loftis.

To Jasper Association, Revs. J. W. Porter, S. F. Lee and W. N. McCluskey.

On motion the Moderator appoint Rev. J. W. Porter to preach the introductory sermon at the next Association and Rev. B. E. Hudgins, alternate.

Called for unfinished business. There was none.

Called for new business of the Association. There was none.

The business of the Association being finished there was a motion made and carried to adjourn to meet with Mt. Willing church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1920.

On motion Rev. J. W. Porter preached the farewell sermon. At the close of the sermon a song was sung and the parting hand was taken.

REV. A. L. WARREN, Moderator.

J. E. CHAFFIN, Clerk.

MINISTERS AND THEIR ADRESSES.

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 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 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 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 of 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 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 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 benovlent 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

CHURCHES, COUNTY & STATE	DELEGATES	PASTOR	CLERK AND POST OFFICE	Baptized	Deceased	Meeting Days	Total Membership	Paid for Minutes
Union Chapel, Lamar Co., Ala.....	C. H. Graves, Lee Collins S. D Loftis.....	J W Porter.....	Lee Collins, Vernon, Ala.....	1	4			\$2.50
Mt. Willing, Fayette Co., Ala.....	J W Chaffin, W B Webster, E D McDaniel.....	C A Chaffin.....	J W Chaffin, Guin, Ala.....	1	3	3	96	3.00
Fairview, Lamar Co., Ala.....	Walter Lockhart, J N Lockhart.....	S F Lee.....	J H Dill, Crews Dept., Ala.....			1	47	1.50
Piney Grove, Lamar Co., Ala.....	A J Motes.....	ETAOIN	W M Crews, Guin, Ala.....	3		2	69	2.00
Pearce's Chapel, Monroe Co., Miss.....	W A Towrey, Aey Fredric, A E Cowley.....	Allen & Porter.....	J B Pearce, Smithville, Miss.....	1	3	189	2.00	
Beaverton, Lamar Co., Ala.....	J M Hill, A S Gann, B Hollis.....	S F Lee.....	A S Gann, Beaverton, Ala.....	2		4	57	1.50
Corinth, Lamar Co., Ala.....	J N McClung, V B Hester, J A Tate.....	C A Chaffin.....	J N McClung, Covin, Ala.....		1	2		
Military Grove, Lamar Co., Ala.....	W W Mansel.....	S F Lee.....	J P Peoples, Crews Dept., Ala.....					1.00
Siloam, Marion Co., Ala.....	Not Represented.....							
New Hope, Lamar Co., Ala.....	A M Pennington.....	C A Chaffin.....	A M Pennington, Vernon, Ala.....		1	26	1.00	