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# MINUTES

—OF THE—

## *Fortieth Annual Session*

—OF THE—

## *Vernon Freewill Baptist Association*

—HELD WITH—

## *Vernon Church*

Lamar County Alabama

October 16, 17, 18, 1920.

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### OFFICERS

M. L. HOLLIS.....Moderator

S. G. JOHNSON.....Clerk

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The Next Session of This Association Will be Held  
With Springfield Church 2½ Miles West of Vernon,  
Ala., Beginning on Saturday Before the Third Sun-  
day in October, 1921.

## PROCEEDINGS.

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The Fortieth Annual Session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association, held with Vernon Church, October 16, 17, 18, 1920.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Text 2nd Timothy, 2nd chapter 15th verse.

After which one hour was taken for refreshments.

At 2 o'clock the Association came together by singing.

On motion, the moderator appointed reading clerks, as follows: Bro. S. P. Hollis and R. H. Yerby. After which the letters were handed in and read and the names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Springfield Church—S. P. Hollis, D. G. Jordon and J. O. Boover.

Vernon Church—W. Y. Turner, O. D. Pennington, Loyd Turner and R. G. Pennington.

Mt. Harmony Church—B. C. Guin, J. W. Crawford, J. W. Graham and S. L. Cash.

Friendship Church—J. T. Green, J. O. Green and G. A. Weir.

Liberty Church—W. W. Barnes, T. J. Hankins, R. N. Yerby and J. R. Price.

Mt. Pleasant Church—Leslie Sanders and J. W. Adair.

Damascus Church—J. C. Gibson, J. F. Harbrough and J. E. Smith.

On motion, the following names were added to the roll of delegates; From Friedship Church—J. V. Weathers; from Liberty Church—K. W. Jenkins; from Mt. Pleasant Church—J. L. McNees, B. M. Sanders and Tenal Hollis.

Called for new churches into our body, whereupon

Bro. Y. W. Byrd presented a petitionary letter from Smyrna Church, which was read and received by the body.

On motion, the Association went into an election for Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Rev. M. L. Hollis 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 coresponding delegates from sister Associations, whereupon the following came forward; From Mt. Moriah Association—Rev. Wood Springfield, Bros. J. T. Williams and B. D. Williams.

Invited visitors to a seat with us, whereupon Rev. H. M. Jones and Rev. S. A. Blach came forward and were given a seat with us.

On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint all committees. He proceeded to appoint as follows:

On Arrangments—S. P. Hollis, J. E. Smith and J. T. Green, with Deacons of Vernon Church.

On Documents and Order of Business—D. G. W. Hollis, Tenal Hollis and G. B. Taylor with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Puplication and Literature—R. N. Yerby, D. G. Jordon and G. A. Weir.

On Temperance—J. W. Adair, J. C. Gibson and J. V. Weathers.

On Finance—J. O. Green, J. F. Harbrough and K. W. Jenkins.

On Sabbath Schools—T. J. Adair, Y. W. Byrd and B. C. Guin.

On Credentials—J. L. McNees, W. W. Barnes and S. L. Cash.

On Deceased Members—M. D. Clearman, B. M. Sanders and R. W. Pennington.

On Quries and Resolutions—J. W. Graham, J. L. Sanders and Loyd Turner.

On Moral Reform—J. R. Rice, J. O. Boover and J. W. Crawford.

Committee on Arrangments reported as follows: Preaching tonight by Rev. Wood Springfield at Springfield Church. Song and prayer service commencing at 9 A. M. tomorrow and preaching at 11 A. M. by Rev. Wood Springfield and preaching Sunday night by Rev. M. L. Hollis.

On motion the report was received and the committee held for further use.

On motion the Association adjourned until Sunday morning prayer by Rev. H. M. Jones.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock the congregation rendered a fine song service until 10 A. M., then the congregation retired to the Methodist Church to Sunday School. At 11 o'clock the congregation returned to the Freewill Baptist Church and Rev. Wood Springfield preached to a large congregation. Subject: "Where is Jesus now and what is He doing now." Text Hebrews 10th chapter; 12th verse. After which the Lord's Supper was administered to a host of partakers. At 3 P. M. Rev. J. D. Byars preached to a large congregation, using for his text; 1st Corinthians 15th chapter; 58th verse.

At 6:30 P. M. the choir arranged and rendered a fine song service, and at 7 P. M. Rev. M. L. Hollis occupied the stand and preached, using for his text Isaiah 5th chapter; 2nd verse.

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### Monday Morning Session.

At 8:30 the Assiciation came together by singing. "Glory to His Name." The Moderator read 12th chapter of Romans, after which prayer by Rev. Wood Springfield.

The minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

On motion the name of Rev. J. W. Adams was en-

rolled as a delegate from Springfield Church.

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**Call for Report of Committies.**

**Report of Committee on Documents and Order of Business.**

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

1. We recommend that we proceed with the former order of business.

2. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Springfield Church, 2½ miles west of Vernon, beginning on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1921, and Rev. M. D. Clearman preach the Introductory Sermon, with Rev. T. J. Adair alternate.

3. We recommend that a Sunday School convention be held with Liberty Church on Saturday before the first Sunday in July, 1921.

4. We recommend that a Union meeting be held with Damascus Church, beginning on Saturday before the third Sunday in July, 1921, and that Rev T. J. Adair preach the Introductory sermon, with Rev G. B. Taylor alternate.

5. We recommend that Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes, that he have 300 copies printed, that he have them printed where he can get it done best, cheapest and quickest and he be allowed \$5.00 for his service.

Respectfully submitted,

T. F. HOLLIS, Chairman

The report was received and the committee discharged.

The report was re-read by sections and adopted as read.

At 11 o'clock Rev. S. A. Blach occupied the stand and preached to a large and attentive congregation,

using for his text Matthew 22nd chapter, 42nd verse, after which there was a big revival and shouts were heard from all parts of the congregation.

One hour was taken for refreshments.

At 1 o'clock P. M. the Association re-convened, songs, "I'll Live On" and "Mothers Love."

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### **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 misisters may better prepare themselves to preach the gospel.

Respectfully submitted,

R. N. YERBY, Chairman.

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

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### **Report of Committee on Temperance.**

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

We recommend that we all be more temperate in our daily walks of life, that we abstain from all appearance of evil, that our Christian influence may not be hindered, and recommend specially that all our members abstain from all intoxicating drinks, so that the world may know that Jesus Christ is with us.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. ADAIR, Chairman,

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

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### **Report of Committee on Finance.**

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

We have collected from the different churches as follows: Friendship Church \$5.00, Mt. Pleasant Church \$3.00, Liberty Church \$5.00, Vernon Church \$5.00, Mt. Harmony Church \$2.75, Damascus Church \$5.00, Springfield Church \$5.00, Smyrna Church \$1.50, Total \$32.25.

Respectfully submitted,

J. O. GREEN, Chairman,

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

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#### Report of Committee on Credentials.

We, your committee on credentials, submit the following:

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

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. McNEES, Chairman,

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

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#### Report of Committee on Deceased Members.

We, your committee on Deceased Members find that God has called from our midst the following named Brothers and Sisters, to-wit. From Mt. Pleasant Church—Bro. J. G. Sanders; from Springfield Church—Bro. Pink Jennington; from Mt. Harmony Church—Sister Mary Sims, Sister Nancy C. Street and Bro Wesley C. Wheeler; from Friendship Church—Bro. B. P. Gibson and Sisters Parlee Williams, Mittie Gore and Velma Tate; from Liberty Church—Bro. J. T. Lawrence.

All the above named Brothers and Sisters died, we trust, 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,

M. D. CLEARMAN, Chairman,

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

After which was sung, "Gone Home to Rest," and prayer by Rev. T. J. Adair, in memory of the deceased.

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### Report of Committee on Queries and Resolutions.

We, your Committee on Queries and Resolutions, submit the following:

1. For what purpose did Christ wash his disciples feet, and did He admonish his disciples to wash each others feet for the same purpose?

2. Was the spirit that came down on Pentecost the third Person in the Trinity, and does that spirit remain with the church until the present time?

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. GRAHAM, Chairman,

The report was received, then re-read and discussed by sections and the discussion of the body was as follows:

1st Section—The discussion on the topic of foot washing was that it taught the humbleness, humility and love by our Saviour, and his language shows that his disciples were taught to wash each others feet for the same purpose.

2nd Section—The discussion on the topic of the Holy Ghost was that the Holy Ghost was the third person in the Trinity and that it remains unto this day and will until the end.

## Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

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We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report that inasmuch as the Bible teaches us to train the child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Therefore, being aware of the negligence practiced along this line, and knowing the evils to which they are subject we therefore suggest that Sunday Schools be organized, in which the word of God be taught, which will enlighten the mind and lead them to Christ and future use in the church.

And we further urge upon the Ministers to lecture the churches not less than twice each year on the subject of Sabbath Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. ADAIR, Chairman,

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

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## Report of Committee on Moral Reform.

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

Seemingly the minds of the young are inclined to seek after worldly amusements, which are inclined to injure their morals.

We recommend that the church take a closer oversight over them, and that they condemn every thing that has the least influence towards corrupting their minds or stagnating the brain so that it would render them unfit for usefulness as Christians.

We should condemn such worldly amusements as dancing, gambling in any form, either by chance, matching, raffling, marble playing on Sunday, or hang-

ing around Railroad Stations or where business does not call any one.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. PRICE, Chairman,

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

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

To Mt. Moriah Association—D. G. W. Hollis, W. Y. Turner and J. O. Green.

To Jasper Association—T. J. Adair, M. D. Clearman and A. A. Burgin.

To State Line Association—J. T. Green, Dwey Jordan and J. L. McNeas.

On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint a delegate to the State Conference, whereupon he appointed S. G. Johnson.

On motion the minute fund was turned over to the Secretary, after which the following resolutions was read:

Resolved, That this body tender its thanks to the Vernon Church and the good brethren and sisters and the Pastor of the Methodist Church, and all the good people of the town of Vernon and surrounding community, for their able manner in caring for this body and their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. GRAHAM, Chairman,

Resolution received, adopted and committee discharger, after which the choir sang a song and the congregation took the parting hand.

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#### List of Ordained Ministers and their Post Offices.

D. G. W. HOLLIS.....Rt. 1, Bedford, Ala.  
G. B. TAYLOR.....Rt. 1, Melbourn, Ala.

T. J. ADAIR.....Vernon, Ala.  
 M. D. CLEARMAN.....Vernon, Ala.  
 S. M. PERKINS.....Vernon, Ala.  
 M. L. HOLLIS.....Moscow, Miss.

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### Licensed Ministers

C. D. SPRINGFIELD.....Rt. 1, Vernon, Ala.

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### CONSTITUTION.

Section 1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon Freewill 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 the Association shall be 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.

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### 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.

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### 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 laws of his maker, but from voluntary transgression fell from that happy state, in consequence of which, all mankind are now deprived, 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 de-

cree, 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 of 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 the 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 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 Christian 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.

# STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS and POSTOFFICE.	CLERKS and POSTOFFICE.	Baptised	Received by letter	Dis. by Letter	Died	Meetings Days	Members	Paid for Minutes
Vernon, Lamar Co., Ala.-----	T. L. Walker,-----	O. D. Pennington, Vernon, Ala.-----					3		\$5.00
Springfield, Lamar Co., Ala.-----	M. L. Hollis, Moscow, Miss.-----	D. G. Jordan,-----	6	4			1	80	5.00
Mt. Harmony, Lamar Co., Ala.-----	D. G. W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala.-----	S. G. Johnson, Fernbank, Ala.-----	2	2		3	3	153	2.75
Mt. Pleasant, Lamar Co., Ala.-----	T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala.-----	J. T. Baxter, Caledonia, Miss.-----	3			1	2	86	3.00
Friendship, Lamar Co., Ala.-----	D. G. W. Hollis, Bedford, Ala.-----	J. T. Green, Steens, Miss.-----	2			4	4		5.00
Liberty, Lamar Co., Ala.-----	T. J. Alair, Vernon, Ala.-----	K. W. Jenkins, Vernon, Ala.-----	10		2	1		98	5.00
Damascus, Kemper Co., Miss.-----	M. L. Hollis, Moscow, Miss.-----	O. S. Kynerd, Moscow, Miss.-----	9	5				69	5.00
Smyrna, Kemper Co., Miss.-----	M. L. Hollis, Moscow, Miss.-----	J. M. Pilgrim,-----	5	7				12	1.50

Delegates—Vernon—W. Y. Turner, O. D. Pennington, Loyd Turner and R. G. Pennington. Springfield—S. P. Hollis, D. G. Jordan, J. O. Boover and J. W. Adams. Mt. Harmony—B. C. Guin, J. W. Crawford, J. W. Graham and L. S. Cash. Friendship—J. T. Green, J. O. Green, G. A. Weir and J. V. Weathers. Liberty—W. W. Barnes, T. J. Hankins, R. N. Yerby, J. R. Price and K. W. Jenkins. Mt. Pleasant—Leslie Sanders, J. W. Adair, J. L. McNees, B. M. Sanders and Tenal Hollis. Demascus—J. C. Gibson, J. F. Harbrough and J. E. Smith. Smyrna—Y. W. Byrd.