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Minutes
OF THE
Forty First Annual Session
OF THE
VERNON FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
Beaverton Church

**Beginning on Saturday, Before the Fourth Sun-
day in September, 1921**



OFFICERS

REV. C. A. CHAFFIN.....Moderator

J. W. CHAFFIN.....Clerk

**The Next Session of the Association Will Convene
With Union Chapel Church on Saturday Be-
fore the Third Sunday in October, 1922.**

MINUTES.

The Forty-first Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Beaverton Church September 24-25 and 26, 1921.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rec. C. A. Chaffin. Text Col. 1:19. After preaching, one hour was taken for refreshments.

The Ministers and Delegates 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 the Moderator.

Announced the Association ready for business.

1. By motion the Moderator appointed Bro. J. E. Chaffin and A. J. Robertson as 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. C. A. Chaffin, Moderator, and J. W. 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 from sister Associations. Came forward, Bro. B. Smith from Jasper and Rev. J. M. Hass from Tupelo. 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.—Will Cowley, S. J. Loftis and V. B. Hester.

On Document and Order of Business—S. F. Lee, J. W. Porter, J. A. Tate, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Temperance.—C. L. Guin, R. M. Palmer, J. H. Dill and J. R. Barnes.

On Finance.—J. T. Taylor, E. F. Collins and W. H. Rye.

On Deceased Members.—Acy Fredrick, M. N. Shellnutt, D. B. Hester and M. C. Lockhart.

On Sabbath School.—A. J. Robertson, J. Fench, A. S. Gann and H. H. Rye.

On Ministerial Credentials.—M. Hill, H. H. Dill and G. W. Chaffin.

On Queries and Resolutions.—C. R. Chaffin and E. D. McDaniel.

On motion the Committee made their report on Devotional Service for Sunday as follows: Rev. A. L. Warren to preach at 9:00 o'clock, Rev. J. W. Porter at 11:00 o'clock and Rev. S. F. Lee at 7:30 P. M.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8:00 o'clock.

A song was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. J. A. Tate.

Benediction by the Moderator.

Sunday Service.

Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock the congregation was called together with a song by A. O. Nelson, followed by an interesting sermon delivered by Rev. A. L. Warren. Text Rv. 14:13.

At 11:00 o'clock Rev. J. W. Porter preached to a very large congregation. Text 1st Peter, third Chapter 18th Verse.

After preaching, the Sacrament was served to a large congregation of people. Judging from the number who partook of the Sacrament, all hearts and eyes were turned to the Cross of Calvary.

Intermission.

During these hours of intermission the appointment of Rev. S. F. Lee was omitted on account of rain.

Monday Session.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

A song was sung 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 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 report 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 Pine Grove Church and the same to convene on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1922.
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 his Association as much as he can during the year.

S. F. LEE, Chairman.

The report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted by sections.

Report on Temperance.

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

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 drink, so that the world may know that Jesus Christ is with us.

C. L. GUIN, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

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 four of our co-laborers in Christ to their eternal home during this Associational year. Their names are as follows: From Mt. Milling, Bros. J. T. Lee, A. T. Collins, Sister Ittie McDonald. From Fairview, Sister Synthel Bailey. From Pearces Chapel, Sidney Van-Diver. From Pine Grove, Sister Mattie Sorrels.

All the above named members died in hope of eternal happiness, and as our labors increase 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.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

Sabbath Schools.

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

After a close investigation of the different churches of the Association we find the Sabbath Schools on the rising ground to what they have been in the past.

We herewith urge our people to push this great work which is a part of the worship of God. We also urge our Ministers to impress on each church to take up this work.

Respectfully submittd.

A. J. ROBERTSON, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

Queries and Resolution.

We, your Committee on Resolution, resolve that we, the officers and delegates of the Forty-first Annual Session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association tender our thanks to Beaverton Church and surrounding community for their kindness and hospitality.

Respectfully submitted.

C. R. CHAFFIN, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as 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 \$15.00.

Respectfully submitted.

J. T. TAYLOR, Chairman.

Report received and 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 a thorough investigation we find all of our Ministers in good standing in their respective churches.

Respectfully submitted.

J. M. HILL, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

Called for Unfinished Business.

By motion, Rev. E. A. Palmer was restored. Extended to him the right hand of welcome.

On motion, the Moderator was empowered to appoint one delegate from each church of this Association to meet with the delegates of the other side the Association, which convenes with Springfield Church on October 1st to the 3rd, 1921, for the purpose of reuniting these divided bodies back together again. Those appointed were: From Union Chapel, A. J. Robertson; Mt. Willing, J. E. Chaffin; Farview, J. H. Dill; Pine Grove, M. N. Shelnut; Pearces Chapel, Acy Frederick; Beaverton, J. M. Hill; Corinth, D. R. Barnes, Military Grove, Warren Mansel; Siloam, Hasting Rye.

On motion, the Moderator appointed Corresponding Messengers to sister Associations. To Jasper Association; Rev. J. A. Tate, M. N. Shelnut, E. A. Palmer; To State Line Association, Rev. S. F. Lee and Jim Finch.

On motion, the Moderaton appointed Rev. S. F. Lee to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association, and Rev. J. A. Tate, alternate.

The business of the Association being completed, a motion was carried to adjourn to meet with Pine Grove, Church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1922.

Some good songs were sung and the parting hand was taken, and last good bye till we meet again.

Prayer by Rev. J. M. Haas.

Benediction by the Moderator.

The Committee appointed met at Springfield Church. The Committee of both sides agreed to rescind the act of the divide and come together as one body.

The Committee recommended a call session of both sides of the Association to meet at Liberty Church on Saturday before the first Sunday in November, 1921. Both sides of the Association met at Liberty Church in called session.

Bro. Adair called the house to order.

A song was sung, prayer by Rev. C. A. Chaffin.

The Chairman called the roll of churches, Delegates from each church answered to their names.

By motion went into election for Moderator and Clerk to serve for the next year.

Rev. Luther Hollis was elected Moderator, J. W. Chaffin, Clerk.

A Committee was appointed to set the time and place for the next Association.

Called for report of Committee.

We, your Committee recommend the next session of the Association to be held with Union Chapel Church. The same to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1922.

A. S. GANN, Chairman.

By motion report adopted as read.

By motion adjourned to meet with Union Chapel Church Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1922.

REV. LUTHER HOLLIS, Moderator.

J. M. CHAFFIN, Clerk.

MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

C. A. Chaffin.....	Route 2, Winfield, Ala.
J. W. Porter.....	Route 2, Winfield, Ala.
T. M. Lollar.....	Route 1, Covin, Ala.
W. T. Smith.....	Smithville, Miss.
M. R. Allen.....	Smithville, Miss.
B. C. Hudgins.....	Crews, Ala.
S. F. Lee.....	Route 2, Guin, Ala.
J. A. Tate.....	Route 4, Vernon, Ala.
E. A. Palmer.....	Route 4, Hamilton, 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 deprived 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 close 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 oth-

ers 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 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 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 of the Association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

10. No members 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 broth-

ers 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 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. According to the teaching of the Bible we the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association will not fellowship or hold in our fellowship any church or churches who allow or invite any woman claiming to be a minister of the Gospel to preach in their church or churches, and any minister of this association who teaches or advocates the Scriptural right for a woman to preach the Gospel of Christ, the same shall be dealt with by this Association.

12. 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

CHURCH, COUNTY and STATE	DELEGATES	PASTOR	LCERK and POST OFFICE	Paid for Minutes--			
				Baptised	Decased	Meeting Day	Total Membership
Union Chapel, Lamar County, Ala.	E. F. Collins, S. D. Loftis, A. J. Robertson	C. A. Chaffin---	A. J. Robertson-----	---	---	4	70
Mt. Willing, Fayette County, Ala.	J. T. Taylor, C. L. Guin, E. D. McDonald	A. L. Warren---	J. E. Chaffin, Guin, Ala.	---	3	3	10
Fairview, Lamar County, Ala.	J. H. Dill, H. H. Dill, R. M. Palmer-----	S. F. Lee-----	J. H. Dill, Crews, Ala.	---	4	1	4
Pine Grove, Lamar County, Ala.	G. W. Chaffin, C. R. Chaffin, M. N. Shellnut	S. F. Lee-----	W. M. Crews, Guin, Ala.	2	---	2	82
Pearce's Chapel, Monroe County, Miss.	Will Cowley, Acy Frederick-----	J. W. Porter---	J. B. Pearce, Smithville, Miss.	---	1	3	20
Beaverton, Lamar County, Ala.	J. M. Hill, A. S. Gann, M. C. Lockart---	J. W. Porter---	A. S. Gann, Beaverton, Ala.	6	---	4	61
Corinth, Lamar County, Ala.	D. B. Hester, J. R. Barnes, V. B. Hester--	C. A. Chaffin---	J. C. Barnes, Covin, Ala.	---	---	2	2
Military Grove-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	---	---
Siloam, Marion County, Ala.	W. H. Rye, H. J. Rye, J. Fench-----	E. A. Palmer---	R. M. Palmer, Detriot, Ala.	---	---	---	8