

Early

Minutes
OF THE
Forty-Second Annual Session
OF THE
Vernon Freewill Baptist
Association

HELD WITH
Union Chapel Church
Saturday Before the Third Sunday
in October, 1922.

OFFICERS

REV. M. L. HOLLIS.....Moderator
J. W. CHAFFIN.....Clerk

The Next Session of This Association Will Convene
With Mt. Pleasant Church, Eight Miles South of
Vernon, Saturday Before the Third Sunday
in October, 1923

MINUTES.

The Forty Second Annual Session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association was held with Union Chapel Church, October 23-24-25, 1922.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. M. L. Hollis, text, Neh. 4-6. 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 by Moderator, who announced the Association ready for business.

1. By motion the Moderator appointed Bros. Grant Johnson and J. E. Chaffin as reading Clerks.

2. The letters from the various churches were called for, handed in and contents noted as per Statistical Table.

3. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize, which was done by electing Rev. M. L. Hollis Moderator and J. W. Chaffin, Clerk.

The Moderator and Clerk took their seats and after appropriate remarks by the Moderator for the honor he promised to discharge his duty to the best of his ability.

4. Called for corresponding messengers from sister Associations. Came forward Rev. J. D. Byars, T. A. Guin, J. T. Williams from Mt. Mirah, and J. B. Smith from Jasper. The Moderator and Clerk extended to them the right hand of welcome.

5. Give invitation for new Churches, was none.

6. On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint the various Committees and the following were appointed:

On Preaching.

On Documents and Order of Business—Rev. C. A. Chaffin, T. J. Adair, S. T. Coleman and T. M. Lollar.

On Finance—Lucy Gann, Mrs. Pardin, A. S. Pann and E. D. McDaniel.

On Deceased Members—J. M. Hill, Mose Hollis, H. D. Shellnutt, D. W. Dill, Frank Prator and Lloyd Turner.

On Sabbath School—S. F. Lee, E. T. Collins, J. W. Adair, P. E. Maddox, W. D. Pettis and J. T. Taylor.

On Ministerial Credentials—G. A. Ware, Stevins Cash, W. R. Jones, K. W. Jenkins, G. W. Chaffin, J. Boover and Dalton Turner.

On Queries and Resolutions—M. D. Clearman, J. H. Dill, Carlos Roberts, W. W. Mansel and J. R. McClung.

On Temperance—Lester Collins, J. R. Price, D. W. Hester, Escor Wheeler, C. H. West and W. H. Rye.

On Literature—W. L. Burns, J. N. McClung, J. C. Gibson, H. G. Rye, George Cantrell and Alex Taylor.

On Motion the Committee made their report on Devotional Service for Sunday as follows:

Rev. S. F. Lee to preach at 9 o'clock. Rev. J. D. Byars at 11 o'clock and Rev. S. T. Coleman at 2:30.

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

A song was sung and prayer was offered by M. D. Clearman. Benediction by the Moderator.

Sunday Service

Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock the congregation was called together with a song which was followed by an interesting sermon delivered by Rev. S. F. Lee, Text Matt. 25:29.

At 11:00 o'clock Rev. J. D. Byars preached to a very large congregation, Text, St. John 3:18.

Sacrament was served to a large congregation.

Intermission one hour.

The Choir arranged and rendered a fine song service and at 2 p. m., Rev. S. T. Coleman occupied the stand and preached, using for his Text, Gal. 5:17.

Monday Session

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, opened by singing, Amazing Grace.

The Moderator reading the 25th Chapter Proverbs, followed by prayer, song after prayer, Amazing Grace.

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 Session was omitted.

Called for Report on Various Committees

Report on Document and Order of Business.

We your Committee on Document and Order of Business beg leave to submit the following report:

1. We recommend that we adopt the general co-operative order of business.

2. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Mt. Pleasant Church, eight miles south of Vernon and the same to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1923.

3. We recommend that we have five hundred copies of minutes printed and that the Clerk superintend the printing of same and that he have \$5.00 for his service.

4. We recommend that the Moderator of this As-

sociation visit and preach to the different churches of this Association as much as he can during the year.

C. A. CHAFFIN, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report re-read by Sections and adopted as read.

Report On Temperance

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

We are made to believe that the Temperance thought is one of the greatest thoughts known to mankind. If we disobey the laws of God by getting into an intemperate attitude we bring upon ourselves condemnation because he had said be ye temperate in all things. We should all join together in urging and helping one another to be more temperate because the things that God has given as a blessing to mankind can be used so that it will prove a curse instead of a blessing.

LESTER COLLINS, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

On Deceased Members

We your Committee on Deceased Members submit our report.

We find that our Heavenly Father has summoned seven of our colaborers in Christ to their eternal home during this Associational year, their names are as follows: Margaret Wright from Mt. Harmony, J. H. Franks, Military Grove, Sister Ellen Green and Sallie Gibson from Friendship, Sister Della McGowan from Mt. Willing, Angeline Lawrence and Bro. Charlie Guiton from Liberty, Bro. Andy Merchant and Emma Bradley from Springfield, Sallie Blue from Mt. Pleasant. 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 pray this our last tribute of respect to these our much beloved brothers and sisters that are gone on before us.

J. M. HILL, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

Sabbath School

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

After a careful investigation of the different churches of the Association we find the Sabbath School is not as prosperous as should be in all the churches. 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 Submitted.

S. F. LEE, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

On motion a Sunday School convention was granted to Pine Grove Church. The same to convene on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1923.

Credentials

We your Committee on Credentials submit the following:

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

G. A. WARE, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

Queries and Resolutions

We your Committee on Resolutions resolve that we the officers and delegates of the 42nd Annual Session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association, we find no Queries we wished discussed. We also tender our thanks to Union Chapel Church and surrounding community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay here.

Respectfully Sumbitted.

M. D. CLEARMAN, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

On Literature

We your Committee of Publication and Literature submit the following:

We need a better system of publishing 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.

W. L. BURNS, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

On Finance

We your Committee on Finance beg leave to report as follows:

After, calling for the Association State and Minute funds we find on hand: \$28.15 Association Minutes, \$3.00 State fund.

We recommend that the pastor of each church of the Association take up a freewill offering on the last meeting day before the Association and turn same

over to the Clerk of the Association to pay for the printing of the minutes.

LUCY GANN, Chairman.

Report received and Committee discharged.

On motion the minute money was turned over to the Clerk.

Called for unfinished business.

On motion Grant Johnson was appointed Secretary.

On motion the following investigating Committee was appointed: J. T. Taylor, Winfield, Ala., Route 2; G. A. Weir, Steens, Miss.; J. W. Adair, Vernon, Ala., Route 1; A. S. Gann, Beaverton, Ala., A. J. Robertson, Covin, Ala., Route 1; Grant Johnson, Fernbank, Ala., Route 1.

Surplus funds brought forward from 1922, \$15.28.

Dismissed one hour for dinner.

House called to order by Moderator, song by Bro. Jim Collin, (Home Over There.) Prayer by Rev. Salters.

Moderator announced the Association ready for business.

On motion the Moderator was empowered to set the time and place for Union Meetings and the following were set: Vernon 3rd in January; Beaverton, 4th in April; Mt. Harmony, 3rd in July; Pine Grove, 2nd in April.

On motion T. J. Adair, S. F. Lee, M. L. Hollis and C. A. Chaffin was appointed Presbytery for the purpose of ordaining the following Deacons: Carlos Roberts, A. S. Gann, J. A. Boover and Mose Hollis.

On motion adopted the old Constitution and Church Decorum.

On motion Bro. S. T. Coleman was granted license to preach one year.

A revised list of ministers was asked for.

The Moderator was empowered to appoint Corresponding Messengers to sister Associations.

Mt. Moriah—Grant Johnson and Lloyd Turner.

Jasper—G. W. Chaffin and A. S. Gann.

State Line—J. W. Adair and Mose Hollis.

Tupelo—J. M. Hill and Green Hollis.

To State Convention—J. W. Chaffin, Bedford Guin and A. J. Robertson.

The business of the Association being completed a motion was carried to adjourn to meet with Mt. Pleasant Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1923.

Sang, God Be With You, and the parting hand was taken and last good bye till we meet again.

Benediction by the Moderator.

REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Moderator.

J. W. CHAFFIN, Clerk.

Ministerees and Their Address

C. A. Chaffin, Route 2, Winfield, Ala.

G. B. Taylor, Route 1, Melbourn, Ala.

T. M. Lollar, Route 1 Covin, Ala.

T. J. Adair, Vernon, Ala.

W. T. Smith, Smithville, Miss.

M. D. Clearman, Vernon, Ala.

B. C. Hudgins.

S. M. Perkins, Vernon, Ala.

S. F. Lee, Route 2, Guin, Ala.

M. L. Hollis, Moscow, Miss.

J. A. Tate, Route 4, Vernon, Ala.

E. A. Palmer, Route 4, Hamilton, Ala.

RULES OF DECORUM

Article 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session. Former Clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.

Art. 2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

Art. 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.

Art. 4. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Art. 5. A majority of delegates shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of churches, then it shall be unanimous.

Art. 6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in the 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 the chair while he is speaking.

Art. 7. Only one person shall speak at the same time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator, and after recognition by the Moderator, proceed.

Art. 8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or use words of personal reflection.

Art. 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.

Art. 10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

Art. 11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave from the Moderator.

CONSTITUTION

Article 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.

Art. 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 of this Association. In case any church depart from the articles of faith and supports doctrines of heresy, or allows any minister of her body to teach doctrine not in keeping with our articles of faith, the same

shall be dealt with by the Association as it may see proper according to the teachings of the Bible.

Art. 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 the Association shall rule in matters of doctrine and general interests, though the church may in extreme cases call in aid from sister churches.

Art. 4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-thirds vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

Art. 5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority of votes.

Art. 6. This Association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by previous annual session, and shall not adjourn finally, until all the business is transacted.

Art. 7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

Art. 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.

Art. 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.

Articles of Faith, and Church Covenant

1. **The Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in his divine nature truly God, in his human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once cruci-

fied, he is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by his incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The condition of salvation are 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unre-served committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become his elect.

10. **Freedom of the Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

12. **Perseverance.** All believers in Christ, who

through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances. Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel: Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. The Christian Sabbath. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

15. Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Statistical Table

X Union Chapel (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates E. F. Collins, P. E. Maddox, W. R. Jones, Pastor, C. A. Chaffin; Clerk; A. J. Robertson. Paid for minutes \$2.50; Total Membership 56; Meeting Days 4th; Deceased none; Baptized none.

Vernon (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates; Dalton Turner; Lloyd Turner; Pastor, T. J. Adair; Clerk, Myrtle Hankins, Vernon, Ala; Meeting Days, 3rd; Deceased none; Baptised none.

X Pine Grove (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates, Carlos Roberts; Alex Taylor; G. W. Chaffin; Pastor, S. F. Lee; Clerk, W. M. Crews, Guin, Ala.; Paid for minutes, \$1.75; Total Membership, 88; Meeting Days, 2nd; Deceased, none; Baptised 5.

X Fairview (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates; J. H. Dill; D. W. Dill; Pastor, S. F. Lee; Clerk, J. H. Dill, Crews, Ala.; Paid for minutes, \$1.00; Total Membership, 61; Meeting Days, 1st; Deceased none; Baptised, 11.

Mt. Harmony—Escar Wheeler, Steven Cash, Frank Prator; Pastor, M. L. Hollis; Clerk, S. G. Johnson; Paid for minutes, \$2.20; Total Membership, 164; Meeting Days, 3; Deceased, 2; Baptised, 14.

Mt. Willing (Fayette County, Alabama) Delegates, H. D. Shellnut; J. T. Taylor; E. D. McDaniel; Pastor, C. A. Chaffin; Clerk, W. Q. Haney, Guin, Ala.; Paid for minutes, \$2.80; Total Membership, 98; Meeting Days, 3; Deceased, 1; Baptised, 2.

Siloam (Marion County, Alabama) Represented by letter; Pastor, E. A. Palmer; Clerk, H. J. Rye; Paid for minutes, \$1.50; Total Membership, 81; Deceased, none; Baptised, none.

Liberty (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates J. R. Price; K. W. Jenkins; Raymon Lawrence; Pastor, M.

L. Hollis; Clerk, T. J. Hankins, Vernon, Ala.; Paid for minutes, \$2.55; Total Membership, 105; Meeting Days,; Deceased, 2; Baptised, none.

Friendship (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates, G. A. Weir; W. L. Burns; Pastor, G. B. Taylor; Clerk, G. A. Weir; Paid for minutes, \$1.65; Total Membership, 90; Meeting Days, 4; Deceased, 2; Baptised, none.

Military Grove (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates, W. W. Mansel; Pastor, E. A. Palmer; G. M. Gann, Clerk; Paid for minutes, \$1.50; Total Membership, 31; Meeting Days, 4th; Deceased, 1; Baptised 0.

Damascus (Kemper County, Mississippi) Delegates, J. C. Gibson; W. D. Pettis; Clerk, O. S. Kinerd.

Springfield (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates, Moses Hollis; Lester Collins; John Boover; Pastor, M. L. Hollis; Clerk, Lester Collins; Paid for minutes, none; Deceased, 1; Baptised, 2.

Corinth (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates, J. N. McClung; D. W. Hester; J. R. McClung; Pastor, C. A. Chaffin; J. C. Barnes, Covin, Ala.; Paid for minutes, \$1.25; Total Membership, 26; Meeting Days 2; Deceased, none; Baptised, none.

Mt. Pleasant (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates, J. W. Adair; Mrs. Pardon; Pastor, M. L. Hollis; Clerk, J. T. Baxter, Caledonia, Miss.; Paid for minutes, \$3.00; Total Membership,; Meeting Days, 2nd; Deceased, 1; Baptised, 6.

Beaverton (Lamar County, Alabama) Delegates, J. M. Hill; A. S. Gann; Lucie Gann; Pastor, M. L. Hollis; Clerk, A. S. Gann, Beaverton, Ala.; Paid for minutes, \$2.00; Total Membership, 81; Meeting Days, 4; Deceased, none; Baptised, 2.

Taylor Springs—Delegates, S. T. Coleman; George Cantrell.

Skyner not representer.

Pearces Chapel not represented.