

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**Vernon Free Will Baptist**  
**Association**  
**WAS HELD WITH**  
**MT. PLEASANT CHURCH**

**OCTOBER 20, 21, 22, 1923**

**OFFICERS:**

**REV. C. A. CHAFFIN, Moderator**

**J. E. CHAFFIN, Clerk**

The next session of this Association will convene with  
Mt. Willing Church, four miles South of Guin,  
Ala., the same to convene on Friday be-  
fore the third Sunday in Oct. 1924.

## PROCEEDINGS

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The Forty-Third Annual session of the Vernon, Free Will Baptist Association was held with Mt. Pleasant Church, October the 20, 21, 22, 1923. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. M. L. Hollis—Text; 1st. Kings 17; 13. After preaching one hour was taken for refreshments.

The ministers and delegates assembled in the house at due time. The former Moderator being present, and the former clerk being absent the Moderator appointed J. E. Chaffin Clerk pro-tem. The Moderator and Clerk took their seats, and proceeded to business as follows: A song was sung, prayer offered by the Moderator, and then he announced the Association ready for business.

1st. The Moderator appointed Bros. S.G. Johnson and A. S. Gann as reading Clerks.

2nd. The letters from the various churches were called for, handed in, and read. and contents noted as per statistical table.

3rd. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize which was done by electing Rev. C. A. Chaffin Moderator, and J. E. 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 fair, and impartially to the best of his ability.

4th. Called for corresponding messengers; come forward from the Jasper Association, Rev. J. L. Conner; from the Mount Moriah Association, Bros. T. A. Guin, J. T. Johnson and R. C. Stacy; from the Tupelo Association, Rev. J. M. Haas. State Line, represented by letter.

5th. Give invitation for new churches—none presented.

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

1st. On preaching; P. E. Maddox, W. N. McCluskey, and J. M. Hill.

2nd. On Document and Order of Buisness; Revs. G. B. Taylor, S. F. Lee, J. A. Tate, T. J. Adair, M. L. Hollis, with Moderator and Clerk.

3rd. On Deceased Members; Rev. M. L. Hollis, W. J. Markham, B. C. Guin, Robert Rogers.

4th. On Sabbath Schools; S. G. Johnson, J. T. Baxter, J. H. DuBose.

5th. On Ministeral Credentials; S. G. Loftis, H. D. Shelnut, Loyd Turner.

6th. On Queries and Resolutions; C. E. Roberts, J. M. Stanley, R. N. Yerby.

7th. On Temperance; G. A. Weair, P. E. Maddox, J. M. Hill.

8th. On Literature; Mose Hollis, Lee Sizemore, W. N. McCluskey.

On motion the committee made their report, on Devotion Services for Sunday as follows: Rev. S. F. Lee to preach at nine o'clock A. M. At 11 o'clock A. M. Rev. J. L. Conner, and C. A. Chaffin. At 2 o'clock P. M. Rev. G. B. Taylor preach.

On motion the Assciation adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock, a song was sung and prayer was offerd by Rev. G. B. Taylor,

### Sunday Services

Sunday morning at nine o'clock Bro. J. T. Johnson conducted the song services, and Rev. S. F. Lee delivered an able sermon from the text, Heb 3 c. and 1 v Followed by Rev. A. L. Warren.

At 11 A. M. Rev. J. L. Conner, and C. A. Chaffin preached from the subjec "Communion," at the close of the sermons the Lord's Supper was adminstered to a host of christians.

At 2 o'clock P. M. Rev. G. B. Taylor preached an able sermon, text, 1st. Cor. 13 c. 1-2 verses.

Sunday night Rev. J. M. Haas preached an able sermon, subject "Bible Questions.

## Monday Session

The Association met pursuant adjournment; the congregation sung a song, and the Moderator offered prayer.

The Moderator called the body to order.

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

On motion the reading of the minute of Saturday session was omitted.

Called for reports of the various committees.

### Report of Committee on Documents and Order of Business

We, your committee on document and order of business, beg leave to submit the following report:

1st. We recommend the former order of business.

2nd. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Mt. Willing Church, the same to convene on Friday before the third Sunday in Oct. 1924.

3rd. We recommend that we have five hundred copies of minutes printed, and that the Clerk superintend the printing, and that he be allowed \$5 00 for his service,

4th. We recommend that we adopt our Original Articles of Faith,

5th. We recommend that the present Moderator preach the introductory sermon at the next Association; or appoint some one to preach it.

6th. We recommend that we hold two Union Meetings during this Associational year; the places of holding the same to be decided upon by this Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. G. B. Tayler, Chairman.

Report received and the committee discharged.

Report re-read by sections; each section adopted.

By motion the Moderator set the times and places of holding the Union Meetings; the first to be held with



Piney Grove Church, the same to convene on Saturday before the Second Sunday in May 1924.

The second Union-Meeting, to be held with Liberty Church; the same to convene on Saturday before the first Sunday in July 1924. On motion the Moderator of this Association is to serve as moderator of the Union-Meetings.

### **Report on Temperance**

We your committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report: We are made to believe that Temperance is one of the gratest thoughts known to mankind. If we disobay the Laws of God by getting into an intemperate attitude, we bring upon our selves condemnation; because He said "Be ye temperate in all things," therefore we should all join togeather 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.

Report Submitted,

G. A. Weir, Chairman.

### **On Deceased Members**

We your committee on Decesed Mombers beg leave to submit the following report: After a careful review, we find that our Heavenly Father has seen it best in His wise Providence to call from the walk's of lifes ruged path-way the following, Brothers and Sisters to wit: From Beaverton Church, Sister Brunson Hollis; Union Chapel, Sister Mary Brock; Friendship, Sister Ellie Pridmore, and Sister Emma Burnes; Damascus, Brother Estell Harbor; Mt. Harmony, Sister Sarah Graham

We trust that all those mentioned above died in the faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and our loss is Heaven's eternal gain. Report Submitted.

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Chairman.

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 careful investigation of the different churches of the Association we find the Sabbath Schools not to be as prosperous as they should be in all the churches, we herewith urge our people to push this great work; which is a part of the warship of God.

We find good Sabbath Schools at Beaverton, and Springfield Churches; we also urge our ministers to impress upon each church to take up this work. Report Submitted.

S. G. Johnson, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

## **On Credentials**

We your committee on Credentials beg leave to submit the following report: After a careful investigation we find all of our ministers in good standing.

Resptifully Submitted.

S. D. Loftis, 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: Resolve that we officers and delegates of the forty-third annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association, we find no Queries that we wish discussed; we also tender our thanks to Mt. Pleasant church and surrounding community, for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them. Report submitted.

C. E. Roberts, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

## On Literature

We your committee on Literature beg leave to submit the following report: We recommend Free Will Baptist Literature printed by the F. W. B. press. We furthermore recommend that we establish a home press, and use our literature from it. We further recommend that ministers and deacons establish a Sunday School in each church, and use the Free Will Baptist Literature that our members may be better educated in the work of the Free Will Baptist. Respectfully submitted.

Mose Hollis, 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 colling for the minute money, we find that we have collected \$23.30.

Report submitted.

D. W. Dill, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

On motion the money was turned over to the clerk.

On motion adjourned for refreshments, a song was sung by the congregation, prayer by Rev. J. A. Tate.

## AFTER-NOON SESSION

The Moderator called the house to order, congregation sung a song, prayer by Rev. T. J. Adair. The Clerk called the roll of delegates and a quorum being present, proceeded to business as follows: By motion the treasure turn over \$15.28 which he holds to help purchas a printing press.

By motion the Moderator appointed a board of Trustees to wit: A. J. Sanders, A. S. Gann, T. J. Adair, J. E. Chaffin and B. C. Guin, to buy a printing press.

Called for new or unfinished business: By motion each minister of this Association is to take up a collection at their churches in May 1924.

By motion the Moderator appointed Rev. M. L. Hollis T. J. Adair, S. F. Lee and S. G. Johnson, as delegates to the State Conference.

By motion the Moderator appointed corresponding messengers to sister Associations, to Mt. Moriah, Rev. T. J. Adair, S. D. Loftis, B. C. Guin. To Jasper, Rev. S. F. Lee, M. N. Shelnut, Rev. M. L. Hollis. To State Line, A. S. Gann, D. W. Dill and Rev. S. M. Perkins.

By motion the Moderator appointed Rev. M. L. Hollis to preach the introductory sermon, at the next Association.

By motion the Moderator appointed Rev. T. J. Adair to preach the introductory sermon at the first Union Meeting.

By motion the Moderator appointed Rev. S. F. Lee to preach the inductory sermon at the second Union Meeting.

By motion the Moderator of each church to insist upon the women to organize them selves into a woman's league.

The buisness of the Association being finished, there was a move made and carried to adjourn to meet with Mt. Willing Church, four miles South of Guin, Ala., on Friday before the third Sunday in October 1924. A song was sunng and the parting hand was taken, benediction by the Mod.

REV. C. A. CHAFFIN, Moderator.

J. E. CHAFFIN, Clerk.

### Statistical Table

VERNON—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; Loyd Turner and Rev. T. J. Adair. Pastor Rev. M. L. Hollis. Clerk, Loyd Turner. Received by Baptism none, by letter none.

Union Chapel—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; E. F. Collins. P. E. Maddox, S. D. Loftis. Pastor, Rev. J. A. Tate Clerk, S. D. Loftis. Received for minutes \$2.25 Total membership 51. Baptized none, by letter one

Piney Grove—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; C. E. Roberts, M. N. Shelnut, W. J. Markham. Pastor, Rev. S. F. Lee. Clerk, J. A. Markham, Guin, Ala. Paid for minutes \$2.00 Meeting days 2nd. Baptized 6 Received by letter 2 total membersnip 96.



Fairview—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; D. W. Dill, Pastor, Rev. C. A. Chaffin. Paid for minutes \$1.00

Mt. Harmony—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; S. G. Johnson, B. C. Guin, J. M. Stanley. Pastor, M. L. Hollis. Clerk, S. L. Cash. Paid for minutes \$2.00 total membership 163. Deceased two, meeting days the 1st.

Mt. Willing—Fayette County, Ala. Delegates; H. D. Shelnut, W. N. McCluskey, J. E. Chaffin, Clerk, W. J. Haney, Guin, Ala. Paid for minutes \$1.70 Pastor, Rev. J. A. Tate. Total membership 95 meeting days 3rd. Baptized one. Dismissed by letter four.

Siloam—Marion County, represented by letter. Pastor Rev. E. A. Palmer, paid for minutes \$1.70 Baptized one, meeting days 3rd, total membership 83.

Liberty—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; R. N. Yerby J. H. Dubose. Pastor, M. L. Hollis. Paid for minutes \$3.25 meeting days 1st. Clerk, G. C. Lawrence, Vernon, Ala.

Friendship—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; G. A. Weir, Pastor, Rev. G. B. Taylor Meeting days 4th. Dismissed by letter one. Deceased two. Paid for minutes \$2.40.

Military-Grove—Not represented.

Damascus—Kemper County, Miss. Not represented.

Corinth—Lamar County, Ala. Not represented

Springfield—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; Mose Hollis, Robert Rogers, W. J. Brown. Pastor, T. J. Adair. Clerk, E. M. Hollis, Vernon, Ala. Baptized two, received by letter seven, restored three, dismissed two. Paid for minutes \$2.00.

Mt. Pleasant—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; Walter Crossley, J. W. Adair, C. L. Adair. Pastor, M. L. Hollis. Clerk, J. T. Baxter. Meeting days 2nd. Baptized nine, by letter one, dismissed by letter one Paid for minutes \$3.00 Total membership 105.

Beaverton—Lamar County, Ala. Delegates; J. M. Hill, A. S. Gann, Lee Sizemore. Pastor, M. L. Hollis. Clerk, A. S. Gann. Baptized 18 Received by letter 4. Deceased one Paid for minutes \$2.00.

Taylor Springs—Not represented.

Smyner—Not represented.

Pearces Chapel—Not represented.

## Ministers and their Address

C. A. CHAFFIN,	Windfield, Ala. R 2
G. B. TAYLOR,	Melborne, Ala. R 1.
T. M. LOLLAR,	Covin, Ala. R 1.
T. J. ADAIR,	Sulligent, Ala.
M. D. CLEARMAN,	Vernon, Ala.
B. C. HUDGINS.	
S. M. PERKINS,	Vernon, Ala.
S. F. LEE,	Guin, Ala. R 2.
M. L. HOLLIS,	Vernon, Ala.
J. A. TATE,	Vernon, Ala.
E. A. PALMER,	Hamilton, Ala. R 4.

## CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon, Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, and shall be composed of 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 other churches, unless they depart from the articles of faith of this Association. In case any church departs from the articles of faith and support doctrines of heresy, or allows any ministers 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 deem proper and right, according to the teachings of the Bible.

Art. 3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory board and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, etc., though the church may in extreme cases claim aid from sister churches, but the Association shall rule in all matters of doctrine and general interest.

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

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

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

Ars. 7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its 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 the temperance cause, Sabbath schools, missionary work, etc.

## RULES OF DECORUM

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

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

RULE 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.

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

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

RULE 6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in 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 shall appoint some one to the chair while he is speaking.

RULE 7. Only one person shall speak at the same time who shall arise and address the Moderator.

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

RULE 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.

RULE 10. No member shall talk or laugh during the time the debate is going on

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

RULE 12. The Moderator shall have power to call the Association together at any time upon a petition of two-thirds of the churches composing the Association over which he presides

RULE 13. That the appointment of all committees by the Moderator be confined to ministers and delegates composing the Association

## ARTICLE 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 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.

Art. 2. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, truth for its matter and salvation for its end; and it reveals the principles by 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 opinion will be tried.

Art. 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 depraved and wholly unable of their own will and ability, to recover from the fallen state in which they are by nature.



Art. 4. We believe that God has not fixed the future state of mankind by an absolute and unalterable decree; but salvation is offered in the Gospel free to all, and if sinners are lost forever it will be their own fault.

Art. 5. We believe that Christ, by his death and suffering made an atonement for the sins of all mankind in general, and every individual in particular; however, that none but those who believe in Him can be partakers of the divine benefits.

Art. 6. We believe that true faith cannot proceed from the exercise of our natural faculties and powers or from the force and operation of the free will, since man in consequence of his natural corruption is incapable either of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

Art. 7. We believe in the general application of the grace of God for fallen men sufficient to enable him morally and actually to obey the requirements of the law of liberty—James 1:25, this is to act saving faith. John 1:9 however, none but these who believe or acquiesce in Christ will be saved thereby; Acts 17:32; Romans 2:9; John 3:19.

Art. 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, but his Creator, to act in a 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 for admonition and exhortation. Hebrews 11:12-13; Romans 12:14; Mark 14:12; Ezekiel 18:24; Rev. 2:3; Ezekiel 33:13; and 28; 1st Tim. 4:1; Hebrews 3:5; 1st Cor. 10:12 and 22; 1st Peter 1:10.

Art. 9. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, right and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops, pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles of Timothy and Titus.

Art. 10. We believe that Christian Baptism is immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that believers are proper subjects.

Art. 11. We believe the Lord's Supper is a perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church in the use of the bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Art. 12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment; and joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal upon principles of grace and justice.

Art. 13. We believe in open and mixed communion and the churches of our body are authorized, 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.