

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Annual Sessions of the Vernon Association

OF

FREEWILL BAPTIST

REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Moderator
A. J. SANDERS, Clerk
S. G. JOHNSON, Treasurer

The next Session of this Association will be held with Pearces Chapel Church, 3 miles north of Smithville, Miss., the same to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1926.

PROCEEDINGS of 1924

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The Forty Fourth Annual session of the VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION convened with Mt. Willing Church, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October the 17th, 18th and 19th, 1924. At eleven o'clock a. m. the congregation was called to-gather by a song after which Rev. M. L. Hollis occupied the stand and preached a very able introductory sermon, subject, "Go forward." Exodus 14:15. After which one hour was taken for refreshments. In due time the body was called back into the house by the Moderator, Rev. C. A. Chaffin.

The Moderator appointed Bros. A. J. Sanders and S. G. Johnson as reading clerks.

Letters were called for, handed in and read, from the various churches of the Association, after which the delegates were enrolled as per statistical table.

Moved in order that the association go into election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows: Rev. T. J. Adair, Moderator. Bro. A. J. Sanders, Clerk and Bro. J. E. Chaffin, Treasurer.

The newly elected moderator and clerk came forward and took their seats; after which the Association proceeded with the business by calling for corresponding messengers from other associations of like faith and order to seats with us, to aid us in council. The following came forward: From Jasper Association—Revs. J. L. Conner, W. D. Martin and Bros. Robert Franks, W. J. Underwood, W. A. Smith and J. M. Weeks. From the State Line Association—Bro. R. E. Hudgine. From the Tupelo Association—Rev. J. M. Haas and Bro. J. L. Stembridge

Called for new churches. None.

Moved in order that the Moderator appoint necessary committees, which were done as follows: Devotional committee—Bros. W. N. McClusky, G. O. Crows, R. N. Yerby, A. J. Roberson, S. D. Loftis and W. H. Rye.

Documents and Order of Business—Revs. M. L. Hollis C. A. Chaffin, S. F. Lee, John Tate and T. G. Harrison, together with the moderator and clerk.

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On Decesed Members—Bros. M. E. Hollis, J. C. Gibson, Brunce Hollis, Alva Tucker and Rev T. J. Adair.

On Literature—Bros. W. M. Loftis, A. J. Markham and Verdo Dubose.

On Finance—Bros. J. A. Markham, Covin Finch and Reynold Trentham.

On Sabbath Schools—Bros. J. T. Taylor, W. I. Isbell and Moda Chaffin.

On Credentials—Bros. A. J. Roberson, C. F. Johnson, J. M. Stanley, A. F. Frederick, C. E. Roberts and J. R. Price

On Querries and Resolutions—Rev. E. A. Palmer and Bros. B. F. Clines, J. B. Harbrough, Bob Simmons and H. D. Shelnut.

On Temperence—Rev. S. M. Perkins and Bros. B. C. Guin, S. D. Loftis, Mrs. E. C. Partain and Mrs. Luella Johnson.

Motion to adjourn until Saturday morning. Motion carried. The assembly was dismissed with prayer by Rev. J. M. Haas.

SATURDAY'S SESSION

The house was called togeather by the moderator, after a song, devotional service was conducted by Rev. J. L. Conner, reading for his lesson the 5 chapter of Gal. Prayer by Rev. T. G. Harrison.

Rall call of delegates, there being a quorum present the moderator announced the assciation ready for buisness. Motion offered and carried to omit the reading of Saturday minutes. Called for reports of committees as follows:

ON DOCUMENTS and ORDER of BUISNESS

We, your committee on documents and order of buisness, beg to submit the following roport:

1st. We recomend the former order of buisness.

2nd. We recomend that the next session of of this as-
sociation be held with Mt. Harmony church, the same to
convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October,
1925.

3rd. We recomend that we have 500 copies of minutes printed, and that we let our home press do the printing, also that the clerk superentend this work, and that he be allowed \$8.00 for his service.

4th. We recomend that we adopt the Articles of Faith of the Origonal Free Will Baptist of the United States

5th. We recomend that the moderator preach the Introductory sermon at the next association, or appoint someone to preach it in his stead.

6th. We recomend that we hold fifth Sundays meetings instead of a Union meeting, and that no pastor accept any work on fifth Sundays, as he should attend these stated meetings, and that they begin on Saturdays before the fifth Sundays.

7th. We recomend that the 6th article of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: "This Association shall meet Annually on Saturdays before the third Sundays in October, and the place of meeting shall be set by the previous session, and shall not adjourn finally until all the buisness is transacted."

8th. We recomend that this associaton ~~adept~~ the resolution as adopted by the second Union meeting, held at Liberty church, which were as follows: "That each church in the association take up a volentary collection at each monthly service, the same to be turned over to the church Treasurer, to be used as the church may direct for the advanoement of church work.

9th. We recomend that the first meeting day after the association be designated as Educational day, and that all collections taken on that day be contributed to the Free Will Baptist College at Ayden, N. C.

Respectfully submited,

Rev. M. L. HOLLIS, Chairman.

Report accepted to be re-read and adopted by sections. section four was rejected and refered back to the churches for their consideration, and the to be acted upon at the next setting of the association.

The Association recessed for the 11 o'clock sermon.

Rev. T. J. Adair preached a very interesting sermon, using as a text the first clause of the 39 verse of the 11th chapter of St. John. Intermission for refreshments.

At 1 o'clock p. m., the house was called to order by the moderator, after a song was sang, the moderator stated that the association would resume buisness where it was left off. At this point the committees made their reports as follows:

ON TEMPERANCE

We, your committeo on temperance beg leave to make the following report: We are made to believe that temperance is one of the gratest thoughts known to mankind. If we disobey the laws of God by gotting into an intemperate attitude, we bring upon ourselvee 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 man kind can be used so that it will prove a ourse instead of a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. S. M. PERKINS, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted

ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We, your committee on deceased members, beg leave to submit the following report: After a careful investigation we find that our Heavenly Father has seen it best in His wise providence to call from the walks of life's rugged pathway, the following Brotheren and Sisters to wit: From Damascus—Bro. S. O. Johnson. From Friendship—Sister Nanny Sykes. Frm Beaverton—Sister Tennie Lockhart. From Corinth—Deceased name unknown. Pearce Chapel—Since last reported, 7 deceased, Bro. H. Dyer, sister Lula Cole, others unknown. From Mt. Pleasant—Bro. L. M. Robinson. We trust that all those mentioned above, died having faith in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

M. E. HOLLIS, Chairman.

On suggestion of Rev. M. L. Hollis a song was sung and prayer was offered by Bro. Jonathan Hollis as a token of our remembrance of our deceased Brothers and Sisters.

Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following report:

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

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

We urge our Ministers to impress upon each church to take up this work. Respectfully submitted.

J. T. TAYLOR, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

The Committee on Credentials made the following report.

We your Committee on Credentials beg leave to make the following report:

After a careful investigation we find that all of our ministers are in good standing with their respective churches and are preaching the Freewill doctrine according to our articles of faith. Respectfully submitted.

A. J. ROBERTSON, Chairman.

The Committee on Queries and Resolutions submitted the following report:

We your Committee on Queries and Resolutions beg leave to report as follows:

We offer for a query. What is our Bible authority on holding associations? We tender our thanks to Mt. Willing church and community for the kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them. Respectfully submitted.

REV. E. A. PALMER, Chairman.

After some discussion on the query offered the report was accepted and adopted.

The Committee on Literature submitted the following report:

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

We recommend the careful study of the Holy Bible together

with Bible helps. We recommend that all our people subscribe for and read our denominational paper (The Freewill Baptist Visitor) published at Vernon, Alabama. We recommend the use of Freewill Baptist literature in our Sabbath Schools. We also recommend that our people refrain from the use of trashy and misleading books and papers which do not tend to the glory of God. Respectfully submitted.

W. M. LOFTIS, Chairman.

The Committee on Finance submitted the following report:

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

After calling for the minute money we find that we have collected from the various churches the sum of \$41.45. Respectfully submitted.

J. A. MARKHAM, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

Moved in order that the Moderator appoint delegates to the State Convention at Beaverton, Alabama, which were appointed as follows: Bros. A. J. Sanders, A. J. Robertson and J. E. Chaffin.

The Moderator appointed delegates to attend the following Associations: Mt. Moriah, Rev. M. L. Hollis, Bros S. G. Johnson and B. C. Guin; Jasper, Rev. S. F. Lee, Rev. T. G. Harrison and Rev. C. A. Chaffin; State Line, Rev. J. A. Tate, Rev. E. A. Palmer and Rev. S. M. Perkins. Moved in order that this association pay \$5.00 to the state conference for minutes. At this point the association adjourned for the afternoon.

Saturday Night Session

At 7:30 o'clock the house was called to order by the Moderator.

The matter of five Sunday meetings was taken up and the first one was ordered to go to Springfield church on the fifth Sunday in November, 1924. The second was ordered to go to Piney Grove church the fifth Sunday in March, 1925. The third was ordered to go to Liberty church on the fifth Sunday in May, 1925. The fourth fifth Sunday meeting was ordered to go to Mt. Pleasant church the fifth Sunday in August, 1925.

Moved in order that the Moderator appoint a program Committee to arrange a program for these Fifth Sunday meetings which was done as follows: For the first one, Bros. Mose Hollis, Mose Pennington and Dewey Jardon. For the second one, Bros. Jim Chaffin, C. E. Roberts and M. N. Shellnut, together with the pastor of the church. For the third one, Bros. K. W. Jenkins, R. N. Yerby and Mrs. Julia Wood, together with the pastor of the church. For the fourth one, Bros. A. J. Sanders, J. W. Adair and Mrs. E. C. Partain, together with the pastor of the church.

Moved in order that Rev. B. C. Hudgins name be dropped from our list of ministers.

Moved in order that Rev. T. G. Harrison be enrolled as an ordained Minister of this Association.

The Moderator called for voluntary stock subscriptions to the Freewill Baptist Press. The following was subscribed, Rev. W. D. Martin, \$1.00; Bro. J. B. Harbour, \$1.00; Mrs. E. C. Partain, \$1.00; Bro. J. C. Gibson, \$2.00; Bro. W. N. McCluskey, \$5.00; Bro. J. W. Adair, \$5.00.

Moved in order to recess this association until Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

At 11 o'clock Sunday morning service was opened by a song service after which Rev. J. M. Haas occupied the stand and preached to a large audience on the subject of "The Call" from Gen. 4-26.

At 1 o'clock the house was called to order by the Moderator, after which a voluntary contribution was taken for the F. W. B. Press, which amounted to \$11.83.

Moved and ordered that this Association take stock in the F. W. B. Press to the amount of funds in our treasury after our minutes are printed and paid for.

Moved in order that this association adjourn to meet with Mt. Harmony church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1925.

REV. T. J. ADAIR, Moderator.

BRO. A. J. Sanders, Clerk.

List Of Churches And Delegates

- Vernon—Rev. T. J. Adair.
Union Chapel—W. M. Loftis, S. D. Loftis, A. J. Robertson.
Piney Grove—E. A. Shellnut, Bob Simmons, A. J. Markham.
Fairview—Alva Finch, Covin Finch, A. Markham.
Mt. Harmony—Johnie Stanley, B. C. Guin, B. F. Cline.
Mt. Willing—G. C. Crews, H. D. Shellnut, J. T. Taylor.
Siloam—W. H. Rye, A. F. Frederick.
Liberty—R. N. Yerby, J. R. Price, Verdo Duboes.
Friendship—Represented by letter.
Military Grove—Wm. Isbell.
Damascus—J. B. Harbour, C. F. Johnson, J. C. Gibson.
Springfield—M. E. Hollis.
Mt. Pleasant—Mrs. E. C. Partain, Mrs. Luella Johnson, J. W. Adair.
Beaverton—Moda Chaffin, Reynold Trentham, B. Hall.
Taylor Springs—Not represented. Dropped from roll.
Smyrner—Not represented. Dropped from the roll.
Corinth—Rev. John A. Tate.
Peaches Chapel—H. G. Harmon, W. W. Johnson.

PROCEEDINGS OF 1925

The forty-fifth annual session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association convened with Mt. Harmony Church, October 17-18-19, 1925.

At 11 o'clock A. M. the services began by singing, directed by Bro. J. T. Green, followed by prayer by Rev. G. B. Taylor.

Rev. T. J. Adair then occupied the stand reading for a scripture lesson 1st Samuel, 12th chapter, he then delivered the Introductory Sermon using for a text 1st Samuel, 13th chapter, 14th verse.

One hour was given for refreshments after which the house was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. T. J. Adair.

After a song was sung the Moderator and Clerk took their seats.

The Moderator made a short talk and then declared the Association ready for business.

1st. Called for delegates to come forward with letters from the various churches. The Moderator appointed as Reading Clerks, Rev. Grady Williams and Bro. Elzie Cowart.

The following churches were represented by letter and delegates as follows:

Vernon—Bro. Loyd Turner, Sister W. Y. Turner, delegates.

Union Chapel—Bros. S. D. Loftis, P. E. Maddox and A. J. Robertson, delegates.

Pine Grove—Bro. M. N. Shellnut.

Fairview—Bros. J. A. Tucker and D. W. Dill.

Mt. Harmony—Bros. Timas Crawford, Steve Cash and Jim Prater.

Mt. Willing—Bros. J. E. Chaffin, A. J. Shellnut and J. W. Garrison.

Siloam—Not represented.

Liberty—Bros. G. C. Lawrence, H. M. Perkins.

Friendship—Bros. J. T. Green and A. K. Green.

Military Grove—Not represented.

Domascus—Not represented.

Corinth—Rev. J. A. Tate.

Springfield—Bros. Dewey Jordan, Odell Hollis and Junie Harper.

Mt. Pleasant—Bros. A. J. Sanders, J. W. Adair and J. W. Partain.

Beaverton—Not represented.

Pearces Chapel—Bro. E. E. Coward.

Moved in order and carried that the Moderator appoint members present from the various churches to supply absent delegates which were appointed as follows:

Bros. J. A. Tucker, M. V. Long, J. L. Stembridge, G. B. Hill, Dr. J. S. Hollis.

Moved in order and carried that the Association go into permanent organization by electing officers for the ensuing year.

The following brethren were elected to fill the following offices:

Moderator—Rev. M. L. Hollis.

Clerk—A. J. Sanders.

Treasurer—S. G. Johnson.

Following the election of officers the Moderator elect came forward and after a few remarks he proceeded with the business of the Association by inviting bretheren of like faith and order from other associations to seats with us to aid in counsel.

The following came forward from Jasper Association—Rev. J. L. Comer, Rev. G. T. Williams, Rev. W. D. Morton, Rev. Joe S. Fredrick.

From Tupelo—Rev. J. M. Haas, Bros W. V. Long, G. B. Hill and J. L. Stimbridge.

From Mt. Mariah Association—Bro. T. A. Guin.

Call for new churches.

The following came forward and was accepted in full fellowship into the Association.

New Macedonia Church, Tupelo, Miss., R. F. D. No. 2.

Beat Springs Church (Saltilo, Miss., R. F. D. No. 2.

Union Hill Church, Tupelo, Miss., R. F. D. No. 2.

Moved in order and carried that Rev. J. M. Haas be enrolled as minister of this Association.

Moved in order and carried that the Moderator appoint the following Committees.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Bros. E. E. Cowart, J. W. Adair and J. T. Green, together with Deacons of Mt. Harmony Church.

DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Rev. J. M. Haas, Rev. C. A. Chaffin and Rev. T. J. Adair, together with Moderator and Clerk of the Association.

ON DECEASED MEMBERS

Bros. S. D. Loftis, M. N. Shellnut and Odell Hollis.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

Bros. Junie Harper, J. E. Chaffin and Jim Prater.

ON MINISTERIAL CREDINTIALS

Bros. A. J. Robertson, Finas Crawford and A. J. Shellnut.

ON QUERIES AND RESOLUTIONS

Rev. T. J. Adair, Rev. J. A. Tate, Rev. T. G. Garrison, and Rev. G. B. Taylor.

ON LITERATURE

Bros Dewey Jardon, A. K. Green, H. M. Perkins, J. W. Partain and J. C. Lawrence.

ON FINANCE

Bros. P. E. Maddox, Steve Cash and J. W. Garrison.

ON TEMPERANCE

Bro. J. A. Tucker, Rev. G. B. Taylor and Rev. T. G. Harrison.

Reported in part as follows:

9:30 A. M. Sunday, Rev. Grady Williams.

11 o'clock A. M.—Rev. D. G. W. Hollis.

The Association adjourned to meet Sunday morning at 9 o'clock A. M.

SUNDAY'S SESSION

At 9 o'clock A. M. the house came to order by singing.

At 9:30 A. M. young Rev. Grady occupied the stand reading for a scripture lesson. Prov. the 13th chapter. Prayer by Rev. A. L. Warren. After which Rev. Grady Williams preached. Text, Prov. 13:15, followed by Rev. J. L. Comer at the close of the service a voluntary contribution was taken up to assist young Rev. Grady Williams in completing high school course, amounting to \$26.10. The same was turned over to him.

The following ministers and brethren came in from the Jasper Association. Rev. W. D. Morton, Rev. E. R. Franks, Rev. Joe S. Frederick, Rev. E. L. Warren and Bro. W. R. Murray.

At 11 A. M. the house was again called to order by Singing directed by Bro. R. W. Murray.

Rev. D. G. W. Hollis took the stand reading for a Scripture lesson, St. Matthew 7th chapter, 15th to 29th verses, he then

delivered a sermon to a well filled house on the subject of "Salvation" using for a text, Rev. 3-18. At the close of the service the Sacrament was administered.

At 11 A. M. Rev. Joe S. Frederick also preached to a large crowd out in the Grove from St. Matthew 27-27.

Two hours were allowed for refreshments.

At 3 P. M. Rev. J. L. Comer occupied the stand and preached to a large audience from St. Matthew 12th chapter verses 43, 44 and 45.

At 7 o'clock P. M. Rev. W. D. Martin preached to a well filled house from Rev.—

Monday's Session

The house came to order by singing by the choir, followed by the Moderator reading a Scripture lesson from 100th Psalm. Prayer by Rev. J. S. Frederick.

The Moderator then declared the Association ready for business.

The rules of Decorum was read by the Moderator.

Moved in order and carried that Bro. C. L. Guin be enrolled as delegate from Fairview Church in the place of Bro. J. E. Chaffin who was excused by the Moderator by request.

Roll of Delegates

Committee on Documents and Order of Business submitted their report, as follows:

We your Committee on Documents and Order of Business make the following report:

1st. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Pearces Chapel Church 4 miles north of Smithville, Miss., the same to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1926.

2nd. We further recommend that Rev. C. A. Chaffin preach the Introductory sermon and Rev. J. M. Haas as alternate.

3rd. We recommend that we have 500 copies of Minutes printed and that they be distributed among the churches of the Association according to the amount of minute money sent in and that the Clerk superintend the printing of the same also

to see that they get to the churches as soon as possible and that he be allowed \$8.00 for his services.

4th. We recommend that the minutes of 1924 and 1925 be printed under the same cover sections one and two.

5th. We recommend that each church of this Association take up a freewill offering at least once a month, same to go into the church treasury to be used for the general benefit of the church, also that each church report its financial standing in its letter to the Association.

6th. We recommend that we hold one Union meeting during the year, the same to be held with Springfield church on Friday night before the fifth Sunday in _____, 1926. Also that Rev. S. F. Lee preach the Introductory sermon at 7:30 o'clock P. M.

7th. We recommend that this Association send delegates to the State Conference to be held with Union Valley Church, Townley, Ala., which will convene on Friday night before the second Sunday, 1925. Also that we send as much as \$5.00 for publication funds.

Respectfully submitted.

REV. J. M. HAAS, Chairman.

Moved in order and carried that the report be accepted and reread by sections for its adoption.

Moved in order and carried that all business connected with the press be deferred at this time and be brought up at the next session of the State Conference and that this be added to the report on Documents and Order of Business.

The report was reread by sections and adopted.

The Committee on Temperance made the following report:

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

We are made to believe that Temperance is one of the greatest thoughts known to mankind.

If we disobey the laws of God by getting into an intemperate way we bring upon ourselves condemnation because he said "Be ye temperate," therefore 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.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. TUCKER, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

Committee on Queries and Resolutions submitted the following report

We your Committee on Queries and Resolutions beg leave to make the following report:

1st. Be it resolved that we deeply deplore the sad loss that the church has recently sustained in the untimely death of William Jennings Bryan the great "Champion of Christianity."

2nd. We tender our sincere thanks to the officers and delegates for the faithful discharge of their respective duties.

3rd. We tender our thanks to the good sisters of Mt. Harmony church for their able assistance in preparing the most bountiful savory eatables.

Respectfully submitted.

REV. T. J. ADAIR, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

Report of Committee on Literature.

We your Committee on Literature respectfully submit the following report:

1st. We recommend that our ministers aid in every possible way in securing Literature that is suitable for our Freewill Baptist organizations also further recommend that we strengthen our home press by more aid and more subscriptions to the "Freewill Baptist Visitor."

2nd. We recommend that every church have its Sunday School supplied with literature from the F. W. B. Press and that our ministers lecture at least once each month to our Sunday Schools either in person or through the "Freewill Visitor."

3rd. We recommend the use of literature that will help to educate our ministers in the work of the Freewill Baptist. We further recommend the use of the pamphlets which can be secured from the Migddo Mission at Rochester, N. Y., which is a great help on Biblical questions. Respectfully submitted.

DEWEY JORDAN, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

Committee on Finance offered the following report:

We your Committee on Finance submit the following:

After calling for the Minute money we find that we have collected the sum of \$33.00.

Respectfully submitted.

J. W. GARRISON, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

The Association adjourned one hour for refreshments.

Monday Afternoon Session

At 1:30 P. M. the congregation came together by singing, followed by prayer offered by Rev. T. J. Adair.

Roll Call of delegates, there being a chorum present the Association proceeded with the business.

Report on Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted:

We your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report as follows:

We find only four Sabbath Schools reported, therefore we urge our pastors to appoint Sunday School Superintendents at each church and that they organize Sunday Schools and insist upon the people to attend, especially the children. We also recommend the use of the F. W. B. literature together with the Holy Bible.

Respectfully submitted.

C. L. GUIN, Chairman.

After some good talks on the subjects of Sabbath Schools by Rev. W. D. Martin and Rev. G. B. Taylor the report was adopted.

Moved in order and carried that the Moderator be empowered to appoint delegates to the State Conference and sister Associations which were appointed as follows:

To State Conference—Bros. Bedford Guin, A. J. Robertson and J. T. Baxter.

To Jasper Association—Bros. S. G. Johnson, J. W. Adair and Will McCluskey.

To Mt. Moriah Association—Bros. Timas Crawford, S. D. Loftis and W. N. Shellnut.

To State Line Association—Bros. Walter Johnson, K. W.

Jenkins and Miles Hill.

A voluntary contribution was taken up for worn out ministers to the amount of \$16.00.

Mt. Pleasant church also turned into the Association \$3.61, on "old worn out ministers fund." Making a total of \$19.61, which was given to Rev. G. B. Taylor by the Association.

After some short talks by the Moderator and others, the Association having finished all the business came to a close to meet with Pearces Chapel church, four miles north of Smithville, Miss., on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1926.

The parting hand was taken while the choir sang "God be with you till we meet again."

REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Moderator.

A. J. SANDERS, Clerk.

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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

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

Article 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.

Article 7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its articles of faith and conform to its usages.

Article 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 name 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.

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 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.

Article 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.

Article 3. We believe that man was created holy under the laws 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 9. We believe that 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, rights 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.

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

Article 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.

Article 12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment; and joys of the righteous and the punish-

ment of the wicked will be eternal upon principles of grace and justice.

Article 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.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND STATISTICAL TABLE

	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Restored	Deceased	Total Membership
Vernon.....							
Union Chapel.....					1		46
Piney Grove.....	4						79
Fair View.....							60
Mt. Harmony.....							163
Mt. Willing.....	2		1				96
Siloam.....							78
Liberty.....	1						96
Friendship.....	4				1	1	70
Military Grove.....	6	3					
Damascus.....	1					1	
Springfield.....	8	2	1		2		108
Mt. Pleasant.....			1			1	85
Beaverton.....	7		3				78
Corinth.....						1	24
Pearces Chapel.....	74	2				7	269

N. B.—The reason there is no statistics given Vernon is because there was no letter or statistics furnished to go by.