

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-sixth Annual Session of
the Vernon Association

OF THE

Free Will Baptist

REV. M. R. ALLEN, Moderator
REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Clerk

The next Session of this Association will be held
with Liberty Church, 8 miles east of Vernon
the same to convene on Thursday night
before the third Sunday in October
1927, and that Rev. C. A. Chf-
fin preach the Introductory
Sermon.

PROCEEDINGS



The Forty-sixth Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met with Pearces Chapel Church, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, October 16, 17, 18; 1926

On Saturday, at 11 o'clock the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. Haas, text Matt. 16:18. "Upon this Rock I will build my church." After which the congregation was dismissed until 1:30 p. m.

AFTER-NOON SESSION

In due time the body was called back into the house by the Moderator, after a song by the congregation, M. L. Hollis the former moderator being present taken his seat and in the absence of the former Clerk appointed Bro. J. B. Pearce to act as clerk until the body was organized. The moderator read for a Scripture lesson the first Psalm after which he offered prayer. Rev. Grady Williams and Rev. M. R. Allen were appointed as reading clerks. Called for the letters from the different churches, handed in and read as per statistical table.

The Clerk called the roll of churches and the following delegates were in-rolled.

Union Chapel—S. D. Loftis, Hobert Loftis, Roley Maddox.

Vernon—Loyd Turner, Dolton Turner, Jessie Lee Turner.

Piney Grove—M. S. Shelnut, Rufus Motes, Loyd Crews.

Mt. Willing—J. T. Taylor, A. J. McDonal, H. E. McDonal.

Siloam—H. J. Rye, Frank Fredrick, H. C. Fredrick.

Liberty—R. N. Yerby, K. W. Jenkins.

Mt. Harmony—Finus Crawford, Escar Wheeler.

Damascus—J. C. Gibson, J. E. Smith, J. B. Harbour.

Mt. Pleasant—J. W. Adair, Walter Crossley.

Military Grove—Lige Isbell, A. H. Mixon, Kattie Mixon.

New Macedonia—J. T. Alexander, W. V. Long.

Pearces Chapel—Hollis Francis, H. C. Cowley, J. M. Thompson.

Springfield—A. M. Pennington, Noel Gillon, Clinton Boover.

Beech Springs—G. B. Hill and J. L. Stembridge.

Union Hill—(Lee County Miss) Jim Loyd, Tommie Harris, and J. B. Robbins.

Beaverton—Robert Barnes and Modey Chaffin.

Fairview—J. A. Tucker, A. H. Tucker and Covin Finch.

Friendship—A. K. Green.

Finding a Chorum present. There was a move made to permanently organize the body by electing officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows. Rev. M. R. Allen Moderator, Rev. M. L. Hollis, Clerk.

The newly elected officers taken their seats, and after some very appropriate remarks by the Moderator the body proceeded with the following business, called for corresponding messengers and visitors from other association, the following were seated with us, from the Jasper association, Rev. W. D. Martin, J. S. Fredrick, Grady Williams, J. M. Dupree. From State Line association—I. H. Brown, T. J. Adair and I. K. Boyett. Water Valley Association, J. H. Norwood, W. H. Henderson, J. P. Hamilton and J. M. Corder.

From Oklahoma, Eld. W. C. and H. C. Austin, called for the reception of New Churches into the body, New Hope Church was restored, after which the Moderator appointed the following committees. On Devotional services, Bro. Loyd Turner J. W. Adair, Finus Crawford with deacons of Pearce Chapel Church. On Documents and order of business, J. M. Thompson, Escar Wheeler, Dalton Turner, J. C. Gibson, Walter Crossley, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Deceased Members

A. M. Pennington, J. T. Alexander, J. B. Hill, B. F. McDonel
A. H. Tucker

On Sabbath Schools

S. D. Loftis, J. T. Taylor, H. C. Fredrick, J. B. Harbor, R. N.
Yerby

On Literature

H. C. Cowley, Rev. J. M. Hass, W. V. Long, J. L. Stembridge
Tommie Harris.

On Ministerel Credentials

R. N. Yerby, J. E. Smith, Holis, Francis Noel Gilliland, D.
B. Robbius

On Fianance

Finus Crawford, A. K. Green, B. F. McDonald, Robert Barnes
Covin Finch, J. A. Tucker, Lidge Isbell.

On Temperance—Rev. E. A. Palmer, Hobert Loftis, M. S.
Shelnut, Loyd Crews, H. E. McDonal, H. J. Rye, A. J. Mc-
Donal.

On Queries and Resolutions—Eld. H. C. Austion, Rev. J. M.
Haas, J. M. Thompson, Rev. Frank Lee, J. M. Chaffin.

The committee on Preaching reported as follows: Rev. H-
C. Aus in preach to night at 7 o'clock. Rev. Joe S. Fredrick
9 o'clock Sunday a. m. Rev. W. C. Austin Sunday at 11
o'clock. Rev. W. D. Martin Sunday at 2;30 p. m. Rev. I-
K. Boyett Sunday night at 7 o'clock p. m.

Loyd Turner, Chairman.

The delegates and visitors were appointed to the dffer-
ent homes of the community. A move was made to adjo-
urn until Monday at 8 o'clock a. m.

Saturday night at 7 o'clock Elder H. C. Austin delivered
an interesting sermon to a large congergation. Text John
12;32 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all
men unto me."

SUNDAY'S SESSION

At nine o'clock Sunday morning a large congregation
had assembled at the church, after a short song service by

the congregation Rev. Joe S. Fredrick preached a very interesting sermon, Text John 5:6. "Wilt thou be made whole? After preaching the church called their Sunday School together, which exemplified much interest in this great work. At 11 o'clock Elder W. C. Austin preached a wonderful sermon to a large congregation, after which the Lord's Supper was observed.

AFTER-NOON SESSION

At the appointed time the congregation was called into the house and the Atlanta Quarett being present sang several songs, which was enjoyed by all who were present, after which Rev. W. D. Martin preached a very able sermon subject "The Spirit and the Bride say come."

The congregation was dismissed until 7 o'clock p. m. at which time they reassembled for preaching by Rev. I. K. Boyett, who preached an excellent sermon. Text Rom. 6:23

After the eleven o'clock service Sunday a collection taken for Rev. Grady Williams, of the Jasper Association to help him through school, which amounted to \$18.50

MONDAY'S SESSION

Monday morning at 8 o'clock the body was called together by singing, after which Rev. M. L. Hollis read the 8th chapter of II Cor. Prayer by Moderator.

A move was made to omit the reading of Saturday's minutes. Carried.

The moderator announced the house ready for business Military Grove church came forward with letter and delegates and were enrolled.

Report on Documents and Order of Business called for handed in, read and committee discharged. Report re-read and adopted by sections. Section 6 rejected. See Report.

Report on Deceased Members called for, handed in, read and adopted. See Report.

Report on Sabbath Schools called for, handed in, read and adopted. See Report.

At this point Rev. Grady Williams made a very interest-

ing talk on the need of Sunday Schools in all our churches.

Report on Quarries and Resolutions called for, handed in, read and adopted. See 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 association be held with Liberty Church 8 miles East of Vernon.
- 3 We recommend that this association convene on Thursday night before 3rd Sunday in Oct. 1927.
- 4 We recommend that Bro C. A. Chaffin, preach the Introductory Sermon, and Rev. E. A. Palmer be his alternate.
- 5 We recommend that we have 500 copies of Minutes published, also that the Clerk Superintend this work and allow him \$8.00 for his services.
- 6 We recommend that the former article's of faith be adopted with the exception of later part of Art. 6
- 7 We recommend that this association send 3 delegates to the State Conference to be held with Barnsville Church Thursday night before the 2nd Sunday in November 1926. J. M. Thompson, Rev. M. L. Hollis, and B. C. Guin were appointed Delegates, also that we send delegates to sit in Council at a call session of F. W. B. to meet at Guin, Ala., on Thursday night before 1st Sunday in Dec. 1926. A. S. Gann, S. G. Johnson, and J. W. Adair were appointed Delegates
- 8 We recommend that our Churches render all assistance possible to F. W. B. paper, to be published at Guin, Ala.
- 9 We recommend that each Minister of our association make a full report of his work at each association. Failure to do so renders him not in good standing with the association, and that these reports be published in the minutes. J. M. Thompson Chairman.

On Literature

We your committee on Literature Submit the following report. We recommend the careful Study of the Holy Bible We recommend that our people Subscribe for our Church papers and espically our home paper. We also recommend that our people refrain from the use of trashey and misleading literature which does not tend toward the Glory of God. H. C. Cowly Chairman.

On Temperane

We your committee on temperance make the following report. We are made to believe that temperance is one of the greatest things known to mankind.

Should we disobey the laws of God by getting into an Intemperate attitude, we bring upon ourselves Condemnations for He said, Be ye temperate in all things:—Therefore we should all join together in urging all to be more temperate. Because the things that God has given as a blessing may turn into a curse by intemperate use of them Rev. E. A. Palmer, Chairman.

On Finance

We your committee on finance report as follows: After calling for the minutes money from the different Churches, we find paid is the sum of \$44. 10: A. M. Pennington Chairman

On Credentials.

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 Free Will Baptist doctrine according to our article of Faith, J. E. Smith Chairman.

On Sabbath Schools

Report of Committee on Sabbate Schools Submit the following, we find only four of our Churches holding Sunday schools as followers, Pearse Chapel, Beaverton, Friendship and Beats Springs therefor we urge our pastors to appoint Supertendants at each church and that they organize a Sunday School and insist upon the people to attend with their children, we also recommend the use of the F. W. B Literature together with the Holy Bible, S. D. Leftis chairman

On Quarries and Resolutions

We recommend that this Association adopt a system of finance for the Educating and Qualifying the young preachers to meet the issues of opposition to Christianity by requiring each church to raise at least an ammount equal to 50 cents per member, that is a church of 100 members be required to raise at least \$50.00 for this purpose.

We recommend that the churches of this association take an active part in the fifth Sunday meetings and that the Moderator appoint the places for the holding of these these meetings.

We recommend that our preachers make a strong effort to teach the churches their duty in regard to the support of the ministry.

We recommend that this Association tender our heart felt thanks to this church and community for their hospitality shown us while among them.

Elder H. C. Austin, Chairman.

On Deceased Members—

We, your committee on deceased members beg leave to submit the following report—

After a careful investagation, 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 Springfield Church—Sister Mary Pennington and Sister Virginia Pennington—

From Liberty Chhurch—Sister Nancy Yearby—

From Beaverton Church—Sister Vena Allen.

From Sylome Church—Sister Patience Belk—

From Vernon Church—Sister Ozie Mae Moore—

From Mt- Harmony Church—Sister Mattie Moore—

From Demascus Church —Sister Sarah Johnson—

From Friendship Church—Sister Martha Susie Taylor and sister Ford— We trust that all the above persons died having faith in Christ.

A- M- Pennington, Chairman—

A motion was carried to hold two fifth Sunday meetings during the associational year and that they meet with the following churches, to wit:

The first meeting to be held with PINEY GROVE Church four miles east of Beaverton, on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in May, 1927.

The second fifth Sunday meeting will be held with Mt. Pleasant church, 8 miles west of Vernon, beginning on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in July, 1927.

After-noon Session

At 1 o'clock the body was called together by the moderator, after Scripture reading prayer was offered by Rev. T. J. Adair. The section on Ministerial Education. A move was carried to amend the section by letting each church elect its own Treasurer to take charge of this money and that it be paid out by orders of the church.

A move was carried that the Clerk make out a program for the fifth Sunday's meeting and that it be published in 'THE TRUE BLUE.'

The following were appointed as corresponding delegates to sister Associations:

Mt. Mariah—Rev. M. L. Hollis, J. W. Adair, B. C. Guin.

State Line—J. M. Thompson, Leo Thompson.

Water Valley—Rev. J. M. Haas, J. L. Stembridge.

Jasper—Revs. Frank Lee, C. A. Chaffin, M. R. Allen.

The committee on Resolutions tender their sincere thanks to Pearce's Chapel church and community for their able way of caring for the Association, for they certainly know how to make strangers feel at home among them.

All the business of the Association being finished a move was made to adjourn to meet with Liberty church on Thursday night before the third Sunday in Oct. 1927.

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

REV. M. R. ALLEN, Moderator. Smithville, Miss.

REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Clerk. Vernon, Ala

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 man 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 those who believe or acquiesce in Christ will be saved thereby; Act 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 invisible 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; Ezekial 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 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, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops, pastors and deacons, whose 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 members of the church in the use of 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 the joys of the righteous and the punishment 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.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This Association be known as the Vernon Free Will 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 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 a 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 the 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 departs 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1926-1927

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