

MINUTES

OF THE

48th Annual Session

OF THE

Vernon Freewill Baptist

Association

HELD WITH

Piney Grove Church

OCTOBER 20-21-22, 1928

REV. S. F. LEE **Moderator**

J. E. CHAFFIN **Clerk**

The next session of this Association will be held with Springfield Church, 2 miles west of Vernon, Ala. the same to convene on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October, 1929.

MINUTES

The 48th Annual Session of The Vernon Freewill Baptist Association convened with Piney Grove church, October 20, 21, 22, 1828.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. Haas, after which one however given for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The congregation reassembled in the house, the former moderator, Rev. J. W. Porter, being present, called the house to order. The former clerk being absent, there was a move made and carried that J. E. Chaffin serve as clerk protem until permanently organized. The moderator and clerk took their seats and proceeded as follows:

The moderator appointed Bros. A. M. Pennington and J. M. Graham reading clerks. The letters were called for and handed in and read from the various churches, and the names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table.

Moved in order that the association go into an election of moderator and clerk the ensuing year. Result as follows: Rev. S. F. Lee, Moderator, J. E. Chaffin, Clerk.

The newly elected Moderator and Clerk came forward and took their seats. After appropriate remarks by the Moderator for the honor conferred upon him proceeded to business as follows:

1st. Called for corresponding Messengers from other associations:

Came forward from Jasper Association—Rev. W. C. Auston, Rev. P. T. Keeton.

From State Line Association—Rev. T. J. Adair and S. P. Brown.

The Moderator and Clerk extended to them the right hand of welcome. Called for new churches. A petitionary letter was handed in from Center Point. On motion the above church was received into the Association and names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table.

Moved in order that Moderator appoint various committees and the following were appointed:

On Devotional—J. M. Graham, R. L. Barnes, R. N. Yearby, with the deacons of Piney Grove church.

Documents and Order of Business—Revs. C. A. Chaffin, J. M. Haas, J. A. Tate, J. T. Harrison, J. W. Porter, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Deceased Members—E. E. Cowart, John Harris, W. W. Barnes, J. T. Alexander, G. G. Chaffin, G. B. Hill, A. E. Roberts, W. H. Riggins.

On Literature—Marvin Franks, D. W. Dill, D. C. Hall, A. J. Shelnut, G. L. Baldwin, R. M. Motes.

On Finance—J. H. Dill, M. N. Shelnut, J. H. Hester, W. H. Rye, G. G. Chaffin.

On Sabbath School—D. A. Markham, W. A. McCarty, Cullen Collins, Mrs. E. C. Partain.

On Querries—S. W. Reynolds, John Stembridge, J. M. Chaffin, S. P. Hollis, C. E. Ervin.

On Credentials—R. T. Mixon, D. C. Hall, W. J. Markham, L. J. Pickle, R. W. Maddox.

Temperance—Rev. J. W. Porter, M. N. Shelnut, Frank Fredric.

On motion the committee on Devotional services made their report as follows:

We your committee on Devotional services beg leave to submit the following report: Rev. T. J. Adair to preach tonight, Rev. W. C. Auston, to preach Sunday at 9 o'clock. Rev. P. T. Keeton to preach at 11 o'clock and Rev. J. W. Porter to preach at 3 o'clock p. m.

Motion made and carried to adjourn untill Monday morning at 8 o'clock. A song was sung and prayer by T. J. Adair.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Rev. T. J. Adair preached to a large and attentive congregation. Text II Kings, 4th Chapter, 40th verse. There is death in the pot.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday morning a large congregation had gathered at the church house. After singing some songs, Rev. W. C. Auston preached at 9 o'clock to a large and attentive congregation. Text 1st John, 9th Chapter, 5th. At 11 o'clock Rev. P. T. Keeton preached to a very large congregation.

At the close of the sermon the sacrament was administered. The congregation was dismissed 1 hour for refreshments.

At 2 o'clock Rev. J. W. Porter preached to a large congregation, text Titus 3rd Chapter, 7th verse. Sunday night Rev. B. M. Adkins preached to a large congregation, text Mark, 4th Chapter, 35th verse. Let us pass over unto the other side.

MONDAY SESSION

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

A song was sung and Rev. A. L. Warran offered prayer.

The body 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 Revs. A. L. Warren, Potts, B. M. Adkins be seated as corresponding Messengers from the Jasper Association.

On motion omitted the reading of the minutes of Saturday's session.

Report on Documents and Order of Business

Called for reports of various committees.

We your committee on Documents 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 New Macedonia church or with Springfield church, to be decided upon by the Association.

3rd. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes, that he have the work done where he can get it done quickest and best and that he have 500 copies printed and that he be allowed \$5.00 for his services.

4th. We recommend that Rev. J. W. Porter preach the introductory sermon at the next Association and Rev. S. F. Lee be his alternate.

5th We recommend that each Minister make a report of his Ministerial work to the Association if he sees fit to do so.

6th We recommend the ordination of Bro. Roy Guyton to the full function of the Gospel, and that Moderator appoint the ordaining council.

Respt. submitted.

C. A. CHAFFIN, Chairman

Report read and received and the Committee discharged. Report reread, by sections, each section adopted as read, and by taking a vote of the Association as a body of the whole give the next Association to Springfield church.

The ordaining council was appointed to ordain Bro. Roy Guyton to-wit: Revs. J. M. Haas, T. J. Adair, S. F. Lee and after an examination of him set him fourth to the full functions of the Gospel.

Report on Deceased Members

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

After prayerful investigation we find that our Heavenly Father has seen fit in His wise Providence to call from the rugged path of life the following brothers and sisters: From Liberty, Sister Sisie Perkins; Fairview church, Bro. J. S. Lockhart; Mt. Willings, Bro. G. C. Crews, W. Q. Haney and Sister Pollie Pate, Sisters McDonald, Vicie McClusky; Friendship, Sister Ellie Ward; Springfield, Sister B. M. Simms.

Respt. submitted.

J. M. GRAHAM. Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

Report on Education and Literature

We your Committee on Education and Literature beg leave to submit the following report: We want it thoroughly understood that we believe in a classical education and there is no danger of us gaining too much knowledge.

We condemn anything that is taught our children to lead them to believe that man sprung from a baboon or monkey.

We also want it to go on record saying that the Bible is the most and best authentic history in the world and contains the best science and the greatest code of morals and tells of the best men that ever lived, therefore we recommend the Bible be made a text book in our public schools.

We furthermore condemn the action of demeriting pupils in schools,

because they refuse to join the ball team and dancing circle.

We furthermore recommend the Literature published at Aydon, North Carolina, as Literature to be used in our Sunday School in this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

MARVIN FRANKS, Chairman

Report received and Committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

Report on Sabbath Schools

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

We find eight of our churches with Sunday Schools. They are as follows: Piney Grove, Union Chapel, Friendship, Beaverton, Pearces Chapel, Beech Springs, Springfield, Centerpoint.

We urge our pastors to lecture on the need of Sabbath Schools and insist upon each church supporting a Sabbath School.

We also insist that our members attend their own Sabbath School as much as possible.

We recommend the use of our denominational literature together with the Bible.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. MARKHAM, Chairman

Report received and the committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

Report on Credentials

We your Committee on Credentials beg leave to submit 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 Frewill Baptist doctrine according to our articles of faith.

Respectfully, submitted

R. T. MIXON, Chairman.

Report received and the Committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

Report on Temperance

We your Committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report. After making inquiry among the delegates from the different churches we find temperance cause decreasing.

We therefore urge the cooperation of all our Ministers and lay members of the Association in stamping out the great curse of our land.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. PORTER, Chairman

Report received and Committees discharged. Report adopted as read.

By motion adjourned for refreshments and for Rev. S. T. Shoots to preach. Rev. S. T. Shoots delivered a very able discourse.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Singing by the congregation. Prayer was offered by Rev. Grady Williams.

The Moderator called the house to order. The clerk called the roll of delegates and a quorum being present proceeded to business. as follows:

Report on Finance

1st. Called for Report on Finance.

We your Committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report: After calling for the minute funds from all the churches, we have collected the sum of \$35.65.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. DILL, Chairman

Report received and Committee discharged. Report adopted as read. On motion the money was turned over to the Clerk.

Report on Querries and Resolutions

We find no querries necessary to be discussed.

Resolved, That we, the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association in session with Piney Grove church and community, tender our thanks for kindness shown us during our stay among them.

Report received and the committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

By Moderator appoint corresponding messengers to Sister Associations. To Mt. Moriah. A. M. Pennington, S. P. Hollis, J. M. Graham; to Jasper, Rev. J. W. Porter, Rev. C. A. Chaffin and J. E. Chaffin; to State Line, Rev. J. M. Haas, J. H. Dill and D. C. Hall.

The business of the Association being finished, there was a motion made and carried to adjourn to meet with Springfield Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1929. A song was sung, the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy. Prayer was offered by Rev. J. M. Haas.

Benediction by the Moderator.

REV. S. F. LEE, Moderator

J. E. CHARRIN, Clerk

MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

C. A. Chaffin	Rt. 2 Winfield, Ala.
J. W. Porter	Rt. 2 Winfield, Ala.
S. F. Lee	Rt. 2 Guin, Ala.
T. M. Lollar	Covin, Ala.
J. A. Tate	Vernon, Ala.
E. A. Palmer	Hamilton, Ala.
J. M. Hass	Tupelo, Miss.
M. R. Allen	Smithville, Miss.
Roy Guyton	Vernon, Ala.
M. L. Hollis	

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is one true and living God who is the supreme ruler of heaven and earth, self-existent Creator of all things, revealed under the personal distinction of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

2. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a treasure of Heavenly instructions; that it has God for its author, truth for its matter and Salvation for its end; that it reveals principles upon which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world the center of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

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

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

Art. 5. We believe that Christ, by His death and sufferings, made an atonement for the sins of mankind in general, and every individual in particular, however, that none but those who believe in Him can partake of the divine benefits.

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 free will, since man, in consequence of his natural corruption, is incapable of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

Art. 7. We believe in the general application of the grace of God to fallen man sufficiently to enable him, morally and actually, to obey the requirements of the law of liberty, Jas. 1:5; this is the act of saving faith, John 1:9; however, none but those who believe or acquiesce, in Christ will be saved thereby.—Acts 17:32; Romans 2:19; John 3:9.

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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, by his Creator to act in any given way; that if he lives after the flesh he shall die; but if he through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body he shall live, and therefore man is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation. Heb. 11:12-13; Rom. 13:14; Mark 13:12; Ezek. 18:24; Rev. 2nd and 8th chapters; Ezek. 33:13-28; 1st Tim. 4:1;

Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1:12-24; 1st Peter 1:10.

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

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

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

Art. 12. We believe in open and free communion, and the churches of our body are authorized through their pastors to invite all Christians of orthodox churches who are in good standing in their respective churches, to commune with us at the Lord's table.

Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the general judgment; that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal, upon the principles of grace and justice.

RULES OF DECORUM

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

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

3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of the votes of the delegates present elects.

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

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

6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in case of 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.

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

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

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

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

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

CONSTITUTION.

1. This association shall be known as the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, and being composed of ministers and delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the internal affairs of churches, unless they depart from the articles of faith of this Association, but this Association shall have authority over all ministers in the matter of doctrine, character, etc. In case any minister in this Association depart from and teach doctrine not in keeping with the articles of faith of this Association, the same shall be dealt with by this Association as it may see proper, according to the teachings of the Bible.

3. Each church of this Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, etc., though any brothers who feel impressed to preach the Gospel of Christ, the church shall, or may recommend such brothers to the Association, and on examination of the brothers' qualification, if in the judgment of this body the brother would be useful they shall confer ordination. This being done at the Association by a legal presbytery,

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

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

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

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

8. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interests of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary work, etc.

9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

10. Any minister of this Association who shall be guilty of circulating reports of any nature, or aiding in the circulating of any report that is untrue, on a brother minister that is calculated to injure his moral character and religious influence, the same shall be dealt with by this Association, or any minister of this Association, who is known to be guilty of using intoxicating spirits by drinking as a beverage which is calculated to destroy his influence and usefulness, the same shall be dealt with by this Association as it may see proper according to the teachings of the Bible.

11. The Association shall in all cases and in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of the members, or delegates present, and any church, or delegate, failing or refusing to do so is and shall be considered by the Association as being out of order.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	DELEGATES	PASTORS	Clerks and Postoffices	Baptized	Rec'd. by Letter	Dismissed by letter	Excluded	Restored	Deceased	Total Members	Minute Money	Meeting Days
Vernon	Not Represented											
Union Chapel	Cullen Collins, R. W. Maddox	S. F. Lee	A. J. Robertson, Covin Ala.							57	\$1.55	4
Mt. Harmony	Not Represented											
Friendship	J. M. Graham, S. W. Reynolds	M. L. Hollis	J. A. Robertson, Columbus, Miss.	14					1		3.00	
Springfield	S. P. Hollis, W. W. Barnes, D. C. Hall	J. M. Haas	Mose Hollis, Vernon, Ala.	15	3			1			3.00	1
Pearce's Chapel	E. E. Cowart	George C. Lee	E. E. Cowart, Smithville, Miss.	10	7				1	282	3.00	3
Liberty	R. N. Yearby, J. H. Hester, R. T. Mixon	J. W. Porter	T. J. Hankins, Vernon, Ala.	4					1		2.85	1
Mt. Pleasant	Mrs. E. C. Partan	T. G. Harrison	J. T. Baxter, Vernon, Ala.	1	2					104	1.75	4
Beaverton	J. M. Chaffin, R. L. Barnes, A. E. Roberts	S. F. Lee	R. L. Barnes, Beaverton, Ala.	1	1					68	2.00	4
Piney Grove	M. N. Shelnut, W. J. Markham, R. M. Motes	T. G. Harrison	Ernest Roberts, Guin, Ala.	2		2	1			66	1.50	2
Mt. Willing	G. G. Chaffin, A. J. Shelnut, D. A. Markham	G. W. Flipppo	A. J. McDonald, Winfield, Ala.	23	7				5	122	2.50	3
Siloam	W. H. Rye, Frank Frederick	E. A. Palmer	Cornelia Rye, Hamilton, Ala.							63	2.05	
Fairview	J. H. Dill, D. W. Dill	E. A. Palmer	J. H. Dill Crews Depot, Ala.							43	1.20	1
Demascus	Not Represented											
Beech Spring	G. B. Hill, John Stembridge	George C. Lee	George Hill, Saltilo, Miss.	4	2					50	3.00	
New Macedonia	G. L. Baldwin, J. T. Alexander	George C. Lee	W. V. Long, Tupelo, Miss.								3.00	
Union Hill	M. Franks, John Harris, W. A. McCarty	J. M. Haas	D. B. Robbins, Tupelo, Miss.	14						75	3.00	
Centerpoint	L. J. Pickle, C. E. Irvin, W. H. Riffin	J. A. Tate	C. E. Irvin, Sulligent, Ala.		6					20	2.25	

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES	NAMES OF DELEGATES	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Expelled	Deceased	No. of Members	Days of Meeting	Sunday School	Paid Pastor	Paid Helper	Minute Fund	Value of Church Property
Beaverton --		Not Represented -----		18	0	0	0	0	204		*	\$143.50	\$68.55	\$3.00	\$3000
Belk -----	M. L. Hollis --	R. H. Yerby, Belk, Ala. -----	J. G. Taylor, R. H. Yerby, H. D. Williams -----	0	0	0	0	0	42	1				\$1.60	
Fairview ----	Grady Hudson --	A. E. Roberts, Beaverton, Ala. -----	D. W. Dill, Carrie Dill, Bertha Cotton -----	6		3		0				\$ 56.51	\$19.25	\$1.55	
Friendship --	M. E. Carpenter	J. A. Robertson, Steens, Miss. .	J. A. Robertson and wife -----						161		*		\$26.00	\$2.00	\$1250
Liberty -----	M. L. Hollis --	Clemmie Poore, Vernon, Ala. --	Thomas Hankins, Monroe Perkins, R. H. Yerby						187	3	*	\$145.35	\$52.00	\$2.55	\$3000
Mt. Harmony	M. E. Carpenter	O. C. Robertson, Millport, Ala.	Johnny Stanley, Lela Prater -----	2	0	0									
Mt. Pleasant		Not Represented -----													
Mt. Willing	Joe S. Frederick	G. C. McGowan, Guin, Ala. ----	Elzie Guin, H. H. Gosa, J. E. Chaffin -----	17	4	0	0	2	250	3		\$ 76.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$2500
Piney Grove	A. L. Warren --	J. R. Williams, Guin, Ala. ----	J. M. Chaffin, Frank Collins, Claude Fuller -----	8	5	1	0	1		2				\$1.15	
Springfield --	Joe S. Frederick	O. L. Hall, Vernon, Ala. -----	W. W. Barnes, E. G. Jordan, C. E. Gault -----	2	1	0	0		267	1	*	\$ 55.25		\$2.35	\$2500
Union Chapel	M. E. Carpenter	W. D. Glasgow, Vernon, Ala. --	P. H. Woods, W. D. Glasgow, Dewey Harrison --	9	8	0	0	2	105	4	*	\$131.50		\$3.55	

NAMES OF MINISTERS

Rev. C. A. Chaffin ----- Guin, Alabama
Rev. J. W. Porter ----- Guin, Alabama
Rev. S. F. Lee ----- Guin, Alabama
Rev. T. M. Lollar ----- Covin, Alabama
Rev. E. A. Palmer ----- Hamilton, Alabama
Rev. Joe S. Frederick ----- Covin, Alabama
Rev. M. E. Carpenter ----- Fernbank, Alabama
Rev. E. W. Graves ----- Covin, Alabama

CLERK REPORT

Minute Funds ----- \$22.75
Public Donation ----- 8.25
Moderator ----- 5.00
Clerk ----- 5.00
State Conference ----- 5.00
PRINTING MINUTES ----- 18.50