

**MINUTES**

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**OF THE**

**FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**OF THE**

**VERNON FREEWILL BAPTIST**

**ASSOCIATION**

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**HELD WITH**

**SPRINGFIELD CHURCH**

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**October 19, 20, 21, 1929**

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

**J. E. CHAFFIN** ..... **Clerk**

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The next session of this Association will be held with New Macedonia Church, three miles east of Tupelo, Miss., the same to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1930.

# MINUTES

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The 49th Annual Session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association convened with Springhill Church, October 19, 20, 21, 1929.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Porter. Text Matthew 22nd chapter, 42nd verse. At the close of the sermon one hour was taken for refreshments.

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## AFTERNOON SESSION

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The congregation re-assembled in the house. The former moderator, Rev. S. F. Lee, being present, called the house to order. The former clerk, J. E. Chaffin, being present, a song was sung and Rev. J. D. Byars offered prayer.

The moderator and clerk took their seats and proceeded to business as follows:

The moderator appointed Bros. A. M. Pennington and J. M. Graham as reading clerks.

The letters were called for, handed in and read. Contents noted as per statistical table.

Moved in order that the Association go into an election for moderator and clerk for the ensuing year. Result as follows: Rev. S. F. Lee, moderator; J. E. Chaffin, clerk.

The newly elected moderator and clerk took their seats and after appropriate remarks by the moderator for the honor conferred upon him proceeded to business as follows:

First called for corresponding messengers from sister Associations. Came forward Bros., to-wit: From Mt. Moriah, Rev. J. D. Byars, Rev. O. C. Weaver and J. L. Stapp. Jasper, Rev. W. D. Martin, Rev. W. C. Austin, Rev. J. H. Potts. State Line, Rev. W. O. Knight, S. P. Brown, and J. C. Palmer.

Called for petitionary letters. None presented.

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

Committee on Devotional Exercises—Earnest Roberts, H. M. McDonald, Cullen Collins, with the deacons of Springhill Church.

On Documents and Order of Business—Rev. J. M. Haas, J. W. Porter, T. J. Harrison, S. M. Perkins, with the moderator and clerk

On Deceased Members—J. M. Graham, J. T. Taylor, B. F. McDonald, E. W. Perkins, S. L. Cash, Mrs. J. T. Alexander.

On Literature—Rev. S. T. Shutes, P. E. Maddox, J. E. Irvin, Audie Ford.

On Finance—G. W. Chaffin, H. M. Perkins, Covin Finch.

On Sabbath Schools—M. C. Johnson, M. N. Shelnut, B. C. Guin, L. D. Hill, Sister Fronia Pickle, J. M. Haas.

On Querries and Resolutions—T. J. Hankins, J. W. Adair, B. F. Cline, J. A. Harper, J. F. Harbor, G. B. Hill.

On Temperance—L. A. Crowder, J. T. Green, D. G. Jordan, J. E.

Smith, Sister E. C. Partain.

On Ministerial Credentials—W. C. Crossley, G. B. Hill, J. A. Robertson, Frank Lee.

On motion the committee on Devotional Services report as follows: Rev. O. C. Weaver to preach Sunday at 9:00 o'clock; Rev. J. D. Byars at 11:00 o'clock; Rev. W. D. Martin Sunday night.

Motion made and carried to adjourn until Monday morning at 8:00 o'clock. A song was sung. Prayer by R. N. Yerby.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock Rev. O. C. Weaver preached to a large congregation. Subject, St. John 19th chapter, 5th verse. "Behold the man."

At 11:00 o'clock Rev. J. D. Byars preached from the subject, 1st Cor., 13th chapter, 1st verse. At the close of the sermon the Lord's Supper was administered to a large crowd of partakers.

Sunday night Rev. W. D. Martin preached to a large and attentive congregation. Subject, "For ye are not come unto the mount."

### MONDAY'S SESSION

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. A song was sung. Prayer was offered by Rev. S. T. Shutes.

The body was called together 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 omitted reading the minutes of Saturday's session.

Called for reports of various committees.

#### Report on Documents and Order of Business

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 the next session of this Association be held with New Macedonia Church, the same to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1930, three miles east of Tupelo, Miss.

3rd. We recommend the clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes of this session, and that he have the work done where he sees best, and that he have 500 copies printed, and that he have the balance of the Minute money that is left for his services, after paying for printing and distributing minutes.

4th. We recommend that Rev. S. F. Lee preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session, and Rev. J. W. Porter his alternate.

5th. We recommend that each church begin raising a fund for superannuation.

6th. We recommend that the ministers of this Association discuss

the Unified Articles of Faith during the ensuing Associational year and make their report at the next Association.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. HAAS, Chairman

Report read and received and the committee discharged. Report re-read by sections, each section adopted as read.

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#### Report 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 best in His wise providence to call from the walks of life's rugged pathway the following brothers and sisters, to-wit: From Springhill Church, Sister Martha Ann Jordan; from Liberty Church, Sister Welthy Black and Rev. E. W. Lawrence; from Beaverton Church, Sister Ventries McDonald; Mt. Harmony Church, Sister Mary McReynolds; Damascus, Sister Susie Suttles; Friendship Church, Rev. G. B. Taylor and Sister Mary Barrow; Mt. Willing Church, Bro. Jim Mills and wife and Sister Francis Mills; New Macedonia Church, Sister S. F. Raper; Union Chapel Church, W. R. Jones; Pearce's Chapel Church, Sister Fannie Wells and Sister Sarah Crane.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. GRAHAM, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read. A memorial song was sung. Prayer was offered by Elder J. E. Black.

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#### Report on Literature and Education

We, your Committee on Education and Literature, beg leave to submit the following report:

Seeing the dangerous doctrines spreading over our land under the guise of Modernism,

Be it Resolved, That we go on record denouncing such and endorsing Christian education such as is taught in our school at Ayden, N. C.,

That we urge our boys and girls to patronize our own institutions,

That we be constant readers of our Church Organs and our literature in every way possible, and that we as preachers discourage the use of cheap literature in the homes.

Respectfully submitted,

S. T. SHUTES, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

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#### Sabbath Schools

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

We find six of our churches with Sabbath Schools: Piney Grove, Friendship, Beaverton, New Macedonia, Damascus and Springhill.

We urge our pastors to lecture on the need of Sabbath Schools



and insist upon each supporting a Sabbath School.

We recommend the use of our own Denominational Literature with the Bible.

Respectfully submitted,

M. C. JOHNSON, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

By motion adjourned one hour for refreshments. The congregation sang a song. Prayer by Rev. S. M. Perkins.

### MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

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

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 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 standing by the cause of the Freewill Baptist doctrine according to our Articles of Faith.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. CROSSLEY, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

#### Report on Temperance

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

After making investigations we believe that the temperance cause is increasing at the present time. We therefore urge and pray that the ministers and members of the Association use their efforts to keep this cause on the upward move.

Respectfully submitted,

L. A. CROWDER, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

#### Report on Finance

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

After calling for the minute money from all the churches we find that we have \$10.00.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. CHAFFIN, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.  
By motion the money was turned over to the clerk.

### Report on Querries and Resolutions

We, your committee on Querries and Resolutions, beg leave to report as follows:

We find no querries to be discussed at this session.

Resolved, That we, the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association, in session at Springhill Church, tender our thanks to Springhill Church and community for kindness shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. F. HARBOR, Chairman.

By motion the moderator appointed Bros. J. T. Green and J. M. Graham delegates to the State Convention.

By motion moderator appointed corresponding messengers to sister Association as follows, to-wit:

To Mt. Moriah, Rev. S. T. Shutes, A. J. Sanders and B. C. Guin.

To Jasper, Rev. J. W. Porter, M. N. Shelnut and C. E. Roberts.

To State Line Association, Rev. J. M. Haas, J. L. Alexander and J. E. Irvin.

The business of the Association being finished, there was a move made and carried to adjourn to meet with New Macedonia Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1930. A song was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears of grief and joy. Prayer by Rev. W. D. Martin. Benediction by the moderator.

REV. S. F. LEE, Moderator,  
J. E. CHAFFIN, 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. Haas .....    | Tupelo, Miss.        |
| M. R. Allen .....   | Smithville, Miss.    |
| Roy Guyton .....    | Vernon, Ala.         |
| M. L. Hollis .....  | Red Bay, Ala.        |

### 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.

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 the 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

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