

MINUTES

OF THE
50TH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE
Vernon Freewill Baptist
Association

HELD WITH
NEW MACEDONIA

* * * * *
* OCTOBER 1930 *
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REV. J. M. HAAS Moderator

J. E. CHAFFIN Clerk

The next session of this Association will convene with Friendship Church, on Saturday, before the third Sunday in October, 1931.

MINUTES

The 50th Session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association met with New Macedonia Church on Saturday, before the Third Sunday in October, 1930.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. M. L. Hollis. After preaching, one hour was taken for refreshments, after which the Ministers and delegates assembled in the house for business.

The former Moderator being absent a motion was made and carried that Rev. J. M. Haas serve as Moderator protem until permanently organized. The former clerk being present, the Moderator and Clerk took their seats and proceeded to business as follows:

A song was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. M. L. Hollis. First Moderator appointed Brothers M. R. Allen and J. M. Graham, reading clerks.

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

3. Called for petitionary letters, none presented.

4. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body which was done by electing Rev. J. M. Haas, Moderator, and J. E. Chaffin, Clerk. After appropriate remarks by the Moderator, for honors conferred upon him, proceeded with the business.

(1). Called for corresponding messengers from sister associations came forward, Rev. M. L. Hollis and Brother C. Barnes from the Jasper association and the Moderator and Clerk extended to them the right hand of welcome. On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint the various committees and the following were appointed:

On Devotional exercise, W. J. Hill, W. M. Edgeworth, J. M. Graham, with the deacons of New Macedonia Church.

Documents and Order of Business, Revs. S. T. Shutes, M. R. Allen, R. V. Guyton, with the Moderator and Clerk.

Deceased Members

E. W. Graves, D. C. Hall, J. E. Smith, J. O. Haas, C. J. Brasfield.

Literature

L. H. Murphy, A. E. Roberts, W. R. Reedy.

Finance

J. H. Dill, J. A. Robertson, Ernest Roberts, Tom Pettus and Andy Montgomery.

Querries and Resolutions

A. M. Pennington, J. T. Taylor, Sister S. O. Johnson.

Temperance

J. W. Adair, S. J. Fields, Hollis Price, Sisters S. T. Shutes, W. M. Edgeworth and J. C. Brasfield.

Ministerial Credentials

W. A. McCarthy, Robert Barnes, W. W. Barnes, C. H. Guin, L. B. Hill.

Report On Devotional Services

On motion the committee made their report on devotional services as follows: Rev. M. L. Hollis, preach Saturday night; Rev. R. V. Guyton, Sunday at 9 o'clock; Rev. S. T. Shutes, at 11 o'clock. On motion the association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock. A song was sung. The Moderator offered prayer.

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Sunday Services

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, Rev. R. V. Guyton preached to a large congregation.

At 11 o'clock Rev. S. T. Shutes preached to a large and attentive congregation.

Monday Session

The association met pursuant to adjournment. Scripture reading and prayer was offered by Rev. J. H. Norwood.

The body was called to order by the Moderator.

The Clerk called the roll. The delegates answered to their names after which the Moderator announced a quorum present and the association ready for business.

On motion the reading of the minutes of Saturday's session was omitted. Moderator invited corresponding. Messengers came forward from the Water Valley Association. Rev. George C. Lee, Rev. J. H. Norwood, Rev. W. H. Fondren, and Bros. J. P. Hamilton, W. F. Bevills, Moderator and Clerk extended to them the right hand of welcome.

Moderator called for report of various committees.

Report On Document and Order of Business

(1). We recommend the former order of business.

(2). We recommend that an executive body of five be appointed to act between sessions.

(3). We recommend that two delegates be appointed to attend the next State Conference and that a fee of \$3.00 be sent.

(4). We recommend that this Association represent in the general conference and that the fee of \$10.00 appropriated for the Temperance fee.

(5). We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Mt. Pleasant Church 8 miles Southwest of Vernon.

(6). We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes and that he have 400 copies printed and that he have \$5.00 for his services.

(7). We recommend that Rev. R. V. Guyton preach the introductory sermon at the next session and Rev. J. M. Haas, alternate.

(8). We recommend that Article IV under the Constitution be changed to read that a majority rules, so as to be in harmony with Article XI, under the Constitution and Article V under rules of Decrum.

Respectfully submitted,

S. T. SHUTES, Chairman.

Report received and committees discharged. Report re-read by section, each section adopted as read.

Report On Deceased Members

We the committee on Deceased Members, wish to make this report after careful investigation, we find that the Grim Reaper has been abroad within our Associational territory, visiting many of our churches, gathering many precious souls to their home in Glory. From Siloam G. W. Mason; from Friendship. T. L. Hays and Sister Stella Reynolds; from Damascus, Brother A. D. May; from Springfield, Sister Sarah Adams and Sister Pennington; from Mt. Willing, Brother John Haw-

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kins, Sisters Fairley Crews and Irene Lee; from Pearces Chapel, Sisters S. Coaker, Ida Bailey and Cornelia Price and Brother Melvin Duncan; from Mt. Pleasant, Brother S. M. Brown; from Mt. Harmony, Sister Emily Wheeler.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. GRAVES, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read.

Committee discharged.

Report On Literature

We your committee on Literature, wish to submit the following report. In expressing our opinion of the chances to receive a Christian education, we feel confident that from the present line of Christian Literature, they are far better than ever before. Every Christian should be wide awake and watching for the best literature and always turn down things that are not good for them to read. Christian parents should teach their children to read only the best forms of literature. We highly recommend the kinds of literature that are being published at Ayden, N. C., for use by the Christian people.

Respectfully submitted,

L. H. MURPHY, Chairman.

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

Report On Sabbath Schools

We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the following report: We find nine of our churches with Sabbath Schools; Pearces Chapel, Springfield, Friendship, New Macedonia, Fairview, Union Chapel, Mt. Pleasant, and Damascus, we urge our pastors to lecture on the need of Sabbath Schools and insist upon each church supporting a Sabbath School. We recommend the use of our own denominational literature with the use of the Bible.

Respectfully submitted,

S. G. JOHNSON, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read.

Committee, discharged.

Report On Ministerial Credentials

We your committee on Ministerial Credentials beg leave to submit the following report. By taking the Freewill Baptist doctrine as our guide we feel that the Ministers are standing true to the cause and are adhering to the articles of faith, and we believe they are all in good standing with their respective churches. We the committee want to bid you God's speed in carrying on the work of the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. McCARTY, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read.

Committee discharged.

On Temperance

We your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following. We believe the temperance cause is making progress, regardless of the rigid criticism being offered by its opponents. We ask that the Ministers teach their congregations relative to temperance teaching and

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 deprived 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 judgement; that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal, upon the principles of grace and justice.

Art. 14. Concerning the washing of the Saints feet as a Gospel ordinance each member shall have the right to participate in such ordinance as he can best answer his own conscience to God, without criticism on the part of anyone.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the 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 the delegates shall rule in all cases except in the reception of churches, then it shall be unanimous.

6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in case of a tie, and then he shall be given 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

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from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three degrees.

2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the internal affairs of the 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 judgement 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 majority 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 temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary Work, etc.

9. No members 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. that each member make himself an instrument to and in the enforcement.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. ADAIR, Chairman.

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Report received, committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

Report On Querries And Resolutions

We your committee on Querries and Resolutions beg leave to submit the following report: We find no querries to be discussed at this session.

Resovlved, that we, the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association at New Macedonia Church, tender our thanks to New Macedonia Church and community for the kindness shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

A. M. PENNINGTON, Chairman.

Report received, committee discharged.

Report adopted as read.

Finance Report

We your committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report after calling for the minutes from the various churches, we find we have collected the sum of \$35.85.

Respectfully submitted.

J. H. DILL, Chairman.

Report received and adopted committee discharged.

On motion the money was turned over to the clerk.

On motion Moderator appointed corresponding messenger to sister associations, To Water Valley Association, Rev. S. T. Shutes; Rev. R. V. Guyton and J. L. Strawbridge, to Jasper Association; Rev. S. F. Lee, Rev. J. W. Porter and J. T. Taylor to State Line Association; Rev. M. R. Allen, J. C. Brassfield and J. M. Thompson.

Moderator appointed on Executive committee of five to-wit: S. G. Johnson, J. M. Graham, J. W. Adair, W. M. Edgeworth, Hollis Murphy.

On motion Moderator appointed delegates to State Convention to State Conference to-wit, Hollis Murphy, J. S. Fields

On motion Moderator appointed delegates to General Conference to-wit: W. M. Edgeworth, J. T. Baxter.

The business of the Association being finished there was a motion made and carried to adjourn to meet with Friendship Church on Saturday, before the third Sunday, in October, 1931. A song was sung, prayer by Rev. W. H. Fondron.

REV. J. M. HAAS, Moderator

J. E. CHAFFIN, Clerk

MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. C. A. Chaffin	Winfield, Ala., Route One.
Rev. J. W. Porter.....	Winfield Ala. Route One.
Rev. S. F. Lee	Guin, Ala., Route One.
Rev. T. M. Lollar.....	Covin, Ala., Route One.
Rev. E. A. Palmer	Hamilton, Ala., Route Four.
Rev. M. R. Allen	Smithville, Miss.
Rev. J. M. Haas	Tupelo, Miss.
Rev. S. M. Perkins	Vernon, Ala.
Rev. J. A. Tate	Vernon, Ala.
Rev. R. V. Guyton	Sulligent, Ala.

STATISTICAL TABLE

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