

MINUTES

—of the—

51st Annual Session

—of the—

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

—Held with—

**Friendship Church, Lamar County, Ala.,
October 17 to 19.**

1931

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Officers:

REV. S. F. LEE, Moderator.
R. M. GRAVES, Clerk.

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The next session of this Association will convene on Saturday, before the Third Sunday in Oct. 1932. with Union Chapel Church, in Lamar County, Alabama.

PROCEEDINGS

The 51st Session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association met with Friendship Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1931.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. R. V. Guyton. Text Luke 22: 42, subject: "Why Sleep Ye" After preaching, one hour was taken for refreshments, after which the ministers and delegates assembled in the house for business.

Rev. J. M. Hass served as moderator until permanently organized. The former clerk being absent a motion was made and carried that R. M. Graves serve as clerk pro tem until permanently organized, the Moderator and Clerk took their seats and business proceeded as follows:

1. The moderator appointed Brothers D. G. Jordan and J. M. Graham reading clerks.

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

3. Called for petitionary letters. East Tupelo asked for membership and was received into the association,

4. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body which was done by electing Rev. S. F. Lee, Moderator and R. M. Graves, Clerk. After appropriate remarks by the Moderator for honors conferred upon him, proceeded with the business.

Called for corresponding messengers from sister associations and the following came forward: Rev. M. L. Hollis and Bro. Jno. Tharp from the Jasper Association; C. P. Thomson and R. J. Ferguson from Mississippi State Line Association and Rev. T. J. Adair from Morning Star 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 as follows:

Devotional Exercise.—A. J. McDonald, W. M. Edgeworth and Andy Montgomery with the Deacons of Friendship.

Documents and order of business.—Revs. J. M. Hass, S. T. Shutes, J. W. Potter and R. V. Guyton with Moderator and Clerk.

Deceased Members.—C. S. Collins, Olen Wheeler and J. V. Weathers.

Finance—J. W. Adair, Ernest Roberts, G. C. Lawrence and Ozeal Hass,

Literature—E.E. Corwart, S.G. Johnson and D.G. Johnson
 Querries and Resolutions—D. C. Hall, Robt. Barnes, D.
 D. Hollis and H. M. Murohy.

Temperance—E. W. Graves, J. M. Graham, R. M.
 Sanders and Golden Comer,

Ministerial Credentials—Earl Alexandria, B. F. McDonald
 J. A. Robertson, J. L. Stimbridge and W. J. Hill.

Sabbath School—Mrs. S. T. Shutes, Miss Sammie Lee Mc
 Donald, Mrs. Robt. Barnes, Mrs. J. W. Adair, G. B. Hill and
 L. E. Parker.

Report on Devotional Service

On motion the Committee made their report on devo-
 tional services as follows: Rev. S. F. Lee Saturday night
 at 7:30. Rev. J. W. Porter, Sunday at 9:00, Rev. T. J.
 Adair, at 11:00, Rev. S. T. Shutes at 2:30. Rev. E. W.
 Graves at 7:30 Sunday night and Rev. J. M. Hass the clos-
 ing sermon Monday afternoon at 2:30. On motion the as-
 sociation adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8:00 o'clock.
 A song was sung and Rev. J. M. Hass offered prayer.

Saturday night Rev. Lee preached to a large congregation
 using as his text, Luke 7:28.

Sunday Service

Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock Rev. Porter preached to
 a large congregation using as his text, Col. 1:13. At 11:00
 o'clock Rev. Adair preached to a large congregation using
 as his text, St. John 10:1. At 2:30 Rev. S. T. Shutes
 preached to a large and attentive congregation using as his
 text Matthew 16:18. Sunday night Rev. Graves preached
 to a large congregation. His text was 1st Tim. 1:19.

Monday Session

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Scripture
 was read by Rev. S. F. Lee and prayer was offered by Rev.
 Adair. The body was called to order by the Moderator.
 The roll was called and the delegates answered to their
 names after which the Moderator announced a quorum
 present and the association was ready for business.

On motion the reading of the minutes of Saturdays ses-
 sion was omitted. Moderator called for reports of various
 committees.

Report on Documents and Order of Business

1. We recommend the usual order of business.
2. We recommend that the executive board be retained and that this board aid in enforcing the 10th article of the constitution.
3. We recommend that two delegates be appointed to represent this Association in the state conference that meets at Unity Grove and a fee of \$3 00 be sent.
4. We recommend that this Association be represented in the General Conference and that a fee of \$10.00 be sent.
5. We recommend that the place for the next Association be decided upon by this body.
6. We recommend that the Clerk supervise the printing of the minutes and that he have 500 copies printed and that he have \$5 00 for his services.
7. We recommend that Rev. J. W. Porter preach the introductory sermon and that Rev. C. A. Chaffen be alternate.
8. We recommend the ordination of Bro. E. W. Graves at this session.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Hass, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report read by sections; each section adopted as read.

Report on Deceased Members

We your committee on deceased members wish to make this report after careful investigation, we find that since our last Association that God has called from us the following: from Fair View, Bro. Buddie Dill; from Mt. Willing, Bros. Troy Haney and Edward Pate; from Corinth, Bro. Joel Hester; from Friendship, Bro. S. L. Howard; from Mt. Harmony, Bro. Gary; from Pearces Chapel, Sisters Mollie Nelson and Docia Brasfield, all of whom, we trust have gone to a better world.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. S. Collins, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read, Committee discharged

Report on Literature

We your Committee on Literature wish to submit the following report. Since we do not have the proper time to get out among all the churches that are represented in this Association we can only give our recommendations to those not complying with teachings of the Bible. We ask each

church to carefully study the literature before placing it before the pupil and have a teachers training course where each teacher may attend for training. We further recommend that you christians do not employ the service of a day school teacher for your child, that indulges in the reading of trashy novels and refuse to read good material and Sunday School in the community in which they teach, because what you want your child to be tomorrow, you should place before it today in your schools and homes. We recommend the literature that is published at Ayden, N. C. to be used by the Christian people. Respectfully Submitted

E. E. Cowart, Chairman.

Report on Sabbath Schools

We your committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following report: From the reports we find that the Sunday Schools are increasing. We recommend that the Preachers put forth every effort to create a greater interest in the Sunday Schools. We recommend that each Sunday School be represented in the State Sunday School convention that meets with Macedonia Church 3 miles south of Millport on May 28 29, 1932. Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. S. T. Shutes, Chairman

Report received and adopted as read. Committee discharged.

Report on Ministerial Credentials

We your committee on Ministerial credentials wish to submit the following report: By taking the Holy Bible 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 that they are all in good standing with their respective Churches. We your committee want to bid you God speed in carrying on the work of the Lord. Resp't submitted

Earl Alexander, Chairman

Report received and adopted as read.

Committee discharged.

Report on Temperance

We your committee on temperance wish to submit the following report: We find that there is not much progress being made in our fight for temperance. A determined effort is being made by the rum forces to force strong drink upon us again. Therefore it behooves us as a church to put on the whole armor of God and enter into this fight unto death. We admonish every pastor, delegate and every

church worker from the least to the greatest to present a united front against this our greatest enemy. Respectfully

E. W. Graves, Chairman

Report received and adopted as read.

Committee Discharged.

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. Resolved that we the Free Will Baptist Association wish to thank this entire community for the kindness shown to us while in session here.

We recommend that the clerk of this body have the minutes published not later than three months after the Association if possible. Respectfully Submitted.

D. C. Hall, Chairman.

Report received and adopted.

Committee discharged.

Report on Documents and Order of Business.

As recommended by the comittee on Document and Order of Business, the Moderator appointed a presbytery to ordain Bro, E. W. Graves.

Rev. S. T. Shutes, Chairman.

Rev. J. M. Haas.

Rev. R. V. Guyton.

They proceeded as follows; Eld. Shutes asking the questions; Eld. Haas giving the charge and Eld. Guyton charging the church. Prayer was offered and the right hand of fellowship was extended.

Finance Report

We your committee on finance wish to submit the following report: After calling for minute funds from all our churches we have collected the sum of \$26.80.

Respectfully Submitted

J. W. Adair, Chairman.

Report received and adopted.

Committee discharged.

On motion the money was turned over to the clerk.

On motion Bro. Moderator appointed corresponding messengers to sister Associations. To Water Valley, Rev. J.M.

Haas and Bro. J. L. Stimbridge; to the State Line Association, Rev. R. V. Guyton and Bro. D. C. Hall; to Mt. Moriah Association, Rev. S. T. Shutes and Bro. C. S. Collins; to Jasper Rev. J. W. Porter and Bro. A. J. McDonald.

The Moderator appointed an executive committee of five to wit: S. G. Johnson, J. M. Graham, J. W. Adair, W. M. Edgeworth and Hollis Murphy.

On motion the Moderator appointed delegates to the State Conference, to wit: Bros. W. M. Edgeworth and J. M. Graham,

On motion the Moderator appointed delegates to the General Conference, to wit: Rev. and Mrs. S. T. Shutes and Raymond Graves.

The business of the Association being finished, there was motion made and carried to adjourn and to meet with Union Chapel Church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1932, The parting hand was taken and the congregation dismissed by Rev. S. F. Lee, Moderator.

After lunch the congregation gathered in the house to hear the closing sermon by Rev. J. M. Haas.

Rev. S. F. Lee, Moderator.

R. M. Graves, Clerk,

Ordained Ministers and Their Addresses

Rev. C. A. Chaffin, Route 1	Winfield, Ala,
" J. W. Porter, Route 1	Winfield, Ala,
" S. F. Lee, Route 1	Guin, Ala,
" T. M. Lollar, Route 1	Covin, Ala.
" E. A. Palmer, Route 4	Hamilton, Ala.
" M. R. Allen,	Smithville, Miss.
" J. M. Haas	Tupelo, Miss.
" S. M. Perkins,	Vernon, Ala.
" J. A. Tate,	Vernon, Ala
" R. V. Guyton	
" S. T. Shutes,	Vernon, Ala
" E. W. Graves, Route 3,	Vernon, Ala

Names of Churches and Delegates.

Vernon—W. M. Edgeworth, Mrs. S. T. Shutes.
 Union Chapel—C. S. Collins, R. M. Graves, James Maddox.
 Mt. Harmony—Olen Wheeler, L. E. Parker, S. G. Johnson.

Friendship—J. V. Weathers, J. A. Johnson.
 Pearces Chapel—E. E. Cowart.
 Springfield—D. D. Hollis, D. C. Hall, D. G. Jordan.
 Liberty—C. G. Lawrence.
 Mt. Pleasant—J. W. Adair and wife, R. M. Sanders.
 Piney Grove—Ernest Roberts,
 Mt. Willing—Miss Sammie Lee McDonald, A. J. McDonald
 Beaverton—Robert Barnes and wife.
 Siloam—Not Represented
 Fairview—Represented by letter.
 Damascus—Not represented.
 Beech Springs—J. L. Stimbridge.
 New Macedonia—Ozeal Haas, Andy Montgomery.
 Union Hill—B. F. McDonald, Golden Comer,
 Center Point—Represented by letter.
 East Tupelo—Represented by letter.

Articles of Faith

Art. 1 We believe there is one true and living God who is the ruler of heaven and earth, self existant 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.

Art. 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 principler 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 falt

Art. 5 We believe that Christ by his death and suffering

made an atonement for the sins of mankind in general and ever 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, sinse 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 saving faith, John 1:9; however none but those who believe or acquiese 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 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 the visible church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his law and exercising the gifts, rights and priviledges 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 solem self-examination.

Art. 12 We believe in open and free communion, and the churches of our body are authorized throtgh 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

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 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 Free will Baptist Association of Alabama and being composed of ministers and delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to 3 delegates.

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 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 place.

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 delegates 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.



STATISTICAL TABLE

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