

MINUTES
OF THE
52nd Annual Session
OF THE
**VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**
HELD WITH
Union Chapel Church
1932

OFFICERS

REV. J. M. HASS, Moderator.

R. M. GRAVES, Clerk.

The next session of this Association will convene on Saturday, before the Third Sunday in October, 1933, with Mt. Pleasant Church, in Lamar County, Alabama.

PROCEEDINGS

The 52nd Session of the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association met with Union Chapel Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October. Due to bad weather, there were only a small crowd present.

The Association opened with song service led by Brother L. E. Parker and prayer by Brother Dewey Jordan. Special music was offered by the Mt. Willing quartet after which Rev. J. W. Porter read, "Paul's letter to the Romans," prayer by Rev. R. V. Guyton and the Introductory sermon preached by Rev. J. W. Porter, subject, "The Great Plan of Salvation." Dismissed by Rev. R. V. Guyton.

After enjoying a fine dinner the ministers and delegated body assembled in the house for business. Opened with song service by the congregation, prayer by Rev. J. H. Hass. The moderator Rev. S. F. Lee announced the body in order of business. The moderator and clerk took their seats and business proceeded as follows:

1. The moderator appointed Brother J. M. Graham and Rev. E. W. Graves reading clerks.

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

3. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body which was done by electing Rev. J. M. Hass moderator and R. M. Graves clerk. After appropriate remarks by the moderator for honors conferred upon him, proceeded with the business.

4. Called for corresponding messenger from sister associations and the following came forward: Rev. M. L. Hollis from Jasper Association, Rev. J. B. Bloss from Muscle Shoals State-Line Association, Rev. E. M. Fields and J. H. Cole from Mt. Moriah 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

Devotional Exercise—L. E. Parker, W. M. Edgeworth, and J. M. Graham, with the deacons of Union Chapel Church.

DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Documents and order of business—Rev. R. V. Guyton, Rev. J. W. Porter and Rev. S. F. Lee with moderator and clerk.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Floyd Markham, Brother Mike Vails and wife, and Brother Ernest Roberts.

FINANCE

Brother Joe Lee McNeese, Brother J. W. Adair, and Rev. E. M. Fields.

LITERATURE

Brother W. M. Edgeworth, Brother Arthur Franks, and Brother Earl Alexander.

TEMPERANCE

Sister J. M. Graham, Brother W. J. Hill, and Brother J. L. Stembridge.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Brother R. N. Yerby, Brother Shirley Hester, and Brother D. G. Jordan.

SABBATH SCHOOLS

Brother L. A. Crowder, Brother James Maddox, and Brother Homer Robertson.

QUERRIES AND RESOLUTION

Brother C. M. Johnson, Rev. E. W. Graves, Brother S. D. Loftis, and Brother J. B. Bloss.

REPORT ON DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

On motion the committee made their report on devotional services as follows: Due to bad weather we think best to omit tonight's services. Rev. E. M. Fields, Sunday at 9 o'clock; Rev. J. M. Hass at 11 o'clock; and Rev. R. V. Guyton at two o'clock. On motion the association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock. A song was sung by the congregation and dismissed by Rev. S. F. Lee.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday morning at nine o'clock, Rev. E. M. Fields brought us a very interesting message. At 11 o'clock, Rev. J. M. Hass brought us a very interesting message and at two o'clock, Rev. R. V. Guyton brought us a message that was spiritually uplifting to each one present.

MONDAY SESSION

The association met pursuant to adjournment. Scripture read by Rev. S. F. Lee and prayer by Rev. R. V. Guyton. The body was called to order by moderator. The roll was called 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 called for report 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.

1. We recommend the usual order of business.
2. That we elect and empower the moderator to appoint an executive committee to look after, and enforce the tenth article of the constitution.
3. That each church send in not less than \$2.00 minute funds and more if possible.
4. We recommend that three delegates be appointed and a fee of \$3.00 be sent to the called session of the State Conference to be held with Guin Church, at Guin, Alabama, November 9 and 10, 1932.
5. We recommend that the place for the next association be decided upon by this delegated body.
6. We recommend that the Clerk supervise the printing of the minutes, having five hundred copies printed and that he have \$5.00 for his services.

We recommend that Rev. E. W. Graves preach the introductory sermon and that Rev. S. F. Lee be alternate at the next session of the association.

Respectfully submitted,

R. V. GUYTON, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report re-read by sections. Each section adopted as read.

REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We your committee on deceased members wish to make the following report, after careful investigation, we find that since our last

association that God has called from us the following: from Springfield church, Sister W. W. Barnes; from Piney Grove, Brother Walter Crews; from Union Chapel, Sister Rebecca Newman and Sister Jettie Lollar; from Beech Springs, Sister Athiehoe, and Brother Tom Stanford; from Friendship, Brother Bob Barnes; from New Macedonia, Daniel Deaton. Respectfully submitted, Floyd Markham.

Report received and adopted as read. Committee discharged.

REPORT ON LITERATURE

We your committee on Literature wish to make the following report. The Free Will Baptist first of all stands for the study of the Bible, as a way bill from earth to Heaven. Since our people are going to read literature other than the Bible, we recommend that the members of the Free Will Baptist Church write to our publishing house at Ayden, N. C., and get a list of religious books and magazines placed before the children every day as much as possible. We recommend that every church in this association get the Free Will Baptist paper in every home.

Where there is no union the people perish and no denomination can get very far without reading our church paper. In reading this paper we can be brought closer together in Christianity and love.

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. EDGEWORTH, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read. Committee discharged.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the report that from the reports of each church, only seven out of 18 churches have Sabbath Schools, about 38.1-2 per cent. We urge that the pastors of various churches preach Sabbath Schools more, and lecture at least once per year on the subject, and train our people the need of the study of the Bible.

We recommend that all the Sabbath Schools be represented in the State Sunday School Convention to be held with Springfield Church, beginning on Friday before the fifth Sunday in April, 1933. Springfield church is located near Vernon, Alabama.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. R. V. GUYTON, 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. We recommend that the Articles of Faith be read to the Ministering brothers to see if they endorse or reject them.

So far as we know the ministering brothers are in good standing with their respective churches.

Respectfully submitted,

R. N. YERBY, 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 the fight for Temperance. We recommend that a more determined fight be made to stamp out the rum forces. It behooves us as Christian workers to renew our efforts in this great cause. We admonish every

pastor, delegate and church worker to unite in the cause for Temperance.

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. J. M. GRAHAM, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read. Committee discharged.

REPORT ON QUERRIES AND RESOLUTIONS

We your committee on Querries and Resolutions wish to submit the following report. We find no Querries to be discussed at this session. Be it resolved:

1st. That no minister be accepted into full membership in this association until he has presented evidence that he is in good standing within his former association.

2nd. That this association appoint a field secretary to promote the interests of Sunday Schools within this association.

3rd. That this association organize a Sunday School Convention.

4th. That this association extend its thanks to this church and community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during this association.

Respectfully submitted,
C. M. JOHNSON, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read. Committee discharged.

REPORT ON FINANCE

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 \$20.00.

Respectfully submitted;
JOE LEE McNEASE, Chairman.

Report received and adopted as read. Committee discharged.

On motion the money was turned over to the Clerk. On motion the Moderator appoined corresponding messengers to sister associations.

To Water Valley—Rev. J. M. Hass, and Rev. R. V. Guyton.

To the State Line Association—Brother D. C. Hall and Brother L. A. Crowder.

To the Mt. Moriah Association—Rev. E. W. Graves and J. M. Graham.

To the Jasper Association—Rev. J. W. Porter and Rev. S. F. Lee.
The Moderator appointed an Executive Committee of five to wit: Bros. J. M. Graham, G. G. Chaffin, Joe Lee McNeese, J. L. Stembridge and R. N. Yerby.

On motion the Moderator appointed delegates to the called session of the State Conference, to wit: Brother J. M. Graham, Rev. S. F. Lee, and Brother W. M. Edgeworth.

Rev. R. V. Guyton was appointed Field Secretary to promote the interest of Sunday Schools within this Association, and Brother Moderator appointed a committee to work with him for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School Convention within this Association, to wit: Bros. C. S. Collins and Dewey Jordan, and Rev. E. M. Fields.

The business of the Association being finished, there was a motion made and carried to adjourn and to meet with Mt. Pleasant Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1933.

The parting hand was taken and the congregation dismissed by

Rev. S. F. Lee.

REV. J. M. HASS, Moderator.

R. M. GRAVES, Clerk.

CHURCHES, PASTORS AND ADDRESSES

- Vernon—J. B. Bloss, Vernon, Alabama.
 Union Chapel—J. B. Bloss, Vernon, Alabama.
 Mt. Harmony—M. L. Hollis, Red Bay, Alabama.
 Friendship—J. E. Tilly, Columbus, Mississippi.
 Pearces Chapel—George C. Lee, Calhoun City, Mississippi.
 Spring Field—R. V. Guyton, Steens, Mississippi.
 Liberty—J. W. Porter, Winfield, Alabama.
 Mt. Pleasant—E. W. Graves, Vernon, Alabama.
 Piney Grove—S. F. Lee, Guin, Alabama.
 Mt. Willing—
 Beaverton—R. V. Guyton, Steens, Mississippi.
 Siloam—John Watts.
 Damascus—M. L. Hollis, Red Bay, Alabama.
 Beech Springs—J. M. Hass, Tupelo, Mississippi.
 New Macedonia—J. M. Hass, Tupelo, Mississippi.
 Union Hill—J. M. Hass, Tupelo, Mississippi.
 Fairview—S. F. Lee, Guin, Alabama.
 Center Point—Not represented.

CHURCHES. CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

- Vernon—Mrs. W. E. Robertson, Vernon, Alabama.
 Union Chapel—A. J. Robertson, Covin, Alabama.
 Mt. Harmony—E. L. Wheeler, Millport, Alabama.
 Friendship—J. M. Graham, Steens, Mississippi.
 Pearces Chapel—E. E. Cowart, Smithville, Mississippi.
 Spring Field—M. E. Hollis, Vernon, Alabama.
 Liberty—G. C. Lawrence, Vernon, Alabama.
 Mt. Pleasant—T. J. Baxter, Caledonia, Mississippi.
 Piney Grove—C. C. Chaffin.
 Mt. Willing—Stelfer Chaffin.
 Beaverton—Robert Barnes, Beaverton, Alabama.
 Siloam—H. J. Rye, Hamilton, Alabama.
 Damascus—J. C. Gibson.
 Beech Springs—M. C. Stembridge, Slatillo, Mississippi.
 New Macedonia—Earl Alexander, Tupelo, Mississippi.
 Union Hill—Mrs. Ader Harris.
 Fairview—Hodo Lockhart.
 Center Point—Not represented.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

- C. A. Chaffin, Winfield, Alabama, Route One.
 J. W. Porter, Winfield, Alabama, Route One.
 S. F. Lee, Guin, Alabama, Route One.
 T. M. Lollar, Covin, Alabama, Route One.
 E. A. Palmer, Hamilton, Alabama, Route Four.
 M. R. Allen, Smithville, Mississippi.
 J. M. Hass, Tupelo, Mississippi.
 S. M. Perkins, Vernon, Alabama.
 J. A. Tate, Vernon, Alabama.
 R. V. Guyton, Steens, Mississippi.

E. W. Graves. Vernon, Alabama, Route Three.

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 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 transgressions 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 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, 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 saving faith. John 1:9; however none but those who believe or acquiesce in Christ will be saved thereby.—Acts 17:32; Rom. 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 chapter; 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 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 last session. Former Clerk shall 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 as 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 three 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., through 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.