

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**The 56th Annual Session**  
**OF THE**  
**VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST**  
**ASSOCIATION**

**CONVENED WITH**  
**Mt. Willing Church**

**OCTOBER 17, 18, 19, 1936**

The next Session will convene with Union Chapel  
Church on Saturday before Third Sunday in Oct, 1937.

Rev. Joe S. Frederick to Preach the Introductory Sermon.

Rev. J. L. Lavender as Alternate



## PROCEEDINGS

### Of The Vernon Association

The 56th Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association convened with Mt. Willing Church on October 17, 1936 at 11:00 A. M. After a short service of gospel songs Rev. C. A. Chaffin brought the introductory message, using as a text Romans 3:24. It was a wonderful sermon brought to the assembly in a very impressive manner. Benediction was said by Rev. D. M. Smitherman after which everyone enjoyed a sumptuous meal served by the good ladies of the community.

### Saturday Afternoon Session

The Association was called together in song service conducted by Bro. Walter Crossley, after prayer Rev. S. F. Lee Moderator and Bro. L. E. Duncan Clerk being present the body was called to order and a motion made and duly seconded that the business session be opened. Bros. J. M. Graham and H. S. Chaffin were appointed by the Moderator as reading clerks. Letters from the several churches composing the Vernon Association were read and delegates seated. (For Churches, delegates and other statistics see Statistical Table.)

Delegates from Corresponding Associations were then called and welcomed into the body as follows: Jasper, Bros. M. M. Franks, J. H. Potts, A. L. Warren, W. E. Martin, M. J. Dupree and Sisters M. J. and Nellie Dupree. Mt. Moriah, Bro. J. E. Tilley. State Line, Bro. J. B. Watts. North East Miss., Bros. J. M. Haas, D. M. Smitheman and E. A. Lewis.

A Committee on Devotional Arrangements was appointed as follows and asked to report as soon as possible, Bros. G. W. Chaffin, P. E. Maddox, Winston Dill with the Deacons of Mt. Willing Church.

Other committee appointments were as follows: Documents and Order of Business, Bros. J. A. Robertson, Clarence Cargile, Carl Wheeler, C. A. Chaffin, J. S. Frederick with Moderator and Clerk. Finance, Bros. A. J. McDonald, Walter Crossley, F. W. Maxey. Sunday School, Sisters Beatrice Lee, Ruby Maxey and Bro. Ramon Pennington. Ministerial Credentials, Bros. C. S. Collins, Raymond Rye, Willie Branes and Mada Chaffin. Deceased Members, Bros. J. M. Graham, Johnnie Stanley and Covin Finch. Christian Literature, Bros. Bill McDonald, Mike Vail, James Sims and L. A. Crowder. Queries and Resolutions, Bros. Garvin Chaffin, D. W. Dill, C. A. Pooren and Homer Robertson. Missions, Bros. J. R. Williams, Sisters Mary Barnes and Myrtle Duncan. Temperance, Bros. A. J. Wilson, Karl Randolph, Timothy Finch and Frank Collins.

The Committee then brought in the following report: For Devotional Services during the Association we recommend as follows: Rev. J. M. Haas Saturday evening at 7:00, followed by Rev. E. A. Lewis. Sunday morning at 9:00 Rev. D. M. Smitherman, at 11:00 Rev. J. E. Tilley. Sunday evening at 7:00 Rev. W. D. Martin. Monday morning at 11:00 Rev. J. B. Watts.

Signed, G. W. Chaffin, Chairman.

Homes were found for visiting delegates during their stay in the community after which the business session of the Association was adjourned until the following Monday at 8:00 A. M.

#### Saturday Evening

Rev. J. M. Haas preached to an attentive audience using as a subject. "The Tupelo Cyclone and Why it Came" using the Holy Word to confirm his views on this Subject, the discourse was closely followed by his listeners.

#### Sunday Morning

Sunday Morning found a large crowd assembled to worship together during the day. Rev. D. M. Smitherman filled the pulpit for the early service and brought to his hearers a wonderful message using as a text St. Mark 24:3. After a short intermission the congregation reassembled and listened eagerly as Rev. J. E. Tilley delivered a soulstirring message using as his texts Exodus 12:13. Matthew 27:21-22. Adjournment was then taken for lunch.

#### Sunday Afternoon

Rev. Joe S. Frederick brought the afternoon message using as Texts, Phillipians 2:8 and Heebrews 5:8. His earnestness for the cause of his Master held his audience spellbound as he brought this wonderful sermon.

#### Sunday Evening

After a service in song Rev. W. D. Martin preached an inspiring sermon to an attentive congregation using as his Text Matthew 16:18 after which the benediction was said and those present wended their way to their respective places of abode feeling that they had spent a very profitable day in the service of their Lord.

#### Monday Morning

After a service of gospel songs the Moderator read and commented on the 8th Chapter of Romans, then the morning prayer was led by Rev. J. S. Frederick. The roll was called and a quorum being found present the Association was declared open for business. Moved, seconded and carried that reading of minutes of Saturday's session be omitted. Rev. J. F. Asamore received as a corresponding delegate from Jasper Association. Committee reports were then called for and reports made as follows: The report by the Committee on Documents and Order of business was read, received and committee discharged after which it was re-read and adopted by sections as follows:

1st. We recommend that the Order of Business as adopted by this Association and set forth by its rules of Decorum be followed.

2nd. We recommend that the next Session of the Vernon Association be held with Union Chapel Church near Crossville, Ala., on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October, 1937.

3rd. We recommend that the Clerk of this session compile the manuscript, being allowed Five Dollars for this service, then turn said Manuscript over to the newly elected clerk that he may superintend the printing of 500 copies where he can get it done to the best advantage.

4th. We recommend that this body elect Rev. Joe S. Frederick as Evangelist of the Association in the boundaries of said Association.

5th. We recommend that Rev. Joe S. Frederick preach the introductory sermon with Rev. L. L. Lavender as alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. Robertson, Chair.

Rev. W. M. Guinn of Booneville, Ark., was welcomed into the Association and seated as a Corresponding delegate.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools read, received and Committee discharged:

We your Committee on Sunday School report as follows: We find that Five of our Churches have Sunday Schools. We urge all Churches of this Association to organize and maintain a Sunday School as it is a means of teaching our people concerning the Word of God. Our prayers will be that the report of the next session shows everyone of our Churches With a Sabbath School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Beatrice Lee, Chair.

Report of Committee on Ministerial Credentials read, received and Committee discharged, then adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Ministerial Credentials find that all our active ministers are in good standing with their respective churches and are preaching sound Free Will Baptist Doctrine and warning all of the second coming of Christ and the Judgement.

Respectfully submitted,

C. S. Collins, Chair.

Report of Committee on Christian Literature read, received, committee discharged and adopted as follows:

1st. We recommend that all our Churches use any good Hymnal that they may desire.

2nd. We recommend that all our churches use our Denominational Literature in their Sunday School and League that is printed at Ayden, N. C.

3rd. We recommend that all our people make a careful and Spiritual study of the Bible.

4th. We request that all parents guard against unwholesome literature within their homes.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill McDonald, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Queries and Resolutions read, received and Committee discharged, adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Queries and Resolutions submit the following report: We find no Query that we wish discussed during this session. Be it Resolved that we tender our heartfelt thanks to Mt. Willing Church and surrounding community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

Garvin Chaffin, Chairman.

The Committee on Devotional Arrangements made its final



report and was discharged. The report as follows: We find that Rev. J. B. Watts who was to preach at the 11:00 o'clock hour is not present and we ask that Rev. W. M. Guinn of Booneville, Ark., fill the pulpit at that time.

Committee.

Report of Committee on Temperance read, received and Committee discharged, then adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Temperance beg leave to make the following report: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. Titus 2:2 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in-all things. I Cor. 9:25. Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging who so ever is deceived is not wise. Prov. 20:1. We urge our Ministers and laymen to use their influence against the evils of today.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. Wilson, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Deceased Members read, received and Committee discharged, adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Deceased Members report as follows: After prayerful investigation we find that God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to call from the walks of men the following named brothers and sisters of our Association. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain. Liberty, Sisters Frances Hester and Minnie McClusky. Mt. Harmony, Bro. James Johnston other name not given. Springfield, Bro. A. G. Hall and Sister Emily Hollis. Beaverton, Bro. J. M. Hill. Mt. Pleasant, Sisters Brazora Hollis, R. J. Sanders and Bro. Jerry Vails.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Graham, Chairman.

At this time an appropriate Memorial service to those who have passed away was given with all present taking part.

A short recess was taken after which Rev. W. M. Guinn brought one of the ablest messages of the Association using as his Text Romans 8:8. Recess was then taken for lunch.

After song service business was resumed by the calling for report on Missions. Mission report read, received and committee discharged then adopted as follows: We, your Committee on Missions recommend that our people make a special effort to further the Gospel and all Christian work in their own and nearby communities, we believe that by so doing we will be helping the greatest mission work of the present day, to these ends we hope that all will work for the glory of God and the salvation of lost men and women, and we feel that each will endeavor to do so, the Heavenly Father directing.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. Williams, Chairman.

Report of Finance read, received and committee discharged, adopted as follows:

## Minutes of Vernon Association

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Minute funds collected .....	\$22.13
Associational funds .....	2.00
State Conference funds .....	4.50
Balance brought from 1935 .....	2.76

Total ..... \$31.39

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. McDonald, Chairman.

Moderator appointed Corresponding delegates to Sister Associations as follows: Jasper, Bros. S. H. and C. A. Chaffin. Mt. Moriah Bros. Joe S. Frederick and Karl Randolph. State Line, Bro. D. W. Dill, A. E. Roberts, and G. W. Chaffin. North East Miss. Bros. J. E. Chaffin and S. F. Lee. State Conference, Bros. Joe S. Frederick, D. C. Hall and A. J. Wilson.

No unfinished business. New Business called for and cared for as follows: Damascus and Pearces Chapel having called for letters of dismissal same being granted them and the best wishes of the Vernon Association go with them into the N. E. Miss. Association.

Rev. Joe S. Frederick brought a letter of high recommendation from the Jasper Association and asked for membership in the Vernon Association, he was gladly welcomed into same and we feel that our body was greatly strengthened and also feel that through his zealous work that new churches will be added.

A motion was then made and duly seconded that the body go into the election of Officers for the ensuing year. The results of the balloting showed that Rev. Joe S. Frederick was elected Moderator and Bro. J. M. Graham, Clerk.

Report of Clerk for year 1935.

Minute funds collected .....	\$29.45
Balance from 1934 .....	3.01

Total ..... \$32.41

For printing of Minutes .....	\$17.00
State Conference funds .....	6.00
Clerks allowance for compiling manuscript .....	5.00
Postage for mailing minutes .....	1.65

Total ..... \$29.65

Balance turned in ..... \$ 2.76

Turned over to Rev. Joe S. Frederick for State Conference funds for 1936, \$5.00.

Respectfully submitted,

L. E. Duncan, Clerk.

This report adopted as read.

After several good talks the 56th Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association adjourned to meet with Union Chapel Church on Saturday morning before the Third Sunday in October, 1937.

**PROGRAM FOR HOLDING ASSOCIATION**

1. The Association shall be called to order and presided over by the officers elected at the close of the last session.
2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.
3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot just prior to the close of each session of the Association, by a majority vote of the delegates present.
4. The names of delegates from 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 cast the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question, after others have spoken, provided he appoints some one to the chair while he is speaking.
7. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the Moderator and after recognition by the Moderator shall proceed.
8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.
9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without the authority of the Association more than fifteen minutes.
10. No member shall laugh or talk during discussions.
11. No person shall absent himself from the Association without permission of the Moderator.

**CONSTITUTION**

1. The Association shall be known as the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama, being composed of ministers, deacons and delegates from the different churches forming the same. All having full power to vote on all questions which come before the Association. Each church being entitled to three delegates in addition to ministers and deacons.
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. This Association shall have authority over all ministers in the matter of doctrine, character, and 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 the Association as it may seem 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, and etc. If any Brother feels impressed to preach the Gospel the church shall, or may recommend such a Brother to the Association and upon examination of the Brother's qualifications, if in the judgment of the Body, the Brother would be useful, they shall confer ordination, same being done at the Association by a



legal Presbytery.

4. All questions of doctrine and 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 at the previous session and shall not adjourn finally until all business matters are transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

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

9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to serve as Moderator for more than two consecutive sessions unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

10. Any member 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 reputation and religious influence, the same shall be dealt with by this Association. 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 deem proper, according to the teachings of the Bible.

11. The Association shall in all cases in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of all 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. Each member is to be a party to the enforcement of same.

#### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is one true and living God who is the ruler of Heaven and earth, self-existent Creator of all things, revealed under 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 Christians Union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

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 is now deprived and unable of his own free will and ability to recover from the fallen state which he is in by nature.



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.

5. We believe that Christ by His death and suffering made an atonement for the sins of mankind in general and every individual in particular who believes in Him can partake of the Divine benefit.

6. We believe that true faith cannot proceed from the exercise of our natural faculties and powers, or from the force and operation of our free will, since man, in consequence of his natural corruption, is incapable of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

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 requirement of the law of liberty (James 1:5), this the Act-saving Faith (John 1:9). However, none but those who believe in Christ will be saved thereby (Acts 17:32; Romans 2:19; John 3:9).

8. We believe in the free moral agency of man, by the grace of God, before and after conversion; that he is 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; Romans 13:14; Mark 13:12; Ezekiel 18:24; Rev. 2nd and 8th chapters; Ezek. 33:13-28; I Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1:12-24; I Peter 1:10).

9. We believe the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the fellowship of the Gospel observing the ordinance of Christ, governed by His law and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only proper officers are bishops, pastors and deacons whose qualifications and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

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.

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

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.

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 will be eternal, upon the principles of grace and justice.

14. Concerning the washing of the Saint's 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	DELEGATES	CLERK and ADDRESS	Received By Baptism	Received By Letter	Restored	Deceased	Discharged By Letter	Number of Members	Minute Funds	Association Funds	S. S. Members	Paid Pastor	Value Church Property
Beaverton z	J. H. Potts	Sister Mary Barnes, Beatrice Lee	Dalton Barnes Beaverton, Ala.	3	0	0	1	0	49	\$ 1.00	0	0	\$ 33.41	\$ 500.00
Fairview	C. R. Puckett	Bros. C. Finch, D. W. Dill, W. Dill	Sis. Carrie Dill Beaverton, Ala.	0	1	0	0	1	44	1.50	0	0	18.00	200.00
Friendship	J. E. Tilley	J. M. Graham, J. A. & Homer Robertson	Bro. J. A. Robertson Steens, Miss.	0	1	2	0	9	150	2.00	0	30	56.56	1000.00
Liberty	M. E. Carpenter	Bros. J. H. Hester, C. A. Pooren, C. Cargile	Bro. R. T. Mixon Vernon, Ala.,	11	0	0	2	0	162	2.50	0	62	108.00	1000.00
Mt. Harmony	M. E. Carpenter	Bros. J. Stanley, C. Wheeler, J. Sims	Bro. A. A. Parter Millport, Ala.	3	0	0	2	1	162	2.00	0	60	85.00	3000.00
Mt. Pleasant	J. S. Frederick	Bros. M. Vail, W. Crossley, R. Pennington	Bros. J. G. Adair Vernon, Ala.	4	1	0	3	0	102	2.00	0	0	50.33	1200.00
Mt. Willing	J. S. Frederick	Bros. A. J. & Bill McDonald, G. Chaffin	Bro. G. C. McGowan Guin, Ala.	0	0	0	0	0	209	3.00	0	0		300.00
Piney Grove	S. F. Lee	Bros. M. Chaffin, F. Collins, J. R. Williams	Bro. J. R. Williams Guin, Ala.	0	0	0	0	2	94	1.50	0	0	23.00	500.00
Springfield	J. S. Frederick	Bros. A. J. Wilson, L. A. Crowder, W. Barnes	Bro. Kelcy Jordan Vernon, Ala.	14	0	3	2	4	242	3.12	0	110	105.52	900.00
Siloam	C. R. Puckett	Bros. T. Finch, Ramon & Gisney Rye	Bro. Lumas Rye Hamilton, Ala.	0	0	0	0	2	66	2.01	0	0		400.00
z Union Chapel *	J. S. Frederick	Bros. C. S. Collins, P. E. Maddox, K. Randolph	Sis. J. F. Maddox Fayette, Ala.	0	2	2	0	0	84	2.50	\$2.00	40	85.00	500.00
				35	5	7	10	19	1364	\$22.13	\$2.00	282	\$564.82	\$9500.00

\* Churches having Leagues  
z Churches having Ladies Aid

Ministers of Vernon Association and Addresses

C. A. Chaffin	Winfield, Ala.
J. W. Porter	Winfield, Ala.
S. F. Lee	Guin, Ala.
T. M. Lollar	Covin, Ala.
S. M. Perkins	Vernon, Ala.
E. A. Palmer	Hamilton, Miss.
J. L. Lavender	Steens, Miss.
J. S. Frederick	Fayette, Ala.

Visiting Ministers and Addresses

J. F. Ashmore	Guin, Ala.
D. M. Smitherman	Toccopola, Miss.
E. A. Lewis	Denmark, Miss.
J. E. Tilley	Ethelville, Ala.
W. M. Guinn	Booneville, Ark.
J. H. Potts	Beaverton, Ala.
J. M. Haas	Tupelo, Miss.
J. B. Watts	Hamilton, Ala.