

MINUTES  
OF THE  
59th Annual Session  
OF THE  
VERNON FREE WILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CONVENED WITH  
Liberty Church  
October 14, 15, 16, 1939

OFFICERS

REV. JOE S. FREDRICK.....Moderator  
R. T. MIXON.....Clerk

The next Session of the Association will Convene with  
*Livingstone* Mt. Willing Church on Saturday before the  
Third Sunday in October, 1940

REV. E. W. GRAVES to Preach the Introductory Sermon  
REV. M. E. CARPENTER, Alternate

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE VERNON ASSOCIATION

The 59th Annual Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association convened with Liberty church on October 14, 1939. The body assembled at 11 o'clock. Song service by Bro. Roy Barnes. The Moderator being absent, the assistant Moderator took charge, made remarks and prayer. In the absence of Bro. Rev. Chaffin, Rev. Joe S. Fredrick preached the Introductory Sermon. Text: Take my Yoke Upon you, a part of 29th verse of 11 chapter Matthews. Subject; Learning of the Master. After which adjournment was taken for refreshments.

### AFTERNOON

The Association met back in the house with Bro. J. T. Johnson conducting the song service. Prayer by Bro. Rev. Quick, at this time Rev. Johnson of Albany, Ga., brought an interesting message: Reading 14th chapter Joshua, text; "Now therefore give me this mountain," apart of 12th verse, Remarks by Rev. M. L. Hollis, Motion made and met by second that the Moderator appoint reading clerks. Bros. Rev. Graves, Johnnie Collins appointed. The Moderator called for letters from various churches. Letters handed in and read. Motion made and carried that all letters be received, and the delegates be seated. Moderator called for letters from other Associations, none present. Motion made and carried that this body go into an election for the purpose of electing officers for this session.

Rev. S. F. Lee, elected as Moderator. R. T. Mixon, clerk. The following committees was appointed by the Moderator: Documents and order of business; Rev. Joe S. Fredrick, chairman; Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Rev. E. W. Graves, with Moderator and Clerk.

Finance: Bros. C. S. Collins, chairman; D. W. Dill and Troper Green.

Sunday School: Bro. D. G. Johnson, chairman; Sisters Alfred Robertson and Jennie Pridmore.

Credentials: Bros S. J. Webster, chairman; Jim Sims and A. A. Prater.

Deceased members: Bros. Johnnie Collins, chairman; Clifton Woods, Herbert Morris, K. M. Randolph.

Literature: Bros. H. H. Dill, chairman; Mode Chaffin and Earnest Haynes.

Committee on Arrangements: Bros. Harvey Yerby, chairman; W. J. Motes, Covin Finch, Roy Barnes, with Deacons of Liberty church.

Queries and Resolutions: Bros. A. J. Wilson, chairman; D. C. Hall, Kimbrell Crosley, Bedford Hester.

Missions: Bros. Bennet Black, chairman; B. H. Falkner and John Perkins.

Temperance: Verdo Dubose, chairman; Frank Collins, Mike Vale, M. Jordan and G. G. Chaffin.

Report of Devotional Committee as follows:

We your committee on Devotion make this report: Sunday school at 9:00 A. M., preaching 9:30 by Rev. Quick; preaching 11:00, Rev. Hass; afternoon singing, 1:30 P. M.; preaching 2:30 P. M., Rev. Graves. Respectfully submitted. R. H. YERBY, Chairman.

Motion made and carried that report be received and the committee be retained. Moved and carried that the business of this Association be adjourned until 8:00 o'clock Monday morning. A quartett from Cullman rendered a special song at this time. The quartett being composed of Bros. Guthry and Smith and wives.

There were homes found for all delegates and visitors who wished to remain. Dismissed by prayer by Moderator.

### SUNDAY SERVICE

House called to order by Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Roy Perkins. Song by Rev. E. W. Graves. Prayer by Bro. Harvey Yerby. Rev. Graves gave a good lecture on the Sunday School lesson, subject: "The Temptation of Jesus." Quartett from Masidonia church rendered a nice song. Sermon by Bro. Rev. Quick; Text: I'll be With you all the way.

Intermission.

Song by Bro. Lee Collins. Sermon by Rev. Hass. Text 29th verse of the 5th chapter Acts. Ye ought to obey God rather than Man. Communion service was offered. Dismissed for noon hour.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon was spent in song service, which was spiritual, uplifting and seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Sunday night, the League of Liberty church rendered the regular program, after which Rev. E. W. Graves delivered an able sermon, subject "Jacobs Ladder. Reading 28th chapter Gen. and 2nd Peter 1st chapter 1-11 verse.

### MONDAY MORNING

The Association met according to the Moderator's orders, prayer by Moderator. The clerk was asked to read the minutes of Saturday's proceedings, same adopted. The Moderator read the rules of decorum, made a short talk insisting that the same be observed. The following Brothers and Sisters were given the right hand of welcome by the Moderator and Clerk: J. H. Hall, Progressive Association; Rev. J. L. Lavender, Mt. Mariah; Rev. Potts, Jasper; Rev. Dickson, Bro. Benton, Sisters Dickson and Benton from Oklahoma. By move and second Bro. Clymae was seated as a delegate in Bro. Mote's stead as he was absent. Bro. J. A. Robertson instead of Bro. Green on the Finance Committee. H. E. McDonald instead of sister Pridmore. At this time the body asked that Rev. Dixon bring the message. He brought a wonderful and inspiring sermon. Subject "Operation of the Holy Spirit". Text Col. 2-12; Eph. 4-5. After which the congregation was dismissed for the noon hour.



### MONDAY AFTERNOON

After a song and prayer Bro. Benton gave a brief but very interesting lecture. Text: Reading Cor. 13th Chapter, 13th verse. After which a short Memorial service was held. After this the various committees were asked to make report (Reports in detail will be found on report page, each report read and adopted, and committee reports now read, a collection was taken for discharged, the various Rev. Chaffin and Rev. J. W. Porter, two of our old but beloved ministers, Bro. Chaffin received \$16.99 and Bro. Porter received \$7.29.

Moved and carried that the Moderator appoint delegates to the corresponding associations and State conference. Same appointed as follows: Progressive Rev. E.W. Graves, N.E. Miss., Rev. S.F. Lee, Jasper; Rev. Joe Fredrick and Rev. S. F. Lee. State Line, Bros. D. C. Hall, Roy Barnes, Mt. Mariah; Bro. Wilson and Rev. M. E. Carpenter. Each church was asked after going back home to elect one delegate to attend the State Conference. By move and second the body adjourned to meet with Mt. Willing church. After which Bro. Yerby made remarks thanking all the people in helping to take care of the association and for the privilege of having the association once more at Liberty church. A song then the farewell hand clasp was taken.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MEMBERS

After a prayerful investigation we find that God in his divine wisdom saw fit to call from our midst the following. While we realize this to be a great loss to their fellowman, we also realize their going is Heaven's gain. We extend heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved:

Mt. William—Bro. D. F. Roberts, Sister Donnie Smith, Sister Victoria Warren.

Springfield—Bro. Henry Bolton.

Mt. Pleasant—Bro. D. C. Crossley, Bro. J. W. Adair.

Pine Grove—Sister Janary Roberts, Sister Pearl Pickle

Fairview—Sister Harriet Hill.

Belk—Sister Florence Johnson.

Mt. Harmony—Bro. David Johnson.

### REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS

We recommend that each and every one will work together to take better care of our aged preachers and pastors than ever before and point lost men and women to the lamb of God.

BENNETT BLACK, Chairman.

### FINANCE

We your committee on Finance submit the following report:

We have collected as minute funds \$19.52.

C. S. COLLINS, Chairman.

We your committee on Literature recommend that our churches and Sunday Schools take the Bible for our guide and use Free Will Baptist literature.

H. H. Dill, Chairman.

We your committee on Sunday School ask that each teacher put forth a greater effort to create more interest in the lessons and programs in order to attract new students to the work. We suggest that our literature be used. We urge that all schools be represented at the Sunday School convention which meets each year.

Respectfully submitted,  
MRS. J. A. ROBERTSON, Chairman.

We your committee on Temperance, after a careful study and examination do believe there is much danger confronting us in the movement and enactment being put in force throughout our land and we hereby recommend that we the church of the living God adopt resolutions to curb the increase of this evil. We further recommend that we as members of the church of the living God be sober by practicing total abstinence led by the spirit of our Lord in this matter, carry the battle on in spirit of meekness, by example as well as by teaching.

Respectfully,  
VERDO DUBOSE, Chairman.

We your committee on Ministerial Credentials find all our ministers in good standing with their respective churches, and preaching sound Free Will Baptist Doctrine.

S. J. WEBSTER, Chairman.

We the committee on Queries and Resolution submit the following report. We find no queries that we wish to be discussed at this session. We wish to give heartfelt thanks to Liberty church and their surrounding community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

A. J. WILSON.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. We recommend the regular order of business.
2. We recommend that this delegated body decide the place for the next session of this association.
3. We recommend that the Clerk be paid \$5.00 for his services, and that he superintend the printing of the minutes, and that he have 500 copies printed.
4. We recommend that this association pay the Moderator \$5.00 for his services at this session.
5. We recommend that Rev. E. W. Graves preach the Introductory sermon at the next session of this association and Rev. M. E. Carpenter, alternate.
6. We recommend this association use wine and unleavened bread in our communion services and that no substitute be used.
7. We recommend that Article 12 be added to the Constitution to read as follows: This Association shall pay its Moderator and Clerk \$5.00 each for their services, at each session.

8. We recommend that each member of the various churches, pay into the treasury of this Association 25c each for the support of disable ministers of this Association.

REV. J. S. FREDRICK, Chairman.

#### REPORT OF FORMER CLERK

I your former Clerk report as follows:

Balance from former Clerk .....	\$ 6.14
Minute funds .....	22.50

Total.....	\$28.64
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Paid out as follows:

For Minutes .....	\$18.50
Clerk and Moderator fees .....	10.00

Total paid out .....	\$28.50
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Balance in Treasury .....	\$ .14
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Respectfully submitted,

R. T. MIXON.

#### PROGRAM FOR HOLDING ASSOCIATION

1. The Association shall be called to order and presided over by the officers elected at the beginning 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 beginning 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.

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### 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, etc. If any Brother feels impelled 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 churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missioary work, etc.

9. No member of the 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 reports that are untrue on a brother minister that is calculated to injure his normal 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.

12. This Association shall pay its Moderator and Clerk \$5.00 each for their service at each session.

### 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 own 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 entitle 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 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 conscience to God without criticism on the part of anyone.

CHURCHES	Pastors 1939	DELEGATES	Clerks and Address 1939	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Restored	Deceased	Discharged by Letter	Number of Members	Minute Funds	S. S. Members	Paid Pastor	Value Church Property	No. League Members	Evangelistic Fund
Friendship	M. E. Carpenter	Trooper Green, Sisters Alfred Robertson Jennie Pridmore	J. A. Robertson, Stearns, Miss.	1	0	0	?	3	97	\$1.10	35	\$ 78.97	?	?	\$19.65
Liberty	M. E. Carpenter	John Perkins, Bedford Hester, Verdo Dubose	Mrs. C. A. Poore, Vernon, Ala.	2	0	0	0	0	163	\$2.00	120	\$ 99.15	\$1250	96	\$12.50
Mt. Harmony	M. E. Carpenter	Jim Sims, D. G. Johnson, A. A. Prater	O. C. Robertson, Millport, Ala.	14	10	0	1	1	187	\$2.50	100	\$ 68.40	\$3000	?	\$19.35
Mt. Willing	Joe S. Fredrick	G. G. Chaffin, S. J. Webster, W. J. Motes	G. C. Gowan, Guin, Ala.	18	2	0	3	1	220	\$2.57	?	\$123.50	\$2000	?	\$26.00
Piney Grove	A. L. Warren	Moda Chaffin, Bennett Black Frank Collins	J. R. Williams, Guin, Ala.	2	0	0	2	0	99	\$1.50	?	\$ 60.00	?	?	?
Springfield	Joe S. Fredrick	Murray Jordan, Roy Barnes, Aubrey Hall	Kelsey Jordan, Vernon, Ala.	10	4	0	1	1	266	\$1.60	54	\$ 93.11	\$2500	?	\$17.50
Union Chapel	Joe S. Fredrick	Earnest Haynes, K. M. Randolph, Clifton Woods	C. J. Collins, Covin, Ala.	2	4	0	0	0	100	\$1.70	?	\$ 28.00	?	?	\$30.00
Belk	M. E. Carpenter	Johnnie Collins, Herbert Morris, B. Belk	R. H. Yerby, Belk, Ala.	5	1	1	1	3	188	\$2.50	75	\$158.50	\$3000	40	\$29.95
Fairview	Grady Hudson	D. W. Dill, D. H. Dill, Covin Finch	A. E. Roberts, Beaverton, Ala.	1	0	0	1	0	42	\$1.50	?	\$ 45.00	?	?	?
Mt. Pleasant	M. L. Hollis	Kimbell Crosley, Mike Vale, B. H. Falkner	Kimbell Crosley, Vernon, Ala.	0	0	0	2	3	?	\$2.00	?	\$ 25.00	?	?	?
Beaverton	Not Represented	Not Represented	Not Represented												

#### MINISTERS OF VERNON ASSOCIATION AND ADDRESSES

Rev. C. A. Chaffin, Winfield, Ala.    Rev. Joe S. Fredrick, Covin, Ala.  
 Rev. J. W. Porter, Winfield, Ala.    Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Fernbank  
 Rev. S. F. Lee, Guin, Ala.            Rev. E. W. Graves, Vernon, Ala.  
 Rev. T. M. Lollar, Covin, Ala.