

MINUTES
OF THE
Sixty-Third Annual Session
OF THE
VERNON FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
Mt. Willing Church

OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 1943

OFFICERS

S. F. Lee.....Moderator
D. G. Jordan.....Clerk

The next session of this Association will be held with
Liberty Church, Saturday before the Third Sunday in
October, 1944. Rev. S. F. Lee to preach the Introduc-
tory Sermon.

PROCEEDINGS

The 63rd annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met with Mt. Willing Church on October 16, 17, and 18, 1943.

The Moderator being present, opened service with song and prayer. After which Rev. M. E. Carpenter preached the introductory sermon, using the 4th Chapter of Eph. for a scripture reading.

After the message the body was dismissed for dinner by the Moderator J. S. Fredrick.

SATURDAY P. M.

1 Song service by J. T. Johnson. After which the Moderator read Romans 8:1-14. After which Bro. Raburn led in prayer.

2. A move was made and carried to go into the business of the Association.

3. J. T. Johnson and J. A. Chaffin were appointed as reading clerks.

4. Letters from the different Churches were called for and read as listed in the Statistical Table.

5. Letters received and delegates seated.

6. Called for Petitionary Letters. None presented.

7. Moved and carried to elect officers by ballot. Which were as follows: S. F. Lee, Moderator; D. G. Jordan, Clerk.

After some remarks by the newly elected Moderator, a call for corresponding messengers was made, which was as follows: From Jasper Association—Bros. Bill Martin, A. L. Warren, Bro. Estes, G. W. Flippo and Bro. Wilson; From Mt. Marriah Association—J. L. Lavender, W. E. Ashcraft, H. M. Montgomery.

8. Moved and carried that Moderator appoint all committees, which were as follows:

(a) Committee on Arrangements—C. A. Chaffin, Amos Roberts and J. F. Turman.

(b) Document and Order of Business—J. S. Fredrick, C. A. Chaffin, V. C. May, with Moderator and Clerk.

(c) Temperance—J. T. Johnson, D. A. Markham, Jeff McDonald and J. F. Turman.

(d) Literature—T. J. Hankins, Clement Markham and Walker Perkins.

(e) Querries and Resolutions—Jack McDonald, D. C. Hall, K. M. Randolph and Howard Markham.

(f) Credentials—Verdo Dubose, J. T. Taylor and Covin Finch.

(g) Sabbath Schools—M. E. Carpenter, Billy Glasgow, Hattie Lee Johnson, Elvada Markham and Pauline Hall.

(h) Finance—P. H. Woods, W. H. Clearman and Carlos Bradford.

(i) Deceased Members—Wood Garrison, Byrd Alexander, Dalphus Shelnut, John Stewart and M. A. Poore.

Business adjourned until Monday 8 A. M.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Rev. J. L. Lavender brought a great message from Rom. 5-8.

SUNDAY MORNING

After a good song service by A. J. Lambert and prayer by Rev. Robert Crawford, a great message was enjoyed by all, brought by Rev. Raburn, scripture used II Cor. 7-14.

At 11 o'clock Rev. L. Q. Larwood brought a great message from Acts 20: 22 and Rev. 20.

SUNDAY EVENING

After some singing and prayer Rev. Robert Crawford gave a great talk on what the Free Will Baptist are doing. Scripture reading, Luke 5:5.

After the message by Rev. Crawford an offering was taken for the Orphanage at Eldridge, Ala., and the school at Nashville, Tenn. Amounting to \$52.40 to be divided equally.

SUNDAY NIGHT

Rev. A. L. Warren brought the message from St. John 13.

MONDAY A. M.

After a good song and prayer service the Clerk read the list of delegates, then the Moderator declared the body open for business.

Called for report of Committees:

REPORT ON DOCUMENT AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

We, your committee on Document and Order of Business submit the following report:

1. We recommend the former Order of Business.
2. We recommend that this delegated body decide the place for the next session of the Association.
3. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes and that he have 400 copies printed.
4. We recommend that the Clerk have \$10.00 for his service and that the Moderator have \$5.00 for his service.
5. We recommend that Rev. S. F. Lee preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Association, and that Bro. Alexander be his alternate.
6. We recommend that Rev. S. F. Lee be appointed as Evangelist of this Association.
7. We recommend that the Committee on Credentials have the same authority to investigate Deacons as well as Ministers.
8. We recommend as an Association that a man be appointed as Field promotional man for our Association to promote all phases of our denomination work and special emphasis be placed on our

Orphanage work. We further recommend that Rev. J. S. Fredrick be appointed as such man.

J. S. Fredrick, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

Report re-read by sections and adopted as read.

REPORT ON QUERRIES AND RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee on Querries and Resolutions make the following report:

1. We recommend that this Association extend thanks to Mt. Willing Church and community for the kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

J. A. McDonald, Chairman.

Report received and adopted, committee discharged.

MONDAY P. M.

After some songs and prayers, the Moderator appointed an examining committee to examine the men to be ordained as ministers. The committee was as follows: J. S. Fredrick, A. L. Warren, C. A. Chaffin, K. M. Randolph, with Moderator. While the committee was out, Bro. Pitts brought a soul stirring message in brief form.

A move was made and carried to list Bro. Raburn as an ordained minister from the Jasper Association.

Ministers ordained were as follows: L. Q. Larwood, Bille Glasgow, Byrd Alexander, Bro. Poore. To those men were given great words of council by Rev. J. S. Fredrick.

REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We, your committe on Deceased Members make the following report:

Mt. Harmony—Jess Wheeler.

Springfield—Sister Mary Pennington.

Union Chapel—Sister A. J. Robertson.

Mt. Willing—J. M. Guin and Susie Feen McDonald.

Liberty—Sister Annie Butler.

Belk—W. G. R. Price, J. M. Shepherd and Sister Maggie Gilreath.

Byrd Alexander, Chairman.

Report received and adopted and committee discharged.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance make the following report:

We are made to believe that Temperance is one of the greatest things known to mankind. We recommend that all of Gcd's people take a firm stand against the use of intoxicating drinks and that Churches withdraw from those who are intemperate.

J. T. Johnson, Chairman.

Report received, committee discharged.

REPORT ON LITERATURE

We, your committee on Literature make the following report:

We recommend the Bible as our guide for reading, and we recommend the Literature printed at Ayden, N. C., for our Sunday Schools.

J. T. Hankins, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

REPORT ON CREDENTIALS

We, your committee on Ministerials Credentials make the following report:

After careful investigation we find all our Ministers in good standing with their respective churches, and preaching the Bible and warnings of the danger that confronts us.

W. V. Dubose, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, the committee on Sabbath Schools make the following report:

We find that all the churches but two have Sunday Schools. We recommend that Sunday Schools be organized in all churches and that the delegates and pastors with all the members of the church make an effort that good live Sunday Schools be maintained in each church. We further urge that the fathers and mothers take a special interest in Sunday School, seeing that their children are fed with the Holy Mana from above.

Sunday School committee.

Report received and committee discharged.

REPORT ON FINANCE

We, your committee on Finance make the following report.

We have collected as minute funds \$34.80.

P. H. Woods, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

An offering of \$10.00 was taken to be sent to the State and National Association.

A move was made and carried to add names of newly ordained ministers to our list of ministers.

Moved and carried that Clerk sign names of ordaining committee to Credentials of Ministers.

Appointment of delegates to the State Association were as follows: V. C. May, D. G. Jordan and J. T. Johnson.

Following is a list of corresponding messengers to Sisters Associations: L. Q. Larwood to Jasper Association; J. S. Fredrick to East Tupelo Association; Byrd Alexander to State Line Association; Billy Glasgow to Mt. Marriah Association; M. E. Carpenter to the Progressive Association.

The Clerk was asked by the Association to make a report to the State Association and to secure a form of letter to our Association. The business being ended the Association adjourned to meet with Liberty Church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1944.

As Clerk of the Association, I urge that each Church send ten (\$10.00) dollars to the Association to help take care of expenses of the Association and all donations called for at the Association.

D. G. Jordan, Clerk.

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 should 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 appoint someone 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 person 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 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, having no authority over the internal affairs of the churches unless they

(Continued on page eight)

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES
Belk	L. Q. Larwood	R. H. Yerby, Belk, Ala.
Fairview ..	Grady Hudson	Lily Bell Roberts, Beaverton, Ala.
Mt. Harmony	M. L. Hollis	O. C. Robertson, Millport, Ala.
Springfield	A. L. Warren	D. G. Jordan, Vernon, Ala.
Piney Grove	S. F. Lee	Elvada Markham, Guin, Ala.
Union Chapel	M. E. Carpenter	E. W. Graves, Vernon, Ala.
Vernon ..	M. E. Carpenter	Mrs. A. S. Gann, Vernon, Ala.
Mt. Willing	J. S. Fredrick	Cly May
Friendship	M. E. Carpenter
Liberty	Newt Wright	Chelsea Poore, Vernon, Ala.
Mt. Pleasant	L. Q. Larwood	Not Represented

NAMES AND ADDRESS OF MINISTERS

Rev. C. A. Chaffin	Guin, Alabama
Rev. S. F. Lee	Guin, Alabama
Rev. J. W. Porter	Guin, Alabama
Rev. J. S. Fredrick	Hackleburg, Alabama
Rev. M. E. Carpenter	Vernon, Alabama
Rev. E. W. Graves	Vernon, Alabama
Rev. W. C. Raburn
Rev. Alvin Poore
Rev. L. Q. Larwood	Fayette, Alabama
Rev. Billy Glasgow	Vernon, Alabama
Rev. Byrd Alexander

NAMES OF DELEGATES

Belk	Dewitt Williams, B. Belk, Kate Williams
Fairview	Covin Finch, Carrie Roberts, Ina Mae Rainwater
Mt. Harmony	J. T. Johnson, Hattie Lee Johnson, Milner Johnson
Springfield—	Ray Neil Jones, Ophelia Pennington, Gary Springfield
Piney Grove	Frank Collins, Elvada Markham, Howard Markham
Union Chapel P. H. Woods, Carlos Bradford, Alice Maddox

STATISTICAL TABLE

Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Dismissed	Expelled	Deceased	No. of Members	Days of Meeting	Sunday Schools	Paid Pastor	Paid Helper	Minute Funds	Value of Church Property
1	2	3		2	205	2-4	*	\$262.50	\$82.00	\$5.00	\$3000.00
6	9				58	1				\$2.00	
2	1			1	219	3	*	\$143.25	\$80.00	\$3.00	\$3000.00
15		2		1	309	1	*	\$207.80	\$58.00	\$3.00	\$2550.00
11	8					2	*	\$ 85.40	\$53.30	\$2.25	\$1500.00
				1	91	4	*	\$165.00	\$46.50	\$3.60	\$1500.00
		2				2-3	*	\$195.44	\$51.00	\$3.00	\$5000.00
3	3	4		2	253	3	*	\$199.15	\$85.95	\$5.85	\$3000.00
					110		*	\$111.44		\$2.09	\$2500.00
				1		1	*	\$310.00	\$40.00	\$4.00	\$1500.00

FINANCIAL REPORT

Minute Funds	\$34.80
Public Donation	62.67
Total	\$97.47

EXPENSES

Christian Education	\$26.20
Orphanage	\$26.20
Moderator	\$ 5.00
Clerk	\$10.00
State and National Association	\$10.00
Printing Minutes, per page	\$ 1.50

NAMES OF DELEGATES

Vernon	Rena Edgeworth, Judith Turner, Edgar Turner
Mt. Willing	D. A. Markham, Clement Markham, Jeff McDonald
Friendship	Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Green, Idell Wilson
Liberty	John Stewart, Walker Perkins, T. J. Hankins
Mt. Pleasant	Not Represented

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 Associations, 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 Brother to the Association and upon examination of the Brother's qualifications, if in judgement 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 circulation of any report that is untrue on a brother minister, that is calulated 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 caculated 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 Unions, 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 transgression, 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 own 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 men 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 motify 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 believer, 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 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 judgement; 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.

MINUTES OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

The West Alabama Sunday School Convention met with Belk Church on the 2nd fifth Sunday in 1943.

The body was called together by the Moderator, E. W. Graves.

After some singing and prayer a lecture on the Sunday School lesson (Peter's Council to Christians) were given by E. W. Graves and L. Q. Larwood.

After the lecture A. J. Rainwater directed a song, then the Kelley children gave a special song.

A short talk was given by Bro. Larwood on how people had changed from following after the precepts of Christ to that of their own lust.

SUNDAY P. M.

After dinner we came together with song and prayer, after which the following churches were enrolled with programs: Vernon, Springfield, Union Chapel and Belk.

A move was made and carried to elect officers which were as follows: L. Q. Larwood, Moderator; D. G. Jordan, Clerk. A move was made and carried to change the name of this meeting to Auxiliary of Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

Moved and carried that Moderator and Clerk be responsible for program in the morning, Sunday School program in afternoon.

Moved that each church represent with delegates and letter and \$1.00 minute funds.

Letters were called for and read after which the programs from the various churches were given which was enjoyed very much.

A vote of appreciation was given to Belk for the nice way they taken care of the day.

A special prayer was given by sister Kate Williams for our boys in Camps.

The next session will be held with Springfield Church the 2nd fifth Sunday in 1944. Minute funds \$5.00.

D. G. Jordan, Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 5TH SUNDAY

Meeting held at Union Chapel, 1943.

Called to order by the Moderator, Bro. D. G. Jordan.

Song service by Bro. Clearman. Prayer led by the Moderator.

Sermon: "The Gospel of Christ" by Rev. Lavender.

After an enjoyable noon hour E. W. Graves led the song service. Prayer was offered by Bro. Fletcher Turman.

The call for letters from the churches brought response from the following churches: Liberty—Delegates, Bro. and Sister Verdo Dubose; Mt. Harmony—Bros. J. T. Johnson, J. F. Crawford, Sister Ellie Wheeler; Union Chapel—Sisters Ernest Haynes, Bessie Allen, Bro. Clifton Woods; Springfield—Bros. D. C. Hall, Fletcher Turman and Kelcy Jordan; Vernon; Bros. W. M. Fields and Alphas Graham; Belk—Bros. Harvey Yerby and Albert Wallace.

Motion carried that all delegates be seated.

Splendid verbal reports of church prosperity were given by D. G. Jordan from Springfield; Bro. Lavender from Mt. Harmony; Verdo Dubose from Liberty; and C. S. Collins from Union Chapel.

Motion carried that we retain the old officers.

Motion carried that all churches represent with letters as well as delegates and that each Church send not less than one dollar for expenses.

Sermon by E. W. Graves, Text: Gal. 6-10.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Song, praise and prayer service conducted by E. W. Graves. Sermon, subject: Rejoicing in the Lord by Bro. Lavender.

SUNDAY A. M.

Song service led by Bro. M. E. Carpenter. Prayer by W. M. Fields.

An inspiring lecture on the Sunday School lesson was given by D. G. Jordan.

Devotional service conducted by Bro. W. D. Glasgow.

Sermon by Rev. M. E. Carpenter. Text: Jno. 9:1-7..

NOON

Song service by M. E. Carpenter. Prayer by Verdo Dubose.

Motion carried to permanently empower the Moderator to appoint a Program Committee to arrange the program for the next session of the meeting.

Motion carried that the Clerk have the proceedings of this meeting printed in the minutes of the regular Association and that he pay for the additional expense.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF CLERK

Carried over from last year	\$ 5.18
Collected this year	5.91
	<hr/>
Total	\$11.09
Paid expenses	1.50
	<hr/>
On Hand	\$ 9.59

Motion carried to adjourn to meet on the 1st 5th Saturday and Sunday in 1944 at Liberty.