

# MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-Seventh Annual Session

OF THE

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Taylor Springs F. W. B. Church

October 18, 19, and 20, 1947

OFFICERS:

REV. S. P. LEE ..... Moderator

R. H. YERBY ..... Clerk

The next session of this Association will be held with Piney Grove Church on the 2nd Saturday, Sunday and Monday in 1948. Rev. T. J. Adams to preach the Introductory Sermon.

# PROCEEDINGS

The Sixty-Seventh session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association convened with Taylor Springs church Oct. 18, 19 and 20, 1947, on Saturday morning, the house was called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. S. F. Lee. Song by Bro. Woods, prayer by Rev. H. A. Pitts.

The former Clerk being present, the Moderator declared the Association in session and after a few brief remarks, Rev. S. F. Lee preached the introductory sermon, reading the entire 12th chapter of Isaiah, using as his text the 3rd verse. Subject, "What Free Will Baptist Believe." After this message the congregation was dismissed one hour for dinner.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

The house was called to order by the Moderator. Song by Bro. Verdo Dubose. Prayer by Rev. A. L. Warren.

The Moderator called on Rev. H. A. Pitts, who came forward and gave a lecture on "The Orphan's Home," after this lecture an offering was taken for the 'Home', which amounted to \$34.23.

The Moderator then declared the Association to be ready for business and appointed Rev. E. W. Graves and Bro. F. M. Collins as reading clerks. He then called for the letters from the various churches. The letters were read and names of delegates listed.

A motion was made and carried that all letters be received and delegates seated. Called for petitionary letters. None present.

By a unanimous vote, Rev. J. T. Quick was received as a minister in our Association and his name added to our list of ministers.

The Moderator called for corresponding delegates. The following were present: Jasper Association—Rev. and Sister H. A. Pitts, Rev. A. L. Warren, Bro. John Nelson, and Bro. and Sister Burlison.

Moved and carried to enter into an election for officers for another year. By move and second the body voted to retain the former officers, (Rev. S. F. Lee, Moderator and R. H. Yrby, Clerk) for another year.

The Moderator then gave a short lecture of exhortation to the delegated body, explaining the rules and practices of the Association and urging the delegates to be prompt and courteous in all their deliberations.

On motion the Moderator was empowered to appoint all committees. He then appointed a committee on arrangements as follows: Bros. Harrison Gosa, Verdo Dubose, and J. T. Johnson, with the Deacons of Taylor Springs church. Rev. E. W. Graves was appointed to take charge of devotional services while the Moderator and Clerk retired from the building to appoint the various committees. The Moderator and Clerk returned with the appointments and the Clerk read them as follows:

Credentials—J. M. Graham, F. M. Collins and Mode Chaffin.

Sabbath Schools—Howard Sarrels, Tom Berryhill, Sisters Kitty Taylor, Carrie Roberts, Hattie Mixon and Carlos Bradford.

Literature—J. E. Chaffin, Sr., H. H. Dill, J. G. Taylor, and Raymond Pennington.

Temperance—Rev. E. W. Graves, Hosea Dubose, Obie Hancy and Sister Myrtie Brown.

Queries and Resolutions—Rev. B. T. Alexander, Rev. Billie Glasgow and V. I. Crawford.

Finance—Sanders Woods, O. D. Turner, R. W. Maddox and Cager Perkins.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Deceased Members—L. A. Crowder, Britt Belk, J. J. Barnes and Lillie Belle Roberts.

The Moderator called for the report of the committee on arrangements. The committee made a partial report as follows:

We, your committee on arrangements, recommend that Rev. W. C. Rayburn preach to-night, Rev. M. A. Poore preach Sunday at 9:00 o'clock a. m., Rev. J. T. Quick at 11:00 o'clock a. m., and Rev. A. L. Warren at 7:30 o'clock p. m. HARRISON GOSA, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee retained for further services. The visitors were assigned homes for the night.

A move was made and carried to adjourn until 8:00 o'clock Monday morning. Song by Bro. Harrison Gosa. Prayer by Rev. B. T. Alexander.

### SATURDAY NIGHT

The congregation gathered back to the church and after a few songs and prayer Rev. W. C. Rayburn brought the evening message, reading the entire 53rd chapter of Isaiah.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

The house was called to order by Rev. T. J. Adair. Song services directed by Sister Iva Guin. Prayer by Sister Cole.

Rev. M. A. Poore brought the morning message, reading the 3rd chapter of Philipians. After this message the congregation was dismissed for a few minutes.

At 11:00 o'clock the congregation gathered back into the house and engaged in a few minutes song service conducted by Bro. Woods. Rev. J. T. Quick took charge and delivered a very inspiring sermon, using as his text 2nd Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Dismissed one hour for dinner.

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON

The congregation gathered back into the house and engaged in song services for about one hour. Rev. J. H. Reno came to the pulpit and preached a very interesting sermon. After this another short song service and then short talks by Rev. L. V. Collier and Rev. L. D. Collier from the State Line Association. Song by the congregation. Prayer by Rev. S. F. Lee.

### SUNDAY NIGHT

The congregation gathered back at the church according to previous arrangements. After a short song and devotional service Rev. A. L. Warren took charge and brought the evening message. Subject, "Victory." Text, 1st Corinthians, 15:57, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

### MONDAY MORNING

The house was called to order by the Moderator. Song by Bro. Harrison Gosa. Prayer by Rev. S. F. Lee.

The Moderator read a scripture lesson from the 20th chapter of Rev. He then gave a talk of instructions to the delegated body.

The Association was declared in business session and the Clerk called the roll of delegates. The following were seated as delegates to take the place of some who were absent: Belk—Sister Emma Yerby; Liberty—Sister Jewel Perkins; Mt. Harmony—Sister V. I. Crawford and Sister J. M. Graham; Mt. Willing—Bro. E. J. Markham; Union Chapel—Sister F. M. Collins.

Rev. J. T. Quick, Rev. T. J. Adair and Rev. B. T. Alexander were appointed as an ordaining council to examine and ordain Rev. J. J. Barnes as a minister of the Gospel.

On motion Rev. L. V. Collier was seated as a delegate from the State Line Association. Bro. Collier was appointed to take charge of devotional services while the committees retired to make out their reports. Upon the return of the committees, the reports were called for in the following order:

**Documents and Order of Business:**

We, your committee on Documents and Order of Business report as follows:

1. We recommend the former Order of Business.
2. We recommend that Rev. T. J. Adair preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Association with Rev. J. T. Quick as his alternate.
3. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes after each session of the Association, and that this section be made a part of the Constitution.
4. We recommend that Rev. M. A. Poore be appointed as field worker for this Association.
5. We recommend that the next session of this Association be held with Piney Grove church.
6. We recommend that the Moderator appoint an executive committee to work in this Association the coming year.
7. We recommend that this Association convene on the 3rd Saturday, Sunday and Monday in Oct. 1948.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. J. T. QUICK, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and committee discharged. The report was reread and adopted by sections.

**CREDENTIALS**—We, your committee on Credentials, submit the following report: We find all the ministers in the Vernon Association in good standing with their respective churches.

J. M. GRAHAM, chairman

On motion the report was received and committee discharged. The report was adopted as read.

**SABBATH SCHOOLS**—We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, make the following report: We find all churches, except one, have fine Sunday Schools. We recommend and urge that each church in this Association have an evergreen Sunday School.

HOWARD SARRELS, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged. The report was adopted.

Called for final report of committee on arrangements.

We, your committee on arrangements recommend that Rev. T. J. Adair preach at 11 o'clock.

HARRISON GOSA, Chairman.

Report received and adopted and committee discharged.

On motion, the business of the Association adjourned until after dinner. Song by Bro. Gosa, prayer by the Moderator. Intermission 15 minutes.

The congregation gathered back into the house at 11 o'clock. Song by Bro. J. M. Graham. At this time Rev. T. J. Adair brought the message, reading the first chapter of 1st John. Text. St. John 15:12: "another, as I have loved you."

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

—Song by the congregation, prayer by the Moderator. Dismissal one hour for dinner.

## AFTERNOON

The house was called to order by the clerk. Song by Bro. Woods, and prayer by Rev. A. L. Warren. On motion the business of the Association was taken up. Called for report of committee on Temperance.

We, your committee on Temperance, make the following report: After a prayerful study, we believe that intemperance is one of the greatest evils confronting us today. We recommend that our preachers and deacons stand firm against such evils. We further recommend that all the members of the various churches of this association abstain from all intemperance and live a clean and sober life.

HOSEA DUBOSE, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

Queries and Resolutions: We, the committee on Queries and Resolutions beg leave to report as follows: We wish to ask this question to be discussed: "What is the Bible way of dealing with Deacons who are walking unworthy before the church and the world,"

Resolved first, That we offer the Church of Taylor Springs and community our thanks for their fine hospitality during this session of the association. 2nd, that we do not accept the baptism of any unordained minister.

REV. B. T. ALEXANDER, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and committee discharged. Report was adopted as read.

The moderator called on Rev. A. L. Warren, who gave a short discussion of the question in the above report.

LITERATURE: We, your committee on Literature recommend that our churches use the Free Will Baptist Literature, published at Ayden, N. C., in our Sunday Schools.

J. E. CHAFFIN, Sr., Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged. Report adopted as read.

FINANCE: We, your committee on Finance, report as follows: We have collected from the various churches \$78.46.

SANDERS WOOD, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged.

On motion the money collected was turned over to the clerk.

DECEASED MEMBERS: We, your committee on Deceased Members, make the following report: God has seen fit to call from our midst thirteen of our members as follows:

ELK—Sister Autrie Hubbert.

FRIENDSHIP—Bro. J. O. Green.

LIBERTY—Bro. Willie Pierce, Aubrie Myers and Frank McClung.

MT. HARMONY—Bro. John Johnson.

MT. PLEASANT—Sister Mary Dees.

MT. WILLING—Sister Jewell Banks Pugh and Bro. F. E. Trentham.

PINEY GROVE—Sister Elizabeth Williams.

UNION CHAPEL—Bro. Felix Maddox.

TAYLOR SPRINGS—Sister Mary Barnes.

We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain. L. A. CROWDER, Chairman.

Report received and adopted and committee discharged.

On motion Rev. S. F. Irene gave a memorial talk including our deceased members and ministers. After this memorial talk the congregation sang a song and had a hand-shaking in memory of the deceased.

The moderator called for report of the ordaining council. The chairman made an oral report. The report was received and the council proceeded to

ordain Bro. J. J. Barnes as a minister of the gospel. Rev. J. T. Quick was chairman of ordaining council.

The moderator called for reports of ministers. The following written reports were read:

Beaverton, Ala., Oct. 15, 1947.

It is with humbleness and gratitude to our heavenly Father that I make this report. I have pastored one church, preached 85 sermons, traveled 4,000 miles, helped in four revivals, received \$608.83 contributions, paid out \$48 expenses, married two couples and held four funerals Respectfully submitted,

REV. J. T. QUICK.

To the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association: Dear Brethren, I have been in 85 services, preached 12 funerals, married one couple, received into the church two members, been the moderator of two conferences and have done some evangelistic work. I have received \$356.15 for my services. Respectfully submitted,

REV. S. F. LEE.

To the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association: I have held one revival, preached once each month in a land friends home, had six conversions and baptized five. I have preached a total of 29 sermons. REV. M. A. POORE.

Called for new business. The delegated body voted and requested that each minister submit a written report of their year's work at the next session of this association.

The moderator called for a letter of dismission from the Vernon Association for Rev. J. S. Frederick. On motion the letter was granted and the clerk authorized to write it.

The moderator appointed the following corresponding delegates to sister associations:

JASPER—Rev. J. T. Quick and Rev. M. A. Poore.

MT. MORIAH—Rev. T. J. Adair.

STATE LINE—Rev. J. J. Barnes and Rev. B. T. Alexander

On motion the Executive Committee was retained with Bro. J. M. Graham taking the place of Bro. J. H. Cole.

On motion the clerk was authorized to send \$20.00 to the State Association. After a song and the parting hymn the Association adjourned to meet again with Piney Grove Church on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in Oct. 1948. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Quick.

REV. S. F. LEE, Moderator, R. 1, Guin, Ala.

R. H. YERBY, Clerk, R. 1, Covin, Ala.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF WEST ALABAMA AUXILIARY

The West Alabama Auxiliary met with Mt Pleasant church on June 29, 1947. After a proper opening with song and prayer Rev. M. E. Carpenter gave a very interesting talk from the 12th chapter of Eccles.

At 11:00 o'clock Bro. McCord from Columbus, Miss., gave a wonderful talk on "Peace and in Whom Found" using St. John 16 for a scripture lesson.

At 12:00 o'clock a nice dinner was spread which was enjoyed by all.

After noon Rev. T. J. Adair called the body together and proceeded to appoint the following judges: Walter Crossley, Arlie Chandler and Lawrence Hunells to decide which church gave the best program.

Following this appointment officers were elected as follows: Rev. Adair, Moderator D. G. Jordan, Clerk, and Rev. Billy Glasgow, assistant moderator.

The following churches gave very interesting programs: Vernon, Belk, Union Chapel, and Springfield. The judges decided the Banner should go to Union Chapel.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The next meeting will be at Vernon church the second fifth Sunday in 1948. This closed the day's program. The meeting adjourned.

T. J. ADAIR, Moderator.

D. G. JORDAN, Clerk.

## NAMES OF DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. W. B. Taylor, Rev. Tom Butler, Rev. W. R. Turman, Rev. J. R. Robertson, Rev. M. D. McGee, Rev. J. R. Baker, Rev. W. B. Cowley, Rev. J. A. Brown, Rev. S. M. Perkins, Rev. T. G. Harrison, Rev. D. G. W. Hollis, Rev. J. W. Porter, Rev. T. M. Lollar, Rev. C. A. Chaffin, Rev. G. B. Taylor, Rev. J. A. Tate, Rev. E. A. Palmer, Rev. J. A. Isbell, Rev. W. T. Springfield.

## NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

REV. S. F. LEE .....	Guin, Ala.
REV. M. A. POORE .....	R. 1, Beaverton, Ala.
REV. B. T. ALEXANDER .....	Guin, Ala.
REV. M. E. CARPENTER .....	Vernon, Ala.
REV. E. W. GRAVES .....	Vernon, Ala.
REV. W. C. RAYBURN .....	Guin, Ala.
REV. BILLIE GLASGOW .....	Vernon, Ala.
REV. T. J. ADAIR .....	Vernon, Ala.
REV. J. T. QUICK .....	P. 1, Beaverton, Ala.
REV. J. J. BARNES .....	F. 1, Beaverton, Ala.

## LIST OF DELEGATES

BELK—Britt Belk, J. G. Taylor, Kitty Taylor, and Emma Yerby.  
 FAIRVIEW—H. H. Dill, Carrie Roberts and Lillie Belle Roberts.  
 FRIENDSHIP—Represented by letter.  
 LIBERTY—Hosea Dubose, Cager Perkins, Hattie Mixon and Jewel Perkins.  
 MT. HARMONY—V. I. Crawford, J. T. Johnson, J. M. Graham, Mrs. V. I. Crawford and Mrs. J. M. Graham.  
 MT PLEASANT—Raymond Pennington.  
 MT. WILLING—J. E. Chaffin, Sr., Obie Haney, Tom Berryhill and E. J. Markham.  
 PINEY GROVE—Harrison Gosa, Sanders Woods, and Mode Chaffin.  
 SPRINGFIELD—Not represented.  
 UNION CHAPEL—R. W. Maddox, Sister Carlos Bradford, F. M. Collins and Mrs. F. M. Collins.  
 VERNON—L. A. Crowder, O. D. Turner and Mrs. W. Y. Turner.  
 TAYLOR SPRINGS—J. J. Barnes, Mrs. Howard Sarrels and Myrie Brown.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance from last year .....	\$ 13.16
Minute Fund .....	88.46
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$104.62</b>

## EXPENSES:

State Association .....	\$ 20.00
Moderator .....	10.00
Clerk .....	10.00
Printing Minutes .....	40.00

**TOTAL .....** **\$ 80.00**

Balance on Hand .....	\$ 24.62
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# STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	Members Rec'd	Dismissed	Deceased	No. Members	Sunday School	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Minute Funds	Paid Orphanage	Value of Church Property
Belk .....	A. L. Warren .....	R. H. Yerby, R. 1, Covin, Ala.....	4	10	1	209	76	\$337.50	\$170.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 137.95	\$5000.00
Fairview .....	S. F. Lee .....	Carrie Roberts, Beavertown, Ala.....	1	0	0	49		75.47	26.60	5.32		
Friendship .....	E. W. Graves .....	Mrs. J. O. Green, Sr., Steens, Miss.	0	0	1	113	25	176.44		3.00		1500.00
Liberty .....	B. T. Alexander.....	Lee J. Mixon, R. 2, Vernon, Ala.....	8	3	3	215	65	739.33	37.25	5.00	15.00	3000.00
Mt. Harmony .....	T. J. Adair .....	O. C. Robertson, Vernon, Ala.....	8	7	1	236	40	219.40	110.00	8.00	10.60	4000.00
Mt. Pleasant .....	T. J. Adair .....	J. G. Adair, R. 1, Vernon, Ala.....	2	0	1	07	30	119.50	36.00	8.00		3000.00
Mt. Willing .....	J. T. Quick .....	W. B. Vinson, R. 2, Winfield, Ala.....	2	12	2	222	72	381.00	196.61	8.00	21.60	1500.00
Piney Grove .....	S. F. Lee .....	J. R. Williams Guin, Ala.....	1	0	2	143	70	139.85	135.00	8.00	40.00	1000.00
Springfield .....	I. K. Boyette .....	J. A. Harper, Vernon, Ala.....	31	7	2	260	70	255.16	156.61	10.00		2550.00
Taylor Springs .....	S. F. Lee .....	Mrs. J. J. Barnes, Beaverton, Ala.....	8	0	1	37	20	43.70	34.24	5.00	18.50	1000.00
Union Chapel .....	A. L. Warren .....	F. M. Collins, R. 2, Vernon .....	3	0	1	108	50	337.00	101.00	10.50	62.50	6500.00
Vernon .....	A. L. Warren .....	Mrs. W. E. Robertson, Vernon, Ala	0	1	0	105	60	260.00	61.00	9.34	45.10	10000.00
			68	40	15	1766	567	2750.55	1063.71	88.46	351.25	39500.00

361  
194  
577

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### 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, until new officers are elected.

2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer..

3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at the beginning of each session, by a majority of 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 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 without the authority of the Association more than fifteen minutes.

10. No person shall laugh or talk during discussion.

11. No person shall absent himself from this 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 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 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 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, 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 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 delegate 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. The Moderator and Clerk shall receive \$10.00 each for their services.

13. The Clerk shall superintend the printing of the minutes after each session of the Association.

### 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 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 the center of Christian Unions, the supreme standards by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

3. We believe that man 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 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 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 modify 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; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; Cor. 1:12-24; 1 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 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.