

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
UNION CHAPEL F. W. B. CHURCH
OCTOBER 15, 16, 17, 1949

OFFICERS

Rev. A. L. Warren, Moderator Vernon, Ala.
E. W. Graves, Clerk Vernon, Ala.

The next session of this Association will be held with Springfield church, beginning on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1950, Rev. T. J. Adair to preach the Introductory sermon.

Times Print, Fayette, Ala.

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PROCEEDINGS

Of The 69th Session

Of The Vernon Free Will Baptist Association

The Association convened with Union Chapel church October 15, 16 and 17, 1949.

The house was called to order on Saturday morning by the Moderator, Rev. J. T. Quick. Song service was led by Rev. Billie Glasgow, prayer by Rev. Frank Collins.

Devotional service was conducted by Rev. M. E. Carpenter, in which several prayers and talks were enjoyed by the congregation.

At 11 o'clock Rev. J. T. Quick brought the introductory sermon, reading from 1 Tim. 4th chapter. His subject was "What Free Will Baptist Believe." After this interesting message Bro. Harrison Gosa led the hymn and Rev. H. A. Pitts led the prayer. The noon hour was enjoyed by all.

At one o'clock the house was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. W. O. Knight led the song service, Rev. A. L. Warren the prayer. The Moderator declared the Association to be in session and ready for business. He then appointed Bro. Emmitt Lee and E. W. Graves reading clerks and called for letters from the various churches. The following churches responded and listed their delegates: Belk—Bros. Jessie Overton and J. G. Taylor and sister Kitty Taylor; Fairveiw—Bros. Erby Holcomb, Willard Banister, Dewey Colley; Friendship represented by letter only; Liberty—Bros. Randolph Couch, Clarence Cargile, Hosea Dubose; Mt. Harmony—Bros. A. F. Barnes and Sisters Lona Barnes and Ellie Robertson; Mt. Pleasant—Bros. John G. Adair, Raymond Pennington and Aubry Dees; Mt. Willing—Bros. J. E. Chaffin, Garvin Chaffin and Robert Bosa; Piney Grove—Bros. Harrison Gosa, Mode Chaffin and Sister Polly Collins; Taylor Springs—Bro. J. C. Young; Springfield—Bros. A. C. Johnson, Murray Jordan and Add Hankins; Union Chapel—Bro. Dewey Harrison, Sisters, Hattie Maddox and Ethel Collins; Vernon—Bros. Albert Elliott, Ross Gunnels and Sister M. E. Carpenter.

The letters were received and the delegates seated. There was no response to the call for petitionary letters.

Rev. H. A. Pitts and Bro. Redus Hugley from the Jasper Association, Rev. W. O. Knight from Northeast Mississippi and Rev. Herbert Tilley from Mt. Marriah were seated as corresponding delegates.

A motion carried to go into election of officers by nomination from floor and a standing vote. The election resulted in Rev. A. L. Warren Moderator, Rev. B. T. Alexander assistant moderator, E. W. Graves clerk.

Motion carried to empower the moderator to appoint all committees. Rev. J. T. Quick having accepted work in another Association asked for a letter, which was granted. While the moderator was appointing the committees Rev. Frank Collins conducted a devotional service.

The following committees were appointed: Arrangement—Bros. Harrison Gosa, O. C. Robertson, Hosea Dubose with the deacons of Union Chapel.

Document and Order of Business—Revs. W. D. Glasgow, M. E. Carpenter, B. T. Alexander, S. F. Lee, J. T. Adair with Bros. D. F. Harrison and J. G. Taylor.

Credentials—Bros. Harvey Clearman, J. E. Chaffin, Murray Jordan, J. Y. Turner, Robert Gosa and Add Hankins.

Sunday School—Sisters F. M. Collins, A. F. Barnes, Kitty Taylor, M. E. Carpenter and Ellie Robertson.

Literature—Bros. J. W. Garrison, A. F. Barnes, Jessie Overton, J. G. Adair and Ross Gunnels.

Temperance—Bros. Mode Chaffin, Albert Elliott, Aubrey Dees and Sisters Polly Collins and Hettie Maddox.

Queries and Resolution—Bros. Pascal Yerby, Gurley Roberts, Erby Robertson, Frank Collins and J. C. Young.

Finance—Bros. Garvin Chaffin, Randolph Couch, Erby Holcomb, H. L. Sorrels and Emmitt Lee.

Deceased Members—Bros. Raymond Pennington, Willard Banister, Dewey Colley, Clarence Cargile, Hiram McDonald and O. C. Johnson.

The committee of arrangement requested that Rev. Frank Collins preach Saturday, 7 P. M., Rev. A. L. Warren at 9:30 Sunday A. M., and Rev. Alexander at 11 o'clock, Rev. Key at 1 o'clock, Rev. W. H. Ryland at 2:30 o'clock, J. T. Adair at 7:30, Rev. Patterson at 11 o'clock Monday and H. A. Pitts at 1 o'clock.

Business adjourned to meet at 8 A. M. Monday.

Saturday evening at 7 o'clock a nice congregation assembled at the church where after a fine song service Rev. Frank Collins, a newly licensed minister delivered a splendid message using for his text Jno. 5-6 "Wilt Thou be Made Whole."

SUNDAY A. M.

At 9 o'clock Rev. B. T. Alexander conducted the devotional after which Rev. A. L. Warren brought a most inspirational message to a very attentive congregation. He chose for his text Rev. 14:13. After a short recess we again assembled when Rev. B. T. Alexander delivered an able message on the subject of Foot Washing and Communion. At the conclusion 120 participated at the Lord's table and 22 washed feet. A bountiful feast was enjoyed by a large congregation.

At one o'clock Rev. Harvey Key brought a fine short message. Then Rev. W. H. Ryland from the Children's Home presented a group of the children in a short program, after which he gave a report of the work at the home. An offering of \$135 was given.

An offering of \$50.37 was given to Bro. Hosea Dubose to comfort him in his illness.

At 7 o'clock a good congregation assembled again when Rev. T. J. Adair our oldest minister brought the evening message. He centered his message to the young ministers. His was a timely message.

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

MONDAY A. M.

A quorum being present the moderator declared the body in order. Rev. Glasgow led the hymn, Rev. S. F. Lee led the prayer, Rev. Warren read the scripture and gave some fine remarks concerning the conduct of the association.

A motion carried to omit the reading of minutes of Saturday's session. While the committees were working Rev. J. H. Tilley conducted a fine praise service.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

We your committee on Document and Order of Business reports as follows:

1. We recommend the former Order of Business.
2. We recommend that Rev. T. J. Adair preach the introductory sermon and Rev. E. W. Graves be his alternate.
3. We recommend that Rev. E. W. Graves be retained as Associational Evangelist and that each church support him in his labor.
4. We recommend the body select the next meeting place.
5. We recommend the Association retain the executive committee.
6. We recommend that the Association give each minister in good standing a certificate of good standing each year.
7. That any visiting preacher first be approved by the pastor and deacons before he is invited to preach in our pulpits.
8. That a committee be appointed to draw up a treatise or discipline for the conduct of all procedure of the Association.
9. That the clerk superintend the printing of minutes and that he have 500 printed.

Respectfully submitted,
W. D. Glasgow, Chr.

The report was received and committee discharged. Each section was adopted in order.

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

We your committee on Minister's Credential beg leave to submit the following report:

After a careful investigation we find all our ministers and deacons in good standing in their respective churches.

Respectfully submitted,
W. H. Clearman, Chr.

SABBATH SCHOOLS

We your committee on Sabbath School make the following report: We find that all the churches of this Association have Sunday schools with an enrollment of 525. We believe that all teachers and officers should be christians.

Mrs. F. M. Collins, Chr.

LITERATURE

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

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. Garrison, Chr.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We your committee on Temperance make the following report: After a prayerful study we are made to believe the Temperance thought is one of the greatest thoughts known to mankind. If we disobey the laws of God by getting into an intemperate attitude we bring upon ourselves condemnation because God expects his children to exercise self control in all things.

We should all join together in helping each other to be more temperate because the things that God has given to mankind as a blessing can be used so that it will be curse instead of a blessing.

We recommend that our preachers and deacons and members of the various churches abstain from intemperance and live clean and sober lives.

J. M. Chaffin, Chr.

QUERIES AND RESOLUTION

We your committee on Queries and Resolution submit the following: Resolved that we extend our thanks to Union Chapel church and community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,
Pascal Yerby, Chr.

FINANCE

We your committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report: After calling for the minute funds from the various churches we find we have collected \$74.00.

Respectfully submitted,
E. J. Holcomb, Chr.

DECEASED MEMBERS

We your committee on Deceased members make the following report: God has seen fit to call from our midst eight of our members from these churches: Liberty; Bro. R. A. Poore; Mt. Harmony, Sister Merica Crawford and Mansie Gilliam; Piney Grove, Sister Martha Jane Motes; Mt. Pleasant, Sister Jerry Vails; Vernon, Bro Thomas S. Lollar; Belk, Bro. J. A. Richards.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Pennington, Chr.

MINISTER'S REPORT

(Only one written report. To the F. W. B. Association:
Dear Bretherin:

I have pastored two churches. I have taken in 10 members, preached 70 sermons, preached 6 funerals and attended a number of other services. I have been paid \$345.35 for my services.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. S. F. Lee.

All these reports were received and adopted as read.

Rev. B. T. Alexander resigned as a member of the executive committee and Bro. R. H. Yerby was apponted in his place.

Rev. N. A. Patterson of the Jasper Association brought the 11 o'clock message, selecting as his text Mt. 28:7. The congregaton gave a warm hand of approval to this fine minister.

The noon hour was another feast.

MONDAY P. M.

Bro. D. F. Harreson conducted song service and Sister Evelyn Turner led the prayer. Rev. H. A. Pitts of Brilliant delivered a fine short message on the subject of Unity of believrs.

Sister A. M. Wallace, treasurer of the State Superannuation Board was given time to present her plea for the cause of disabled ministers, an offering of \$57.20 was given to this cause.

Motion carrid to discontinue requiring ministers to make annual reports of their work.

A committee to draw up the Treatise was appointed as follows: E. W. Graves, Verdo Dubose and O. C. Robertson.

Bros. Harrison Gosa, Dempsey Langley and R. H. Yerby were appointed as delegates to the State Association.

Rev. T. J. Adair and Bro. O. C. Robertson were appointed as corresponding delegates to Mt. Marriah Associateon.

Revs. Warren, W. D. Glasgow and E. W. Graves appointed to Jasper Association.

Revs. S. F. Lee and B. T. Alexander to Miss. State Line Association.

An ordaining council composed of Revs. S. F. Lee, W. D. Glasgow and B. T. Alexander were appointed to ordain Bros. J. G. Adair and Raymond Pennington as deacons for Mt. Pleasant church.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet with Springfield church on Saturday before 3rd Sunday in October, 1950.

While the choir sang, God be with you, the parting had was given thus closing another fine session of our Association.

NAMES OF DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. W. B. Taylor, Rev. Tom Butler, Rev. W. R. Truman, Rev. J. R. Robertson, Rev. W. 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. Chaffen, 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 R. 1, Guin, 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. J. BARNES R. 1, Beaverton, Ala.
 REV. A. L. WARREN Vernon, Ala.

PROGRAM FOR HOLDING ASSOCIATION

1. The Association shall be called to order and presided over by the officers elected at the last session.
2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing of the delegates present.
3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot immediately after 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 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 nor 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

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 teaching 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 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 adjourned 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 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 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 17:22; Romans 2:19; John 3:9).

8. We do not believe under the gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally, but that those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved; that it is possible for men who have been converted to make shipwreck of faith, turn again to sin and be finally lost. Luke 9:62.

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.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WEST ALABAMA AUXILIARY

The Moderator, Rev. W. M. Glasgow called the meeting to order and J. F. Turman led the song service. The Moderator read the scripture and offered prayer.

After the devotion Bro. D. G. Jordan gave a fine lecture on the Sunday school lesson.

Sister J. T. Johnson, J. T., jr., and Ray Bevis were appointed judges of the various programs to be rendered by the churches.

Union Chapel, Liberty and Vernon brought some very interesting programs after which the body was dismissed for dinner.

A fine spread was enjoyed by all.

Springfield and Belk rendered two inspiring programs which completed the day's program. After some comments and instructions to the judges by the moderator they retired to make their decision as to who had won the banner. They reported in favor of Union Chapel.

Election of officers resulted in the election of Rev. W. M. Glasgow, moderator, W. H. Yerby, assistant moderator. D. G. Jordan, clerk., Bros. W. H. Clearman, Loyd Turner and J. H. Cole were elected delegates to the State Sunday School Convention.

Belk church was chosen as the next meeting place to be convened on the 2nd and 5th Sunday, 1950.

A fine day's program having been finished the body was adjourned. Rev. W. M. Glasgow, Moderator, D. G. Jordan, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND ADDRESS	Members Re'cd	Dismissed	Deceased	Total Members	No. in S. S.	No. in League	Paid Pastors	Pd. Evangelists	Pd. Orphanage	Home Missions	Paid Christian Education	Paid Disabled Preachers	Minute Fund	Value Church Property	Improvement	Total Paid Out
Belk	M. L. Hollis	R. H. Yerby Covin, Ala., R-1	6	3	1	205	85	50	\$ 252.12	\$ 215.35		\$ 6.05		\$ 10.50	\$ 8	\$ 7,000	\$ 166.89	\$2,153.91
Fairview	S. F. Lee	Mrs. Lily Belle Roberts, Guin.	8	3		57	42		114.24	26.40	14.25				3	2,000	37.50	185.39
Friendship	Herbert Tilley	Mrs. Floyd Cline Steens, Miss.				100			208.37						2	1,500		210.37
Liberty	B. T. Alexander	Lee J. Mixon Vernon, Ala.	10	4	1	208	65	45	324.40	143.90	21.00	.75.00	\$32.00	95.00	6	3,000	450.00	1,147.30
Mt. Marmony	A. L. Warren	O. C. Robertson Vernon, Ala.	3	8	2	226	40		237.12	100.00		.15.00			5	4,000		367.15
Mt. Pleasant	Roy Barnes	Aubry Dees Sulligent, Ala.		3	1	70	20		100.00	50.00	17.00				5	2,000		167.00
Mt. Willing	B. T. Alexander	Clinton May Winfield, Ala.	3	9		231	30		196.05	110.35	60.00				8	2,000		374.40
Piney Grove	S. F. Lee	J. M. Chaffin Guin, Ala., R-1	8	4	1	161	65		131.50	41.00		6.40			8	2,500	60.00	246.90
Springfield	C. R. Puckett	J. A. Harper Vernon, Ala.	2	17		274	30	40	227.90	135.25					10	2,000		525.74
Taylor Springs	B. T. Alexander	Carlos Barnes Beaverton, Ala.	2			39	15		26.25	13.50		1.75			5	1,500	31.10	75.85
Union Chapel	A. L. Warren	F. M. Collins Vernon, Ala.	7	1		110	50		309.00	100.00	72.00	8.04		50.00	6	6,000	30.00	734.81
Vernon	A. L. Warren	Mrs. Earl Robert- son, Vernon.	16	1	1	114	80	35	550.00	100.00	245.36	42.95		10.00	8	18,000	1,084.00	2,068.71
Total			65	53	7	1795	522	170	\$2,676.95	\$1,135.75	\$429.61	155.19	\$32.00	\$165.50	\$74	\$51,500	\$3,354.49	\$8,257.53