

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**Seventy-Seventh Session**  
**OF THE**  
**VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST**  
**ASSOCIATION**

**HELD WITH**  
**Vernon Free Will Baptist Church**  
**October 18, 19, 1957**



**OFFICERS**

REV. R. P. RITCH, Moderator ..... Vernon, Ala.  
R. H. YERBY, Sr., Clerk ..... Rt. 6, Fayette, Ala.

The next session of this Association will be held with Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, beginning on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1958, Rev. J. B. Ledlow is to preach the introductory sermon - Rev. W. D. Glasgow is to be his substitute.

# VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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## PROCEEDINGS

of the Seventy-Seventh Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association, Held With Vernon F. W. B. Church, October 18, 19, 1957.

The association was called to order by the moderator, Rev. R. P. Ritch. Song service was directed by Rev. Roy Banres. Prayer by Rev. Gurley Roberts.

The moderator read a scripture lesson from the 133rd Psalm. After a short message by the moderator he called on the clerk to declare the association ready for business.

The following credentials committee was appointed and the letters from the different churches were called for to be handed to the clerk.

Credentials Committee: Dewey Jordan, Mode Chaffin and Rev. W. D. Glasgow. This committee was instructed to examine the letters, list the delegates and turn the list into the clerk. Song service by Rev. Roy Barnes. At this time Rev. H. A. Pitts conducted a very interesting devotional service, reading a lesson from the 1st chapter of Psalms. He closed the devotion by calling for testimonies from the congregation.

Recess 10 minutes.

At 11:00 o'clock the congregation assembled in the auditorium of the church and song services were directed by Rev. J. M. Cobb. Prayer by Rev. J. B. Ledlow. Rev. A. J. Lambert brought a very interesting message, reading from the 10th chapter of Acts, beginning with the 14th verse. Dismissed until 1:00 o'clock for lunch which was served in the church kitchen and enjoyed very much by a large crowd. Dismissal prayer and grace for the table by Rev. S. F. Lee.

## AFTERNOON

Song service directed by Rev. A. J. Lambert.

The moderator read a lesson from 2nd Thes. 3rd Chapter. Prayer by Rev. L. V. Collier. Rev. E. W. Graves and Bro. Dewey Jordan were appointed as reading clerks and read the letters from the various churches.

The delegates were listed as follows:

BELK—Huston Ham, Louise Ham and Katherine Watkins.

DAVIS CHAPEL—Sister Euline Moore, Sister Vivian Gray and Bro. S. V. Davis.

FAIRVIEW—Sister Carrie Roberts, Sister Lillie Bell Roberts and Willie Banister.

FAYETTE—Bro. Doyle Simmons, Bro. Fred Ham, Bro. Lee Black, Sister John Williams and Sister James Black.

LIBERTY—Bros. Clifton Black, William Collins, Willis Butler and Vester Perkins.

MT HARMONY—Bros. Walter Graham. R. W. Guyton, Daniel Johnson, Bob McReynolds.

MT. PLEASANT—Sisters Mabel Hunnell, Hilda Chandler and Bro. W. N. Cooper.

MT. WILLING—Bro. Jeff McDonald, and Sister Cora Cook.

PINEY GROVE—Bros. Harrison Gosa, T. R. Gilliland, Claud Fuller, Dave Markham, Sisters Jimmie Lou Chaffin and Ellie Ruth

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Gilliland.

SPRINGFIELD—Bros. Kelsey Jordan. Aubrey Hall, Sisters Ruby Wright and Doris Mason.

TAYLOR SPRINGS—Sisters Bobbie Gray Hollis, Cora Barnes, Mary Ann Barnes and Myrtle Barnes.

UNION CHAPEL—Sisters S. Y. Shelton, Delia Yerby and Alice Maddox.

VERNON—Bros. Clyde Motes, Paul Shelnut and Onnie Turner. Moved and seconded to receive the letter and seat the delegates. Carried and delegates declared seated.

Called for petitionary letters. None present.

Moved and carried to seat corresponding delegates as follows:

Jasper Association—Rev H. A. Pitts.

Progressive Association—Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Cobb.

State Line Association—Rev. L. V. Collier and Rev. Roy Barnes.

Mt. Morriah Association—Bro. Lee McAdams, Bro. and Sister Elbert Fields and Sister Minnie Fields.

N. E. Miss., Association—Bro. D. D. Hollis, Sister C. R. Pennington and L. H. Chesteen.

By move and second the moderator was empowered to appoint a committee on committees as follows: Rev. S. F. Lee, Rev. W. D. Glasgow, Bro. Dewey Jordan and Bro. Mode Chaffin.

The moderator called for report of the committee which was appointed at the previous session to investigate Beaverton church. The chairman of the committee made an oral report and it was passed over to be taken up again later.

Called for report of committee which was appointed to re-write the Constitution and By-Laws. The report was read and placed on the table to be taken up again Saturday.

The moderator called for new ministers who wanted to come into this association. Rev. J. B. Ledlow presented himself for membership and was unanimously received. Rev. A. J. Lambert directed a song while the right hand of fellowship was extended to Bro. Ledlow.

Rev. A. J. Lambert called for a letter of transfer to the Mt. Morriah Association. Moved and carried to grant him a letter of recommendation, effective at the close of this session.

Rev. J. M. Cobb was called upon to give a report on the Children's Home. He gave an oral report. A song was directed by Rev. A. J. Lambert

The moderator called for report of the committee on committees. They reported with the following committees appointed.

Documents and Order of Business—A. J. Lambert, S. F. Lee, Gurley Roberts, A. L. Warren, with the moderator and clerk.

Arrangements—J. D. Shelnut, Pascal Yerby and C. S. Collins.

Credentials—Dewey Jordan, J. M. Chaffin, and Emmet Lee.

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Queries and Resolutions—Kelsey Jordan, Clyde Motes, T. R. Gilliland, Clifton Black and Walter Graham.

Sunday School—Euline Moore, Cora Cook, Maybell Hunnell. Mrs. S. V. Davis and Bro. Lee Black.

Temperance—E. W. Graves, G. W. Chaffin and Carlos Roberts.

Literature—W. H. Clearman, Paul Shellnut, Dolphie Shellnut and Mrs. Alice Maddox.

Finance—S. L. Cash, Willis Butler and A. J. McDonald.

Deceased Members—Huston Ham, Mrs. S. Y. Shelton and Mrs. Viivan Gray.

At this time the moderator appointed an ordaining council to examine and ordain Bro. C. V. Hollis, Bro. Haley Wright and Bro. J. A. Harper as deacons of Springfield church

Council—Rev. A. J. Lambert, Rev. Gurley Roberts, Rev. E. W. Graves, Rev. W. D. Glasgow and Rev. S. F. Lee.

The committee on arrangements made the following partial report:

We recommend that Rev. Gurley Roberts conduct a devotional service Friday night and Rev. J. B. Ledlow follow this with a message.

On motion the business of the association adjourned until 8:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

Prayer by Rev. A. L. Warren.

### FRIDAY NIGHT

At 7:00 o'clock the congregation gathered in the auditorium. Songs by Rev. A. J. Lambert. Prayer by Rev. T. J. Adair. Rev. Gurley Roberts conducted an interesting devotion, reading Matt. 5th chapter 13th through the 15th verses.

Song, "Brethren We Have Met To Worship." Rev. J. B. Ledlow brought an inspiring message, using as a scripture lesson Isaiah 49:22, Jer. 4:6 and Ex. 12:14.

After a few remarks by the moderator the association dismissed until 8:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

Prayer by Rev. W. D. Glasgow.

### SATURDAY MORNING

The association convened at 8:00 o'clock. Songs by Rev. A. J. Lambert. The moderator read a lesson from Josh. 1st Chapter, 1st through 7th verse.

Prayer by Rev. Henry Crawford.

The moderator called for the reading of the report of the committee on Constitution and By-Laws. Report read and passed over to be acted upon later in the day. The body recessed 30 minutes for the committees to prepare their reports.

The body re-assembled with singing conducted by Bro. C. V. Hollis.

Taylor Springs church presented their letter to the body. The letter was read and delegates seated.

Called for reports of committees.

Documents and Order of Business:



## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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We, your Business committee report as follows:

1. We recommend that Rev. J. B. Ledlow preach the introductory sermon at the next session of this association with Rev. W. D. Glasgow his substitute.
2. We recommend that this body select the place for the next meeting.
3. We recommend that the fund in the treasure for old age ministers be turned in to the State Superannuation Board. We further recommend that each church in this association set aside their Sunday School offering on the third Sunday in March of each year for old age ministers, to be sent to the State Superannuation treasurer, Mrs. Annie Lou Miller, Winfield, Ala.
4. We recommend that the moderator appoint a committee to investigate the absence of Friendship church and to assist them in any way possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
A. J. Lambert, Chairman.

The report was received, reread by sections and adopted as read.

The body voted for the next session to be held with Union Chapel Church.

The moderator appointed the following committee to investigate Friendship Church: Rev. Gurley Roberts, Rev. A. L. Warren and Bro. Dewey Jordan..

### CREDENTIALS REPORT

We, the committee on Credentials wish to make the following report:

After a very careful investigation of the standing of the ministers of this association, we find nothing to mar the highest respect of the association and the pastorates toward them.

We urge our ministers, according to their charge and covenant, to boldly condemn sin and fight evil with all their power.

We regret very much to lose Rev. A. J. Lambert from our association.

We are happy to recommend that the association receive Rev. J. B. Ledlow into our body.

Respectfully submitted,  
D. G. Jordan, Chairman.

After this report was adopted, it was moved and carried, that any minister of this association who fails to represent in person or by letter for a period of two years without a reasonable excuse, his name be dropped from out list of ordained ministers and that this be added to our By-Laws.

# VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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## QUERIES AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Be it resolved that we tender our heartfelt thanks to the Vernon church and community for the hospitality and fellowship shown us during this session.

We recommend that each church try to reach all people in their respective communities to get them to attend church. We can do this through prayer and contact with individuals.

Whereas, carnivals add nothing to a city, and do not provide employment to the people of the city, and is immoral to the core, and carry out of the city every dollar gained by means fair or foul: Be it resolved that this Vernon Association of Free Will Baptist go on record as being opposed to such carnivals coming into our midst, and that we will take issue against such evils.

Be it resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Mayor Raymond Bostick and city council.

Kelsey Jordan, Chairman.

The report was adopted as read.

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, make the following report:

We recommend that each Sunday School teacher from each church would visit each home that doesn't attend church and invite them to Sunday School.

We find our Sunday Schools are the upbuilding of our churches today.

We recommend that every effort be made in each church to use only christians as teachers and superinendents. We urge all churches to be represented and to take part in the Sunday School convention

Mrs. Euline Moore, Chairman.

The report was adopted as read.

The moderator added Bro Raymond Pennington to the Finance committee to take the place of Bro. S. L. Cash, who was absent.

## TEMPERANCE

We beg to make the following report:

In as much as the Bible warns of the danger of the use of intoxicating drinks, and because of its widespread use, especially among our ruling officials and the mothers of our children as well as our youth, it becomes the major contributing cause of the moral decay of our present generation.

The most deplorable fact of all is that, with church membership now at an all time record with a clear majority of votes that could vote out liquor and could insure any law enforcement if our church people would only practice, preach and vote dry.

We very earnestly beg all the people of our churches not only to refrain from its use but to oppose its traffic in all places.

Sincerely submitted,

E. W. Graves, Chairman.

The report was adopted as read.

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The moderator called for the report of the ordaining council. Report as follows:

We have examined Bros. Haley Wright,, Claud Hollis and J. A. Harper for the office of deacons of Friendship church and find them worthy of the honorable office and we hereby recommend their ordination.

A. J. Lambert, S. F. Lee, W. D. Glasgow, Gurley Roberts and E. W. Graves ordaining council.

The report was adopted.

By move and second the business of the association adjourned until 1:00 o'clock.

Recess 10 minutes.

After the recess the congregation assembled in the church. Song services directed by Rev. Roy Barnes.

A very interesting devotion was conducted by Rev. J. L. Lavender, reading from 1st Thes. 4:17-18. Song by Rev. Roy Barnes. Prayer by Rev. Frank Collins.

At this time Rev. E. B. McDonald, from the Bible College in Nashville, Tenn., brought an inspiring message, reading from Rom. 1:13-17.

At the close of the message the ordaining council came forward and ordained the deacons for Springfield church, Rev. A. J. Lambert giving the charge and Rev. S. F. Lee praying the ordaining prayer.

Dismissed 1 hour for dinner

### AFTERNOON

Song directed by Rev. A. J. Lambert. The moderator read the 61st Psalm. Prayer by Rev. J. L. Lavender. On motion the following corresponding messengers were seated:

From Mt. Morriah association—Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Lavender, Rev. and Mrs. Leander McAdams and Rev. Henry Crawford.

Free Will Baptist Bible College—Rev. E. B. McDonald.

Called for report of committee on Literature.

We, your committee on Literature make the following report:

1. We recommend the Bible is the best in literature. We also urge that more people read the daily Bible readings as listed in our quarterlys.

2. We recommend that the churches in the Vernon Association use the literature printed at Ayden, N. C. by the Free Will Baptist Press.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. H. Clearman, Chairman.

### FINANCE

We, your committee on Finance make the following report:  
After collecting the minute funds from the various churches we have collected \$119.75.

Respectfully submitted.  
A. J. McDonald Chairman.

The report was received and the money turned over to the clerk.

# VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## DECEASED MEMBERS

We, your committee on deceased members report as follows:

Belk—Sister Lona Jones

Davis Chapel—Sister Carrie Ford.

Fairview—Sister Ollie Lockhart.

Fayette—Bro. Kirby Black, Bro. H. D. Kelley, Sister H. E. Cobb, Sister Nola Woods.

Piney Grove—Bro. Bailey Markham, Sister Mary Burnett.

Springfield—Bro. J. E. Hollis, Bro. Burley Dobbins.

Union Chapel—Bro. P. H. Woods.

Vernon—Sister Minnie Adair, Sister Ugenia Motes.

We feel that in giving up these loved ones that we should realize how close eternity really is, and how much more concerned we should be for the lost.

Respectfully submitted,  
Huston B. Ham, Chairman.

The report was adopted as read.

The moderator called for the final report of committee to investigate Beaverton church.

We, the committee that was appointed to investigate Beaverton church, have made a survey of the conditions and find that most of the members have moved away and under present conditions there is not much that can be done.

Respectfully submitted,  
A. L. Warren, Chairman.

The report was adopted.

The moderator called for the final reading of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws.

The Constitution was read and by move and second was adopted as a whole. Then the By-Laws were read and adopted. (See Constitution and By-Laws.)

At this time Rev. R. P. Ritch offered his resignation as member of the Board of Trustees for the Children's Home. The resignation was accepted and Rev. J. B. Ledlow was recommended to take his place.

The moderator appointed the following delegates to the State Association: Dewey Jordan, James Black, S. Y. Shelton, Raphael Yerby, Williard Banister, Emmet Lee, John D. Moore and Mode Chaffin.

Moved and seconded for the moderator to appoint an executive committee. The following were appointed:

Rev. E. W. Graves to serve 3 years, Rev. Gurley Roberts to serve 2 years, Rev. S. F. Lee to serve 1 year.

The following corresponding delegates were appointed:

Jasper Association—Rev. S. F. Lee.

State Line Association—Rev. Gurley Roberts and Rev. A. L. Warren.



STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	Members Received	Members Dismissed	Members Deceased	Total Members	No. in S. S.	No. in League	No. in Ladies Auxiliary	Ordained Ministers	Paid Pastors	Paid Evangelist	Paid Children's Home	Paid Missions	Paid Old Age Ministers	Minute Funds	Paid For Improvements	Total Paid Out	Value of Church Property
Belk	J. L. Lavender	R. H. Yerby, Sr. Rt. 6, Fayette, Ala.		2	1	160	60	35		1	\$ 600.00	\$ 91.17	\$ 199.00			\$ 10.00	\$ 1,458.00	\$ 2,358.17	\$ 12,000.00
Davis Chapel	W. D. Glasgow	J. D. Moore, Jr. Rt. 1, Berry Ala.	7	1	1	58	61		12		\$ 265.10	\$ 117.20	\$ 6.15			\$ 10.00	\$ 158.00	\$ 556.45	\$ 3,500.00
Fairview	Gurley Roberts	Willie Banister Guin, Ala.			1	43	42			1	\$ 371.61	\$ 75.00				\$ 10.00		\$ 456.61	\$ 2,000.00
Fayette	J. B. Ledlow	Fred Ham Rt. 3, Fayette, Ala.	31		4	93	75	50	30	2	\$2,650.00	\$ 163.00	\$ 322.80			\$ 10.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 6,268.12	\$ 45,200.00
Friendship	Not Represented																		
Liberty	L. V. Collier	J. A. Collins Rt. 2, Vernon, Ala.	8	1		224	120			1	\$ 954.50	\$ 115.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 83.40	\$10.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 878.92	\$ 2,192.86	\$ 4,000.00
Mt. Harmony	Roy Barnes	Erbie Robertson Vernon, Ala.		1		203	30				\$ 403.00	\$ 110.35				\$ 10.00		\$ 523.35	\$ 4,500.00
Mt. Pleasant	Frank Collins	J. D. Adair Vernon, Ala.				62	30				\$ 245.00	\$ 78.00				\$ 6.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 363.00	\$ 6,000.00
Mt. Willing	W. D. Glasgow	Cly F. May Rt. 2, Winfield, Ala.	1	4		207	57			1	\$ 342.50	\$ 100.00	\$ 60.36			\$ 10.00	\$ 191.28	\$ 811.01	\$ 3,500.00
Piney Grove	B. T. Alexander	J. M. Chaffin Rt. 1, Guin, Ala.	4	4	2	132	50			3	\$ 210.00	\$ 75.00				\$ 10.00	\$ 200.67	\$ 495.67	\$ 5,000.00
Springfield	A. L. Warren	J. A. Harper Vernon, Ala.	7	2	2	257	38	33			\$ 381.11	\$ 118.50	\$ 19.34	\$ 21.65		\$ 10.00	\$ 661.30	\$ 1,211.90	\$ 6,250.00
Taylor Springs	Clarence Barnes	Mary Ann Barnes Rt. 1, Beaverton, Ala.				30	35			1	\$ 84.75	\$ 5.00				\$ 1.75	\$ 15.00	\$ 104.75	\$ 1,500.00
Union Chapel	Henry Crawford	James E. Maddox Rt. 2, Vernon, Ala.	1	4	1	110	65			2	\$ 719.79	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 29.26		\$ 10.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 955.65	\$ 6,000.00
Vernon	R. P. Ritch	Mrs. Earl Robertson Vernon, Ala.	4		2	156	80	45	10	3	\$1,920.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 53.48	\$ 82.87		\$ 10.00	\$ 6,549.60	\$ 9,447.45	\$ 20,000.00
Total			63	19	14	1745	713	163	42	15	\$9,147.36	\$1,328.22	\$ 781.03	\$217.20	\$10.00	\$119.75	\$10,314.77	\$25,474.59	\$129,450.00

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Progressive Association—Rev. J. B. Ledlow.

N. E. Miss. Association—Rev. R. P. Ritch.

Mt. Morirah Association—Rev. W. D. Glasgow.

The following officers were elected for another year:

Moderator—Rev. J. B. Ledlow.

Assistant Moderator—Rev. Gurley Roberts.

Clerk-Treasurer—R. H. Yerby, Sr..

The association adjourned to meet with Union Chapel church on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1958.

Prayer by the moderator Rev. R. P. Ritch.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance from 1957 .....	\$ 78.74
Minute Funds .....	119.75
League and Sunday School .....	4.00
Total .....	\$202.49
Paid Out:	
Moderator and Clerk .....	\$ 30.00
State Association .....	28.00
Superannuation .....	30.00
Minutes .....	75.00
Total Expense .....	\$163.00
Balance on hand .....	\$ 39.49

### LIST OF DEACONS

Belk—L. D. Willams, J. L. Collins, Brit Belk, Jessie Overton, R. H. Yerby, Jr., Grady Newman. Fairview—E. A. Roberts, Willard Banister. Fayette—A. M. Wallace, J. C. White, John Williams, Reece. Henderson, Grady Kennedy. Fiendship—Not given. Liberty—Henry Harrison, Henry Perkins, Karl Randolph, Verdo Dubose, Chelsea Poore. Mt. Harmony—S. L. Cash, S. G. Johnson, B. C. Guin, Odus Robertson, Erbie Robertson, Titus Barnes. Mt. Pleasant—J. G. Adair, Raymond Pennington. Mt. Willing—J. W. Garrison, H. E. McDonald, E. B. Lee, J. D. Shellnut, A. J. McDonald. Piney Grove—Orlander Shelnut, Elvada Markham, C. E. Roberts, G. W. Chaffin, Mode Chaffin. Springfield—Dempsey Langley, D. G. Jordan, Haley Wright, Claud Hollis, J. A. Harper. Taylor Springs—Not given. Union Chapel—W. H. Clearman C. S. Collins, Carlos Bradford, S. Y. Shelton, James Maddox. Vernon—J. L. McNeese, L. A. Crowder, M. D. Turner, Jay Y. Turner, Edgar Turner, Loyd Turner, Pascal Yerby.

### NAMES OF DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. W. T. Spingfield, Rev. W. B. Taylor, Rev. W. R. Turman, Rev. Tom Butler, Rev. J. R. Robertson, Rev. M. D. McGee, Rev. J. R. Baker, Rev. W. B. Crowley, Rev. A. J. 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. M. E. Carpenter.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

REV. S. F. LEE	Rt. 1, Guin, Ala.
REV. E. W. GRAVES	Vernon, Ala.
REV. W. D. GLASGOW	Vernon, Ala.
REV. T. J. ADAIR	Vernon, Ala.
REV. A. L. WARREN	Vernon, Ala.
REV. GURLEY ROBERTS	Rt. 7, Fayette, Ala.
REV. J. J. BARNES	Rt. 1, Beaverton, Ala.
REV. ROBERT COLLINS	Kennedy, Ala.
REV. FRANK COLLINS	Guin, Ala.
REV. CLARENCE BARNES	Beaverton, Ala.
REV. R. P. RITCH	Vernon, Ala.
REV. H. E. COBB	Fayette, Ala.
REV. B. T. ALEXANDER	Birmingham, Ala.
REV. J. B. LEDLOW	Fayette, Ala.

### PROCEEDINGS OF LEAGUE AND S. S. RALLY

The League and S. S. Rally of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met with Belk Free Will Baptist church June 30, 1957.

The house was called to order by Rev. A. L. Warren. Songs by Bro. Harvey Clearman and Bro. Dewey Jordan. Prayer by Sister Jordan. Scripture read by Rev. A. L. Warren, Psalms 1st chapter. Prayer by Rev. Robert Collins.

The moderator called the roll of churches and the following churches responded: Belk, Union Chapel, Springfield, and Vernon.

Song by the Bradford Trio. Song by Bro. Grady Newman, "When The Morn Comes."

A very inspiring program was rendered by Belk church "Thou Fool." Song by Bro. Dewey Jordan, "Praise Him, Praise Him." Song by the Jordan Trio, "I Know He Holds My Hand." Dismissed for lunch by Rev. W. D. Glasgow.

A fine lunch was enjoyed by all. The house was called to order by the moderator, Rev. A. L. Warren. Song by Bro. R. H. Yerby. Prayer by Bro. Cullen Collins. Song by Colette Clearman, "Blessed Assurance."

Vernon church rendered a very inspiring program. Special Song by Sarah Jordan, "In The Garden." Song by Bro. Harvey Clearman, "Standing On The Promises."

Union Chapel church gave a very interesting program of Songs and Poems. Song by Bro. Dewey Jordan, "Take Time To Be Holy." Prayer by Sister Dewey Jordan.

The Rally held a short business session and elected Rev. Robert Collins as moderator and Bro. Pascal Yerby, secretary. Rev. A. L. Warren was elected a Sunday School evangelist.

Sister Turner thanked the church for its hospitality.

The convention voted to hold its next session with Union Chapel church on the second fifth Sunday in 1958.

Dismissed by Rev. A. L. Warren.

Rev. Robert Collins, Secretary.



# VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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## CONSTITUTION

1. This 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 for the first 50 members and one additional delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, 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 Treaties of Faith and practice of Free Will Baptist. This association shall have authority over all ministers in the matters of doctrine, character, etc. In case any minister in this association depart from and teach doctrine not in keeping with the Treaties of Faith and practice of Free Will Baptist the same shall be dealt with by the association as it may deem proper according to the teaching of the Bible.

3. When a church desires that one of its members should be licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel, it requests the association to examine, by council, such member. The examination for license should refer to the piety, doctrines and convictions respecting the work of the ministry, and the reputation for character and ability of the candidate. The examination for ordination should include all that is required for license, and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this association as a preacher who has more than one living wife.

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 moderator, assistant moderator and clerk-treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority vote of the delegates present. The officers shall be chosen at the close of each session to take office at the beginning of the next session.

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 serve in that capacity.



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10. Any member of this association who shall be guilty of circulating reports of any nature or aiding in circulating any report that is untrue on a brother minister, that is circulated to injure his moral reputation and religious influence, the same shall be dealt with by the 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 may be dealt with by the association as it may deem proper, according to the teaching 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 shall receive \$10.00, the assistant moderator \$5.00 and the clerk \$15.00 for their services.

13. The clerk shall superintend the printing of the minutes after each session of the association.

### BY-LAWS

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 with devotion by the previous moderator and closed by prayer.

3. The officers shall be chosen by a majority of delegates present, at the close of each session to take office at the beginning of the next session.

4. A credential committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session who shall receive and examine the letters and list the delegates and turn them over to the clerk with any recommendations they may wish to make.

5. The delegates shall be seated at a designated place in the assembly and a majority shall rule in all cases.

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 shall 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 person 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.

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10. No persons shall laugh or talk during discussions.
11. No person should absent himself from the association without permission of the moderator.
12. The moderator shall appoint all committees. Each committee to consist of from three to five members.
13. Any minister of this association who fails to represent in person or by letter for a period of two years without a reasonable excuse, his name shall be dropped from our list of ordained ministers.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. God. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.
3. Christ. Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.
4. The Holy Spirit. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.
5. The Government of God. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.
6. The Sinfulness of Man. Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.
7. The Work of Christ. The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free, and is the ground of salvation by faith.
8. The Terms of Salvation. The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.
9. Election. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

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10. Freedom of the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. Salvation Free. God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. Perseverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances. BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water and the LORD'S SUPPER are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. Tithing. God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23-23), and the apostle Paul said "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" (1 Cor. 16:2a).

15. The Christian Sabbath. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements. for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. Resurrection, Judgement, and Final Retribution. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."