

MINUTES
OF THE
EIGHTIETH SESSION
OF THE
VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
MT. WILLING FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 14, 15, 1960

OFFICERS

REV. R. P. RITCH, Moderator **Vernon, Ala.**
R. T. MIXON, Clerk **Et. 2, Vernon, Alabama**

The next session of this Association will be held with
Springfield Free Will Baptist Church, beginning at 10 o'clock on
Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1961. Rev. S. F. Lee to
preach the introductory sermon - Rev. A. L. Warren to be his
substitute.

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PROCEEDINGS

of The Eightieth Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association,

Held with Mt. Willing F. W. B. Church,

October 14, 15, 1960.

FRIDAY MORNING

Service opened by singing led by W. H. Clearman. Called to order by former moderator, Rev. J. B. Ledlow.

Prayer by Rev. W. M. Atkinson of Winfield Church. Bro. Atkinson conducted a short devotional. Scripture Acts 9:22-31. Thought "Holding the Rope".

House called to order by the Moderator Rev. R. P. Ritch. After a few remarks the moderator appointed the following credential committee: Bros. J. D. Shelnut, S. Y. Shelton, Mode Chaffin, Pascal Yerby, and A. M. Wallace.

The letters from the various churches were called for and turned over to the credential committee.

The moderator then appointed the following business committee: Rev. J. B. Ledlow, Rev. A. L. Warren and Rev. V. R. Laye, and ask all persons having any business to bring before the body to present it to this committee.

The moderator called for visiting Bros. from other Associations. The following were present and given a hand of welcome: State Line- Rev. Roy Barnes, Rev. L. V. Collier, and Rev. Clovis Berryhill; Jasper- Rev. W. M. Atkinson, Rev. Gurlie Roberts.

Song by W. H. Clearman, "Some Glad Day", song by Rev. L. V. Collier, "I Would Not Be Denied".

Devotional by Rev. A. L. Warren, Psalms 34:7. Songs by Rev. Roy Barnes, "When the Redeemed are Gathering In", and "Old Time Power".

At 11 a.m. Rev. V. R. Laye preached the introductory sermon, reading from the 3rd Chapter of Malachi. Subject Tithing. What do Free Will Baptist believe?

The following committee on committees was appointed: Bros. W. H. Clearman, G. W. Chaffin, Rev. Gurlie Roberts, Rev. Frank Collins.

The moderator asked for a roll call of the delegates present at this time.

Dismissed one hour for lunch. Prayer by Rev. L. V. Collier.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The house was called to order by the Moderator. Song directed by Rev. Roy Barnes, prayer by Rev. Tittle.

Scripture reading by Moderator from Psalms 61.

The moderator called for report of the credential committee. They gave the following partial report. We have examined the

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letters from the various churches and recommend that we receive same and seat the delegates as listed.

S. Y. Shelton, Chairman

By move and second the report was received and the committee retained.

The moderator appointed Bros. Pascal Yerby and S. Y. Shelton as reading clerks and the letters from the various churches were read and delegates seated as follows:

BELK— Sisters Cordelia Williams, Flora Gilreath, and Erdeal Gilreath.

DAVIS CHAPEL— Sisters Irene Hunnicutt, Eulene Moore, Lillie Sanford, and Lucy Gray.

FAYETTE— Bros. John Bobo, Fred Hamm, Bruce Adams, George Rushing and Sister George Rushing.

FRIENDSHIP— Bros. Paul Shelnut, Robert Collins, and Sister Paul Shelnut.

LIBERTY— Sisters Omie Glasgow, Ollie Mae Hankins, Wilma Mixon, Bros. Roy Perkins, E. W. Perkins, and Sister Loree Butler.

MT. HARMONY— Bro. Addie Barnes and Sister Lona Barnes.

MT. WILLING— Sisters Ellen Markham, Donnie McDonald, Stella Reece, Polly Collins, Ida Shelnut and Bro. Obie Haney.

MT. PLEASANT— Bros. Raymond Pennington, Floyd Crossley, Sisters Dees and Brown.

PINEY GROVE— Bros. R. T. Gilliland, Covin Finch, Sis. Lou-dell Finch.

SPRINGFIELD— Bros. William Mason, Kelsey Jordan, and J. F. Turman.

TAYLOR SPRINGS— Sisters Myrtie Barnes, Mary Ann Barnes, Mary Dell Barker and Bro. Chester Barker.

UNION CHAPEL— Bro. and Sister E. C. Jenkins, Sister Hettie Maddox.

VERNON— Bros. O. D. Turner, Walter Fields and Clyde Motes. Petitionary letters were called for.

Beaverton came in under the watch care of the Association with the following delegates: Bro. Robert Bobo, Sisters Mary Weeks and Earlene Roden. The Beaverton church requested that this body ordain their elected deacons.

The moderator called for visiting Bros. Rev. Tittle was given the right hand of welcome and seated as a member of the body.

The moderator appointed the following ordaining council: Rev. S. F. Lee, Rev. A. L. Warren, Rev. B. T. Alexander, Rev. Joe Ledlow, Rev. V. R. Laye.

At this time about 10 minutes was spent in a testimony service which was uplifting and enjoyed by all present.

The moderator called for the report of the Committee on Committees.

They made the following report: We the committee on committees offer the following appointments:

1. Queries and Resolutions- Rev. J. J. Barnes, Bro. Paul Shel-

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nut, Bro. Robert Barnes, sister Hettie Maddox.

2. Committee on Devotion- Bros. Hirm McDonald, Carlos Roberts, Obie Haney, Sisters Polly Collins, Ila Shelnut.

3. Committee on Sunday School- Bros. Jack McDonald, O. D. Turner, Roy Perkins, John Bobo, and Sister Ellen Markham.

4. Committee on Temperance- Bros. Clyde Motes, Rev. B. T. Alexander, Sisters E. C. Jenkins, Myrtie Barnes, Omie Glasgow, and Donnie McDonald.

5. Committee on Deceased Members- Sisters Mary Ann Barnes, Mary Weeks, Erlene Roden, Bro. Covin Finch.

Respectfully submitted: W. H. Clearman, Chairman

The report was received and the committee discharged.

The body elected Rev. Joe Ledlow as a member of the Executive Committee for a three year period.

The report of the Devotional Committee was called for.

They reported as follows: "We recommend that Rev. Frank Collins conduct the Devotional service tonight at 7 o'clock and that Rev. B. T. Alexander bring the message.

H. E. McDonald, Chairman

Received as read, committee retained.

The following corresponding delegates to sister Associations were appointed; Jasper- Rev. and Sister A. L. Warren; State Line- Rev. S. F. Lee, Rev. Frank Collins; Mt. Marriah- Rev. W. D. Glasgow; Progressive- Rev. and Sister Tittle, Rev. B. T. Alexander; Delegates to the State Association- Bros. A. M. Wallace, R. T. Mixon, Sisters Hettie Maddox, Erlene Roden.

By move and second the business part of this Association adjourned until 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

Prayer by Rev. Frank Collins.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Song by J. D. Shelnut. Prayer by Rev. James Waldon.

Devotional by Rev. Frank Collins from Acts 3:7.

Message by Rev. B. T. Alexander. Scripture John 17:1-3. Subject "Father Glorify me with the Same Glory".

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Song by Bro. W. H. Clearman.

The house was called to order by the Moderator. Reading from Psalms 15.

The roll was called and a quorum declared present. Some adjustments made as to the delegates present.

Hubbard Springs came forward with letter asking for admittance into this Association. The hand of welcome was given. The letter was read and the following delegates seated: Sister Carline Foley and Houston Owens.

The final report on Devotional called for. The committee reported as follows:

"We your committee on Devotional recommend that Rev. J. B.

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Ledlow bring the 11 o'clock message".

H. E. McDonald, Chairman

Report received as read. Committee discharged.

Bro. Gilbert from the Jasper Association was recognized.

The moderator called for the final report of the Business Committee. They reported as follows:

1. We recommend that the next session of the association meet with the Springfield Church.

2. We recommend that Rev. S. F. Lee preach the introductory sermon and that Rev. A. L. Warren be his substitute.

3. That we make arrangements and have communion and feet washing on Friday night of the next session.

4. We recommend that Rev. R. P. Ritch preach the Communion and feet washing message.

J. B. Ledlow, Chairman

The report was received and committee discharged. The report was reread and considered by sections, all sections were adopted.

Rev. J. B. Ledlow offered his resignation as member of Board of Trustees at the Children's Home. Resignation was accepted. Rev. Robert Collins was elected to serve in his place.

The reports of the committees were read and received and committees discharged.

(See reports of committees)

The body stood one minute in silent prayer of the deceased.

The body elected the following officers for another year. Moderator- Rev. A. L. Warren; Assistant Moderator- Rev. R. P. Ritch; Clerk- R. T. Mixon.

The business of the Association adjourned to meet with Springfield Church on Friday before the third Sunday in Oct. 1961.

Bro. Lambert from the Children's Home was recognized, reports made and thanks given for donations from the Association for the past year.

Devotion by Bro. Gilbert reading from 23 Psalms. Prayer, a song by Bro. Bobo.

Message by Rev. J. B. Ledlow reading from Romans 13. Subject "A Christian Wardrobe".

Prayer by Rev. J. B. Ledlow.

Bro. Jackson from the Bible College gave a short talk.

At this time the Council came forward and ordained Bro. R. L. Bobo from Beaverton, Bro. Houston Owens from Hubbard Springs as deacons.

Closing prayer by Rev. A. L. Warren.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. W. D. Glasgow - 1961

Rev. A. L. Warren - 1962

Rev. J. B. Ledlow - 1963

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Balance from 1959 | 32.86 |
| Minute Funds | 125.00 |
| Sunday School Rally | 8.06 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL | \$165.92 |
| Paid Out: | |
| Moderator and Clerk | 30.00 |
| State Association | 26.00 |
| Minutes | 88.00 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL PAID OUT... | \$144.00 |
| Balance on Hand | \$ 21.92 |

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

We the committee on credentials make the foollowing report:
We find all minsters of the Vernon Association in good standing and recommend that each be given a card of good standing, except Rev. E. W. Graves who has failed to represent to the Association for a period of two years. We recommend that his name be dropped from our list of ordained ministers. We also recommend that Rev. Tittle's name be added to the list and that he be given a card of good standing.

Respectfully Submitted, Pascal Yerby

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

We your committee on Queries and Resolutions make the following report.

We want to extend our heart felt thanks to Mt. Willing and community for their hospitality and fellowship shown us during this session.

We recommend that we use our Young People and Young Ministers more in the future than we have in the past.

We recommend that each church as a whole try to reach the people in their respective community to get them to attend church, Sunday School and League Services.

We recommend that the Bible is the best reading literature that can be found.

Rev. J. J. Barnes, Chairman

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We your committee on Temperance make the following report.

We recommend that we abstain from the use of intoxicating beverages, that we exercise self control and be temperate in all things, 1 Cor. 9-25.

Rev. B. T. Alexander, Chairman

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SUNDAY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE REPORT

We your committee on Sunday Schools reports as follows:

We recommend that each Sunday School teacher from each church visit each home that does not attend church and invite them to Sunday School.

We also recommend that they urge people to attend both Sunday School and church services.

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

We recommend that every effort be made to use only Christian teachers and superintendents.

We urge all Sunday Schools to be represented and take part in our Sunday School Convention.

We urge each pastor of each church along with the help of the deacons to see that a Sunday School be established in each church.

We recommend a place be made in our church letters to show the amount of funds raised in the Sunday School so that our schools may have the credit due. We believe this will increase interest and attendance.

Roy G. Perkins, Chairman

DECEASED MEMBERS

We your committee on deceased members report as follows:

BELK- Bro. Charlie Freeman.

FAYETTE- Bro. Jim Bass.

FRIENDSHIP- Bro. and Sister Sam Reynolds, Bro. Jimmie Pridmore, Sister Robbie Zell Reynolds.

LIBERTY- Sister Clemmie Poore, Sister, Joel Perkins, Sister Francis Lawrence.

MT. HARMONY- Sister Lelia Guin.

MT. PLEASANT- Bro. Burrell Falkner.

MT. WILLING- Sister Ellen Haney.

SPRINGFIELD- Bro. Green Pennington, Sister Lillard Pennington.

VERNON- Bro. Dalton Turner.

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

We extend our sympathy to the families of the deceased.

Respectfully Submitted, Covin Finch, Chairman

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEAGUE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY

The League and Sunday School Rally of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met with the Vernon Church on May 29, 1960 at 10:00 a.m.

Services were opened by the Moderator, Bro. Orland Shelnut.

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Song service directed by Bro. Alvada Markham. Prayer by Rev. James Walden.

Sunday School opened by Supt. of the Vernon Church, Pascal Yerby. Regular classes were held with the teachers of the Vernon church in charge. We had a full class in each room with visitors from various churches of the association assembling with us.

10:45- Gathered back in auditorium. Song directed by Bro. Woods.

An offering was taken for the Children's Home, amount \$44.37.

11:00- Mt. Harmony Church presented the first program which consisted of special singing by various groups from the church and was enjoyed by all present.

11:20- Song directed by Rev. R. P. Ritch. Piney Grove Church rendered the second program which was a very inspiring program and enjoyed by all.

11:45- Special songs by Collette Clearman and the Johnson Sisters.

Dismissed for lunch by Bro. Garvis Moore. A good lunch was enjoyed in the kitchen of the church.

1:10 p.m.- Afternoon session opened by moderator. Song by Bro. Roy Perkins. Prayer by R. H. Yerby. Class song directed by Bro. Markham.

The first program of the afternoon was presented by Union Chapel Church. Special singing by the Bradford Trio.

Springfield church rendered the next program, another song by Bradford Trio.

Vernon church presented the last program for the day. Song by Bro. Roy Perkins.

A short business session was held. Officers elected were; Moderator and Asso. Supt. Bro. Arlando Shelnut; Clerk- Pascal Yerby. Moderator ask for a direct contact from each church and a Sunday School Council to work with him for another year.

The next session to be held at Springfield Church the second fifth Sunday in 1961.

Song directed by Rev. R. P. Ritch.

Offering taken for minute funds, amount received \$8.06.

Dismissed by Rev. J. B. Ledlow.

Mod. Arlando Shelnut, Clerk- Pascal Yerby.

LIST OF DEACONS

Belk— L. D. Williams, Britt Belk, Jessie Overton, R. H. Yerby, Jr., Grady Newman.

Davis Chapel— John D. Moore, Sr., Raymond Gray.

Fayette— A. M. Wallace, E. E. Lewis, Reece Henderson, J. P. Kelley, Grady Kennedy.

Friendship— Not Given.

Liberty— Henry Perkins, Henry Harrison, Chelsie Poore, Lee Mixon, J. E. Collins.

STATISTICAL TABLE

| CHURCHES | PASTORS | CLERKS | Christian Education | Members Received | Members Dismissed | Members Deceased | Total Members | No. In Sunday School | 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 Improvement | Total Paid Out | Value of Church Property |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Belk | Rev. A. L. Warren | R. H. Yerby, Sr. Rt. 6, Fayette | 2.00 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 152 | 60 | 40 | 0 | 1 | 909.00 | 125. | 135.00 | 43.00 | 22.26 | 10.00 | 815.87 | 2062.13 | 25,000 |
| Davis Chapel | Rev. Curtis Williams | Betty Bevins Fayette | .00 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 63 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 332.76 | 120. | 10.50 | 12.00 | .00 | 10.00 | 6.65 | 500.16 | 4,000 |
| Fayette | Rev. J. B. Ledlow | Mary M. Lewis Fayette | .00 | 27 | 3 | 1 | 135 | 125 | 50 | 38 | 4 | 3337.00 | 252. | 343.38 | .00 | .00 | 10.00 | 550.00 | 6080.25 | 47,400 |
| Friendship | Rev. Robert Collins | Mrs. Paul Shelnut Vernon | .00 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 66 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 312.87 | 60. | .00 | .00 | .00 | 3.00 | 104.86 | 477.73 | 4,500 |
| Liberty | Rev. L. V. Collier | J. E. Collins Rt. 2, Vernon | 122.93 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 218 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1342.70 | 123. | 15.00 | 58.10 | .00 | 10.00 | 633.59 | 2306.32 | 5,600 |
| Mt. Harmony | Rev. Roy Barnes | Olen Wheeler Fernbank | .00 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 206 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 535.00 | 100. | 15. | .00 | 15.00 | 10.00 | .00 | 675.00 | 10,000 |
| Mt. Pleasant | Rev. Leander McAdams | Linda Chandler Vernon | .00 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 68 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 291.50 | 0. | .00 | .00 | .00 | 10.00 | .00 | 301.50 | 6,000 |
| Mt. Willing | Rev. Hudson Burleson | Clyde F. May Rt. 2, Winfield | .00 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 216 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 364.50 | 118. | 60.60 | .00 | .00 | 10.00 | 268.33 | 810.93 | 3,500 |
| Piney Grove | Rev. J. F. Walden | J. M. Chaffin Rt. 1, Guin | .00 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 128 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 306.20 | 50. | 15.00 | .00 | .00 | 10.00 | 386.85 | 768.05 | 5,000 |
| Springfield | Rev. A. L. Warren | J. A. Harper Vernon | .00 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 252 | 48 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 750.96 | 100. | 20.50 | .00 | .00 | 10.00 | 2001.76 | 2883.23 | 12,000 |
| Taylor Springs | Rev. Calvin Bevins | Mary Ann Barnes Beaverton | .00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 148.53 | 39. | .00 | .00 | .00 | 2.00 | 100.00 | 287.53 | 1,500 |
| Union Chapel | Rev. H. E. Crawford | Earnest Haynes Fayette | .00 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 97 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 703.25 | 100. | 113.75 | 12.00 | .00 | 10.00 | 201.89 | 1140.89 | 9,000 |
| Vernon | Rev. R. P. Ritch | Mrs. Clyde Motes Vernon | 15.07 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 156 | 80 | 48 | 22 | 2 | 2320.00 | 100. | 121.70 | 20.61 | 25.00 | 10.00 | 1302.49 | 4709.22 | 35,000 |
| Beaverton | Rev. B. T. Alexander | Earline Roden Beaverton | .00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .00 | 00. | .00 | .00 | .00 | 5.00 | .00 | .00 | ,000 |
| Hubbard Springs | Rev. V. R. Laye | Francis Owens Centreville | .00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .00 | 00. | .00 | .00 | .00 | 5.00 | .00 | .00 | ,000 |
| TOTALS | | | 190.00 | 69 | 29 | 15 | 1801 | 752 | 171 | 60 | 13 | 11624.27 | 1287. | 850.43 | 145.71 | 62.26 | 125.00 | 6372.29 | 23202.94 | 168,500 |

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Mt. Harmony— S. G. Johnson, S. L. Cash, B. C. Guin, Erbie Robertson, Titus Barnes.

Mt. Pleasant— J. G. Adair, Raymond Pennington.

Mt. Willing— Jack McDonald, Hiram McDonald, Doffie Shelnut, Emmet Lee, Arlie Roberts.

Piney Grove— C. E. Roberts, G. W. Chaffin, Alvada Markham, Arlando Shelnut, J. M. Chaffin.

Hubbards Springs— Huston Owens.

Beaverton— Robert Bobo, J. T. Barnes, Jim Trentham.

Springfield— Dempsey Langley, D. G. Jordan, Haley Wright, Claud Hollis, J. A. Harper.

Taylor Springs— C. W. Barnes, Kelsie Barnes.

Union Chapel— C. S. Collins, S. Y. Shelton, W. H. Clearman, Carlos Bradford, James E. Maddox.

Vernon— W. L. Turner, B. E. Turner, Jay Y. Turner, J. L. McNees, L. A. Crowder, P. N. Yerby, Dalton Turner.

NAMES OF DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. W. T. Springfield, 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. Crawley, 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. A. Tate, Rev. E. A. Palmer, Rev. J. A. Isbell, Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Rev. T. J. Adair.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Rev. S. F. Lee | Rt. 1, Guin, Ala. |
| Rev. W. D. Glasgow | Vernon, Ala. |
| Rev. A. L. Warren | Vernon, 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 | Rt. 8, Birmingham, Ala. |
| Rev. J. B. Ledlow | Box 404, Fayette, Ala. |
| Rev. Calvin Bevins | Fayette, Ala. |
| Rev. Elzo Bevins | Fayette, Ala. |
| Rev. V. R. Laye | Fayette, Ala. |
| Rev. Tittle | Centreville, Ala. |

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

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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.

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

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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 considered 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.

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 have power to appoint all committees. Each committee to consist of from three to five members.

13. Any minister of the 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.

14. All ordinations shall be done by the association.

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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.

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

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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 everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him" (1 Cor. 16:2).

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."

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR VERNON ASSOCIATION

1. Open and devotion by former moderator.
2. New moderator takes over.
3. Credential committee appointed.
4. Devotion.
5. Message.
6. Lunch.
7. Report of credential committee.
8. Reading of letters and seating of delegates.
9. Call for petitionary letters.
10. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
11. Appoint a committee on committees.
12. Committees as follows: Business, Queries and Resolution, Sunday Schools, Finance, Deceased Members, Devotion.
13. Report of committee on committees.
14. Call for report of devotional committee.
15. Appoint ordaining committee.
16. Call for business committee report.
17. Call for committee reports (see committees).
18. Final report of business committee.
19. Delegates to state association.
20. Corresponding delegates to other associations.
21. Place for next setting of association.
22. Election of officers.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1. Call to order.**
- 2. Call for peace and fellowship.**
- 3. Opportunity for membership.**
- 4. Invite visiting brothers and sisters to seats.**
- 5. Readings of Previous minutes.**
- 6. Unfinished business.**
- 7. Appointment of committees.**
- 8. Acknowledgements.**
- 9. Committee reports.**
- 10. New business.**
- 11. Adjournment.**