

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION**  
**of the**  
**VERNON FREE WILL**  
**BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**held with**  
**PINEY GROVE FREE**  
**WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**October 14, 1967**



**OFFICERS FOR 1968**

**Rev. Dewey Thomas, Moderator ..... Rt. 2 Box 75 Northport, Ala.**  
**Rev. Roy Barnes, Assistant Moderator ..... Rt. Vernon, Ala.**  
**Derrell Wheeler, Clerk ..... P. O. Box 257, Vernon, Ala.**



**The next session of this association will be held with East Side F.W.B. Tuscaloosa, Ala. beginning at 8:00 o'clock on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1968. Rev. M. H. Hollis to preach the introductory sermon Rev. B. T. Alexander to be his substitute.**

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### PROCEEDINGS

The Eighty-Seventh Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church on October 14, 1967. Rev. M. H. Hollis Moderator. R. T. Mixon Clerk.

The meeting opened with congregational singing under the direction of Rev. E. W. Graves and prayer by Rev. Leander McAdams.

The morning devotional was brought by Rev. Dewey Thomas, based on 2nd Timothy, Chapter 3, 14th to the 18th Verse and Chapter 4, 1st to 4th Verse. Songs by Rev. Roy Barnes, "I Want to Know More About My Lord" and "Love Lifted Me", together with an old time hand shaking.

Letters from the various churches called for and turned over to the clerk. Sisters Sue Hester and Patricia Milligan were appointed as reading clerks. The letters were read, by move and second the delegates were seated as listed (see churches and delegates as listed).

Call for petitionary letters, none.

The following committee on committees was appointed by the moderator: Raphol Yerby, Lowell Hankins, Chester Moore, Delmer Meyer.

Song by Rev. Roy Barnes and prayer by Rev. S. F. Lee. Dismissed for a short intermission.

Following the intermission the congregation sang "Where Could I Go But To The Lord". Prayer by Rev. James Walden. Short talks were given by visiting ministers and others which were inspiring and uplifting to those present (see list of visiting ministers).

It was decided that night service would be discontinued for this session of the association.

The following committees reported at this time. Business, Sunday School and CTS and Temperance. The reports were read and received. Committees discharged (see Reports).

Song by Rev. Roy Barnes, prayer by Rev. M. L. Hollis of Amory, Miss.; song, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arm" and prayer by Rev. Edward Puckett. At this time we had a few minutes of Intermission.

Following the intermission, song by Bro. Markham. The report of the Executive Committee was given and received (see reports). Song by the Miller family.

Key note message by Rev. E. W. Graves from Union Chapel Church. Reading from Ph. 2-12, Tit. 3-5, Eph. 2,8-9, Ech. 3rd chapter. Subject "Work Out Your Own Salvation With Fear and Trembling". This was a sermon well prepared, timely and well delivered. Song directed by Bro. Barnes.

Remarks by moderator as to lunch. Dismissed for one hour, after prayer and grace by Rev. Gurley Roberts.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

1 P.M. song by Rev. Roy Barnes followed by Prayer.

The reports of the following committees were read and received. Committees discharged. Resolution, Deceased Members (see reports). Song in memory of deceased, "Precious Memories", was directed by Rev.

## **VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

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McAdams. Prayer by Rev. Clovis Tucker.

The report of Finance and Church Extension was read and received (see reports). Committee discharged. Bros. E. W. Graves, W. L. Turner offered their resignations on Church Extension. Resignation accepted. A vote was taken to continue the work of this committee but to keep all funds collected in this association. Bros. C. E. Roberts and Raphol Yerby were appointed on the Church Extension. Committee song by Bro. Barnes. The Ordination Service was held for two deacons, Bros. Bryon Meyer, Johnny Pike and one minister, Rev. James Donald Bussey. Charge by Rev. Dewey Thomas to the deacons, reading from Chapter 1 of Tim. Advice and admonition by Rev. M. L. Hollis. Charge by Rev. S. F. Lee to the minister, reading from 1st Chapter of Tim. Advice and admonition offered by Rev. M. L. Hollis. Prayer by M. L. Hollis. Bro. Lee stated that he had been preaching 51 years, over half a century. Song by Bro. Barnes while the congregation extended the right hand of fellowship to the ordained deacons and minister.

Report of Committee on Committees read and received (see reports). Committee discharged.

The body elected the following officers for the next year. Rev. Dewey Thomas, Moderator; Rev. Roy Barnes, Assistant Moderator; Bro. Derrell Wheeler, Clerk. Key note message to be given by Rev. M. H. Hollis and Rev. B. T. Alexander to be his substitute. Rev. Roy Barnes was appointed on the Ordaining Council. Bro. Lloyd Turner offered his resignation on Board of the Children's Home, Bro. Dewey Thomas was elected to serve on said board. Bro. Dewey Jordan was appointed on the Executive Board. Bro. V. R. Lay was appointed Evangelist of this association.

Song by Rev. M. H. Hollis, Rev. Donald Bussey, Rev. Leander McAdams, Rev. Roy Barnes with an old time hand shaking. The association adjourned to meet with East Side Free Will Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on Saturday before the third Sunday of October, 1968.

Closing prayer by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

### **DIRECTIONS TO EAST SIDE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Going east go to the Moon Wink Court in Alberto City, Tuscaloosa, Ala. Turn left at the first red light beyond this court (north). Go about 3 blocks to sign on left and then 1 block to the church.

### **LIST OF VISITING MINISTERS**

Rev. G. C. Lawrence  
Rev. M. L. Hollis  
Rev. Edward Pluckett  
Rev. Clovis Tucker  
Rev. Leander McAdams  
Rev. Otis Palmer  
Rev. Gurley Roberts  
Rev. James W. Walden  
Rev. O. Z. Johnson  
and others whose names I did not get.

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### **CHURCHES AND DELEGATES AS LISTED**

**BELK**—Bros. Dalton Gilpin, Chester Ray Moore and Sisters Ora Mae Overton, Eardeal Gilreath, Cordelia Williams.

**DAVIS CHAPEL**—Sisters Annie Morris, Sandra Pike, Euline Moore and Bro. Edd Sanford.

**LIBERTY**—Sisters Loree Butler, Sue Hester, Ollie Mae Hankins, Ellie Price, Wilena Rector and Bros. J. C. Dubose, Thomas Hankins, Felix Dubose.

**MT. HARMONY**—Sister Flaudie Wheeler and Bros. Daniel Johnson, Richard Harrison, Derrell Wheeler.

**HUBBARD SPRINGS**—Sisters Frances Epperson, Olie Mae Montgomery and Bro. James Epperson.

**MT. WILLING**—Bro. Quineth Haney and Sisters Loventrice Haney, Ella Markham, Audra Flynn, Emma McDonald, Donnie McDonald.

**TAYLOR SPRINGS**—Sisters Dorothy Collan, Lola Sorrells, Charlene Cooper.

**UNION CHAPEL**—Sisters Rosa Shelton, Hettie Maddox and Bros. Earnest Haynes, Kell McAdams.

**VERNON**—Sister Patricia Millican and Bros. Eris Wilson, Clyde Motes, O. D. Turner.

**BEAVERTON**—Sisters Mary Weeks, Romie Barnes, Jane Palmer.

**MT. PLEASANT**—Sisters Laura Crossley, Helen Chandler, Naomi Crossley, Ogla Cooper, Addie Brown.

**EAST SIDE F.W.B. Tusc.**—Sisters Edna Thompson, Margie Hallman and Bros. Byron Meyer, Sam Hallman, Andrew Cicero, Victor Pate.

**SPRINGFIELD**—Bros. Ad Hankins, Aubrey Hall, Roy Ashby, Jr., Armon Collins, Lowell Hankins.

**PINEY GROVE**—Sisters G. Mae Bobo, Rosa Nell Robertson and Bros. Coy Lynn Robertson, Fred Barnes.

**FIRST F.W.B. BIRMINGHAM**—Bros. Charles Shikles, Zell Randolph, B. B. Alexander and Sister B. B. Alexander.

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### **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES COMMITTEES FOR YEAR 1968 BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

Rev. G. C. Lawrence, Chairman  
Rev. M. H. Hollis  
Rev. Roy Barnes  
Rev. E. W. Graves  
Rev. Frank Collins

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CTS COMMITTEE**

Bro. Raphol Yerby, Chairman  
Sister Sue Hester  
Bro. Roy Ashby  
Sister Patricia Milligan

### **TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE**

Bro. Pascol Yerby, Chairman  
Bro. Dalton Gilpin  
Bro. Derrell Wheeler  
Bro. M. Chaffin  
Bro. Haley Wright

### **DEVOTION COMMITTEE**

Sister Loree Butler, Chairman  
Bro. Clyde Motes  
Sister Rosa Shelton  
Deacons of local church assist.

### **DECEASED MEMBERS**

Bro. Lloyd Turner, Chairman  
Bro. Richard Harrison  
Bro. Orman Collins  
Bro. O. D. Turner  
Rev. Otis Palmer

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Bro. Bryon Meyer, Chairman  
Bro. Victor Pate  
Sister Edna Thompson  
Bro. Zell Randolph  
Bro. James Epperson

### **RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

Bro. Harwood Thompson, Chairman  
Bro. Delmer Meyer  
Bro. B. B. Alexander  
Bro. J. D. Moore  
Sister Marjorie Hallman

### **CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE**

Pascol Yerby, Chairman  
Early Robertson  
Rev. Robert Collins  
C. E. Roberts  
Raphol Yerby

## **VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

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### **BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

We beg permission to make the following report:

(1) We recommend that all church letters be sent to the Association clerk on or by the first of October, so that he may compile the information as to finance and deceased members and that he send this information to the chairman of respective committee.

(2) Regarding Article No. 2 of last year's report. There was an error in wording. It should read "Article 8 of the Order of Business be dropped", instead of "By laws as appears in minutes".

(3) The chairman of each committee should call his committee together before each session to prepare their reports to be presented at the opening of each session.

(4) The clerk should proofread the manuscript of the minutes to correct any typographical errors before printing.

(5) Any church or individual desiring to present any article of business to the Association should present it in writing to the chairman of the Business Committee before it prepares its report.

(6) That the clerk have new letter forms made to include heat—power, insurance, literature, flowers, and other expenses.

(7) That each church increase their minute funds by 50% to meet the rising cost of printing, mailing, and the added cost of representing in the State Association.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Roy Barnes, Chairman

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

We, your Executive Committee, make the following report:

On the presentation of letters from their respective Associations, we recommend the acceptance of Rev. G. C. Lawrence and Bro. Otis Palmer to this Association in full fellowship.

We further recommend that all ministers of this body be given cards of good standing.

Respectfully Submitted,  
D. G. Jordon, Chairman

### **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

We offer the following resolutions:

1. Be it resolved that the delegated body offer a standing vote of thanks and appreciation to the Piney Grove Freewill Baptist Church and community for their fine reception and hospitality to this delegated body of delegates and visitors.

2. We suggest those on the committees to do their best to be present at the beginning of the Association.

Submitted by,  
Ora Jordon, Chairman  
Earnest Haynes

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the committee on S.S. and C.T.S., make the following report.

By examining the letters from the churches that constitute this

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Association, we found that fifteen (15) churches had active Sunday School and that six (6) had organized C.T.S. Programs.

This committee feels that much stress should be placed on the importance of S.S. and C.T.S. work and that every church in this body should be urged to maintain an active S.S. and C.T.S.

We believe that the head of every S.S. or C.T.S. and every department thereof should be born again, Christian, and recommend that they be a member of that church so by their teaching, our children may be able to withstand the dangerous doctrines that are creeping into our schools and colleges, which deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ and the incarnation of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray that God will give us a vision and greater insight of the approaching dangers, and that he will give us courage to fight with all we have and are, to whip down the adversary.

Faithfully submitted,

D. R. Wheeler, Chairman  
Harwood Thompson  
Clyde Motes

### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your Committee on Finance, make the following report:

After calling for minute funds from the various churches, we have collected \$150.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edan Thompson  
Ollie Mae Hankins

### COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We, the Committee on Deceased Members, report the following;

LIBERTY CHURCH; Sister Leathie Collins and Bro. Choyce Perkins.

DAVIS CHAPEL: Bro. Floyd Morris

MT. HARMONY: Bro. J. L. Mitchell, Bro. Harvey Mitchell, Sister Annie Robertson, and Deacon J. H. Cole.

MT. PLEASANT: Bro. Lack Dees and Bro. M. F. Madison

TAYLOR SPRINGS: Sister Alta Venson and Sister Francis Burnett.

PINEY GROVE: Bro. Harrison Gosa, Sister Savannah Markham and Sister Lizzie Simmons.

HUBBARD SPRINGS: Rev. J. B. Tittle.

SPRING FIELD: Sister Ada Lou Pennington.

MT. WILLING: Sister Stella Lee, Bro. Floyd Markham, and Bro. Odis Roberts.

UNION CHAPEL: Sister Liza Jane Woods.

We feel that giving up our loved ones, makes us realize how close eternity is and how much we should be concerned about those who are lost. We extend our sympathy to the families of the deceased.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lowell Hankins, Chairman

## **VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

### **TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE**

We, the Temperance Committee, offer the following report:

1. It appears that in the thought of temperance, the average person wants to associate it with the use of alcholic beverages or strong drink only. Since the Scriptures teach that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we therefore believe that the use of anything that is harmful to the body is not wise.

2. We urge that parents take heed and warn their children of the dangers of excessive use of drugs such as LSD, marijuana and pep pills that harm the body.

3. We further believe that children should be warned of the bad effect of the use of cigarettes.

Respectfully submitted,  
D. G. Jordan, Chairman

### **REPORT OF CHURCH EXTENSION**

We, your Committee on Church Extension, beg permission to report as follows:

All the funds we have received are:

Vernon Church .....	\$27.20
Davis Chapel .....	15.00
Balance on hand .....	17.80
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>

(1) We hereby award the entire sum to Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Montgomery to be divided equally among them.

(2) Since the response has been so poor, it leads us to believe the Association does not approve of the plan, we hereby call for a vote of confidence on continuation of the work.

(3) If the vote is in favor, we invite a plan that the Association approves.

(4) We, Bro. Turner and E. W. Graves Hereby present our resignations.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. L. Turner, Chairman

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Balance from 1966 .....	\$ 0.00
Minutes Funds .....	160.00
Offering .....	42.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>202.00</b>

Paid out:

Moderator and Clerk .....	\$ 30.00
State Association .....	75.00
Minutes .....	87.00
Postage — Supplies .....	10.00
<b>TOTAL PAID OUT .....</b>	<b>202.00</b>
Balance on Hand .....	None

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CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	Christian Education Members Dismissed	Total Members	Number in S. S.	Number in League	Number in Ladies' Aux.	Ordained Ministers	Paid Pastors	Paid Evangelist	Paid Childrens' Home	Paid Missions	Paid Old Age Ministers	Minute Funds	Paid for Improvements	TOTAL Paid Out	Value of Church Property
Belk .....	Rev. G. C. Lawrence .....	R. H. Yerby, Sr. Rt. 6, Fayette, Ala.	0	2 116	80	40	12	3	4,140	150	120	120	0	10	4,212	9,865	50,000
Davis Chapel .....	Marvin F. Worley, Jr. ....	John D. Moore Rt. 4, Fayette, Ala.	51	0 125	64	0	0	2	731	42	42	108	0	15	0	999	4,000
Friendship .....	No Pastor .....	Mrs. Carl Ray Rt. 1, Fernbank, Ala.	0	0 18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,500
Liberty .....	Rev. Albert Ham .....	Edd Collins Vernon, Ala.	120	3 218	93	0	0	1	1,510	242	25	85	0	15	763	5,510	35,500
Mt. Harmony .....	Rev. Leander McAdams .....	Olen Wheeler Rt. 1, Fernbank, Ala.	0	0 96	44	30	0	1	1,288	100	60	35	0	10	109	1,617	10,000
Mt. Pleasant .....	Rev. M. L. Hollis .....	Mrs. Earl Funderburk Vernon, Ala.	0	2 52	32	0	0	0	354	151	20	0	0	10	225	914	6,000
Mt. Willing .....	Rev. Otis Palmer .....	Mrs. Carrie McGowan Rt. 2, Winfield, Ala.	0	0 170	57	0	0	2	832	125	60	59	0	10	314	1,396	5,000
Piney Grove .....	Rev. Otis Parmer .....	J. M. Chaffin Rt. 1, Guin, Ala.	0	1 136	60	0	0	0	805	83	0	0	0	10	524	1,423	10,000
Springfield .....	Rev. Roy Barnes .....	Tommie Rushing Vernon, Ala.	0	2 195	70	40	0	0	1,196	121	218	118	118	10	3,090	5,354	15,000
Taylor Springs .....	Rev. Robert Collins .....	Christine Sizemore Rt. 3, Sulligent, Ala.	0	0 24	25	0	0	0	228	77	0	100	0	5	15	425	2,500
Union Chapel .....	Rev. O. Z. Johnson .....	James N. Bynum Fayette, Ala.	100	2 100	60	25	0	1	710	150	320	100	0	15	75	1,470	15,000
Vernon .....	Rev. M. H. Hollis .....	Mrs. Clyde Motes Vernon, Ala.	223	0 183	80	40	10	2	4,300	285	354	283	69	15	1,047	8,140	30,000
Beaverton .....	Rev. Clovis Tucker .....	Emma Harris Beaverton, Ala.	0	0 26	25	0	0	0	250	64	0	0	0	10	0	324	4,000
Hubbard Springs .....	Rev. Lawrence Lynn .....	Doris Keeton 105 Woodlane Ave. Centerville, Ala.	0	0 39	44	0	0	3	158	59	0	0	0	5	0	222	3,000
First F.W.B. Birmingham .....	Rev. B. T. Alexander .....	Kathleen Sfakianos Rt. 14, Box 1093 Birmingham Ala.	0	0 104	55	35	0	2	3,120	100	0	90	0	10	?	?	150,000
Eastside Free Will Tuscaloosa .....	Rev. Dewey Thomas .....	Delmer L. Meyer 2709 3rd St. East Tuscaloosa, Ala.	0	3 63	91	63	0	1	1,432	165	54	540	0	10	3,850	1,3012	65,000
			494	15 1,665	880	273	22	18	21,054	1,914	1,273	1,638	187	160	14,224	50,671	409,000

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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### LIST OF DEACONS

BELK—L. D. Williams, Britt Belk, R. H. Yerby, Jr., Grady Newman.  
DAVIS CHAPEL—John D. Moore, Sr., Raymond Gray, Johnny Pike.  
FRIENDSHIP—Paul Shelnut.  
LIBERTY—Henry Perkins, Henry Harrison, Chelsie Poore, Lee Mixon,  
J. E. Collins, John Stewart, R. T. Mixon.  
MT. HARMONY—S. L. Cash, Erbie Robertson, Olen Wheeler, Coy Johnson,  
Derrell Wheeler.  
MT. PLEASANT—Hollis Chandler, J. G. Adair, Raymond Pennington, John  
Crossley, Mack Cooper.  
MT. WILLING—Jack McDonald, Hiram McDonald, Doffie Shelnut, Emmet  
Lee, Arlie Roberts, Jeff McDonald, Olen Markham.  
PINEY GROVE—C. E. Roberts, Alvada Markham, Arlando Shelnut, J.  
M. Chaffin.  
HUBBARD SPRINGS—Huston Owens, Allan P. Keeton.  
BEAVERTON—Robert Bobo, J. T. Barnes.  
FIRST F.W.B. Birmingham—Fred Reed, B. B. Alexander, Leon Crawley,  
EASTSIDE F.W.B.—(Tuscaloosa, Ala.) J. K. Thompson, Delmer L. Meyer,  
Billy Dockery, Bryon Meyer.  
SPRINGFIELD—Edward Waldon, D. G. Jordan, Haley Wright, Claud  
Hollis, J. A. Harper, Dempsey Langley.  
TAYLOR SPRINGS—C. W. Barnes.  
UNION CHAPEL—C. S. Collins, W. H. Clearman, Carlos Bradford, James  
E. Maddox.  
VERNON—W. L. Turner, B. E. Turner, Jay Y. Turner, J. L. McNees,  
P. N. Yerby, Titus Barnes.

### 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, Rev. J. J. Barnes,  
Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. J. B. Tittle.

### NAMES OF DECEASED DEACONS

L. A. Crowder, S. Y. Shelton, J. H. Cole

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### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

Rev. S. F. Lee .....	Rt. 1, Guin, Ala.
Rev. W. D. Glasgow .....	Rt. 4, Theodore, Ala.
Rev. A. L. Warren .....	Vernon, Ala.
Rev. Robert Collins .....	Kennedy, Ala.
Rev. Frank Collins .....	Guin, Ala.
Rev. Clarence Barnes .....	Beaverton, Ala.
Rev. B. T. Alexander .....	Rt. 14, Box 1093, Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. V. R. Lay .....	Fayette, Ala.
Rev. L. C. Graham .....	Vernon, Ala.
Rev. Delmus Miller .....	Rt. 1 Winfield, Ala.
Rev. Lewis Cooley .....	Rt. 1, Ducanville, Ala.
Rev. E. W. Graves .....	Rt. 2, Vernon, Ala.
Rev. Roy Barnes .....	Vernon, Ala.
Rev. M. H. Hollis .....	Vernon, Ala.
Rev. Dewey Thomas .....	Rt. 2, Box 75, Northport, Ala.
Rev. Anthony Keeton .....	Rt. 1, Centerville, Ala.
Rev. A. H. Morris .....	Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. A. F. Iasac .....	Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. B. E. Frith .....	Rt. 1, Woodstock, Ala.
Rev. Marvin F. Worley Jr. ....	421-1st Place, Pleasant Grove, Ala.
Rev. James Donald Bussey .....	Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. Ottis Palmer .....	Winfield, Ala.
Rev. G. C. Lawrence (Belk) .....	Rt. 6 Fayette, Ala.

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. G. C. Lawrence  
Rev. Dewey Thomas  
Rev. Roy Barnes

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Deacon R. T. Mixon 1968 Chairman  
Deacon B. E. Turner 1969  
Deacon John Crossley 1970  
Deacon Derrell Wheeler 1971  
Deacon Dewey Jordan 1972

## 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 delegate 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 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 is may be agreed upon at the previous session and shall not adjourn finally until all business matters be 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 School, 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 members be competent to serve in that capacity.

10. Any member of this association who shall be guilty of circulating

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reports of any nature or aiding in circulating any report that is untrue on a brother minister, tht 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 delegates failing or refusing to do so, is and shall be 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 moderator shall appoint a committee on committees, whose duty is to appoint various committees at each session. Each committee to consist of from 3 to 5 members. (See List).

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. The moderator calls for the letters from various churches, and appoints reading clerks. After reading of the letters, the delegates are enrolled by the clerk, at the decretion of the body.

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

6. The Executive Committee shall recommend, or reject a card of good standing for the ministers. The final decision to be made by the body.

7. 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.

8. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the moderator and after recognition by the moderator shall proceed.

9. No person shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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10. 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 .

11. No person shall laugh or talk during discussion.

12. No person shall absent himself from the association without permission of the moderator.

13. All Ordination shall be done by the associaton, either at the association, or by the ordaining council.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible. The Scripture 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 Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yt as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent ceatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. Christ. Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His hauman nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our 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 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 domination of sin, and becomes a child of God. -3. Continunace in faith and obedience until death.

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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 in water and the LORD'S SUPPER are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel. Feet Washing is an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, and is 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 righteous into eternal life."

## **VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

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### **ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR VERNON ASSOCIATION**

1. New moderator takes over.
2. Devotion.
3. Call for letters.
4. Reading of letters and seating of delegates.
5. Call for petitionary letters
6. Appointment of Committee on Committees.
7. Invite visiting brethren to seat with us.
8. Committees as follows; Business, Querries and Resolution, Sunday Schools, Finance, Deceased Members, Devotion, Temperance, Church Extension.
9. Call for report of devotional committee.
10. Appoint ordaining committee.
11. Call for business committee report .
12. Call for committee reports (see committees).
13. Final report of business committee.
14. Delegates to state association.
15. Corresponding delegates to other associations
16. Place for next setting of association.
17. Election of officers.

### **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 seat.
5. Reading of Previous minutes.
6. Unfinished business.
7. Appointment of committees.
8. Acknowledgements.
9. Committee reports.
10. New business.
11. Adjournment.