

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**VERNON FREE WILL**  
**BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**HELD WITH**  
**EAST SIDE FREE WILL**  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**OCTOBER 19, 1968**

**OFFICERS FOR 1969**

**REV. DEWEY THOMAS**, Moderator, Rt. 2, Box 75, Northport, Ala.  
**REV. ROY BARNES**, Assistant Moderator, Rt. 2, Vernon, Ala.  
**DERRELL R. WHEELER**, Clerk, P. O. Box 257, Vernon, Ala.

The next session of this association will be held with Friendship F. W. B., Fernbank, Al. beginning at 8:00 o'clock on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1969. Rev. G. C. Lawrence to preach the introductory Sermon, Rev. Otis Parmer to be his substitute.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

The Eighty-Eighth Session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with East Side Free Will Baptist Church on October 19, 1968. Rev. Dewey Thomas, moderator, Derrell R. Wheeler, Clerk.

The meeting opened with congregational singing under the direction of Rev. Roy Barnes and prayer by Rev. Leander McAdams.

Rev. Dewey Thomas called this Eighty-Eighth Session of The Vernon Free Will Baptist Association to order.

The morning devotional was brought by Rev. Albert Hamm, based on Romans, Chapter 6, verse 22. Songs under the direction of Rev. Roy Barnes, "Lily of The Valley" and "Heavenly Sunlight" were sung by the congregation.

Letters from the various churches were called for and turned over to the clerk. Sisters Sue Hester and Wilda McAdams were appointed as reading clerks. Reading of the letters was begun, by move and second the letters were accepted as read and the delegates seated as listed (see churches and delegates as listed).

After approximately half of the letters were read and accepted a short pause was called and the congregation sang "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart" under the direction of Rev. Roy Barnes. Reading of the minutes resumed.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

Call for petitionary letter, None.

All Committees were seated.

Song directed by Rev. Roy Barnes and prayer by Rev. G. C. Lawrence. Dismissed for a short intermission.

Following the intermission, Bro. Bobby Joe Black sang. Next the congregation sang, "He Lives".

The following committees reported at this time: Sunday School and C. T. S., Devotion and Temperance. The reports were read and received. Committees were discharged (see reports).

Next, we received a report from Bro. Sharpeston, State Association, promotional man for the Free Will Baptist Churches.

A report was read and received from the Deceased Members Committee.

The Ordaining Committee was appointed. This committee consisted of Rev. G. C. Lawrence, Rev. M. H. Hollis, and Rev. Albert Hamm.

Time was taken to give the people of the congregation an opportunity to testify. The testimonies were inspiring and uplifting to those who heard them.

A song, directed by Rev. Roy Barnes, sang by the congregation was followed by a prayer by Rev. Albert Hamm.

The key note message was given by Rev. M. H. Hollis from the Vernon Church. Reading from Luke 12-42 and Matthew 25, 14-30. Subject: "Have We Been Faithful Stewards to God?" This sermon was well prepared, very fitting for the occasion and well delivered.

Song "Is Thy Heart Right With God" directed by Rev. Roy Barnes.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

Remarks made by moderator as to lunch. Dismissed for one hour after prayer and blessing by Rev. E. W. Graves.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

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

Reports were read and received from the Resolution Committee and the Deceased Members Committee (see reports). Song in memory of deceased, "Precious Memories", was directed by Rev. Roy Barnes, followed by prayer.

Recognition of visiting ministers representing other associations was made and a welcome extended to each. (See list of visiting ministers).

The report of the Business Committee was read and received (see reports). Committee discharged.

The Finance Committee report was read and received (see reports). Committee discharged.

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

The body elected the following officers for the coming year:

Rev. Dewey Thomas \_\_\_\_\_ Moderator

Rev. Roy Barnes \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Moderator

Derrell R. Wheeler \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

Rev. G. C. Lawrence \_\_\_\_\_ Key Note Speaker

Rev. Otis Parmer \_\_\_\_\_ Substitute Key Note Speaker

Rev. G. C. Lawrence \_\_\_\_\_ Association Evangelist

The ordination service was held for five deacons- Bros. Dalton Gilpin, Eris Wilson, James Price, Victor N. Pate and Paul Jordan

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

and two ministers, Rev. Eugene Swindler and Rev. Byron M. Meyer. Charge by Rev. G. C. Lawrence and advice and admonition by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

Churches requesting the next meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association were recognized and votes cast by the congregation. Friendship Free Will Baptist Church was selected.

Song by the congregation followed by a prayer by Rev. W. D. Glasgow. The Association adjourned to meet with Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Fernbank, Alabama on Saturday, October 18, 1969.

### LIST OF VISITING MINISTERS

Rev. Delmer Miller

Rev. O. Z. Johnson

Rev. Henry Crawford

Rev. Foy C. Barber

And others whose names I failed to get.

### CHURCHES AND DELEGATES AS LISTED

BEAVERTON— Sisters Mary Weeks, Lizza Sizemore and Bro. Joe Flynn.

BELK— Bros. Dalton Gilpin and H. L. Williams, Sisters Ruby Belk, Cordelia Williams and Iva Overton.

DAVIS CHAPEL— Sisters Lillie Sandford, Gala. Mae Swindle, Belta Nelson and Earline Moore.

EASTSIDE F.W.B.— Bro. Victor Pate, Sisters Rachel Meyer, Clara Pate, Majorie Hallman and Clara Cicero.

FRIENDSHIP— Sister Sue Price, Bro. and Sister Chester Reynolds, Bro. Loyd Turner.

HUBBARD SPRINGS— Sisters Annie Johnson, Coreine Foley, Melvinie Tittle, Ollie Mae Montgomery, and Bro. Sam Bridges.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

LIBERTY— Bros. J. C. DuBose, Sam Rector, Bobby Joe Black,  
Sisters Ida Bell Perkins, Sue Hester, Ollie Mae Hankins  
Addie DuBose.

MT. HARMONY— Bros. Lowell Wheeler, and Johnny Robertson,  
Sisters Wilda McAdams and Lucille Wheeler.

MT. PLEASANT— Bro. John Adair, Sisters Laura Crossley, Louella  
Cunningham.

MT. WILLING— Sisters Donnie McDonald, Emma McDonald, and  
Ella Markham.

PINEY GROVE— Sisters Jera Mae Bobo, Jackie Chaffin, Tisha  
Robertson and Bro. Clyde Robertson.

PLEASANT GROVE— Bro. Zell Randolph, Sisters Onyx Randolph  
and Doris Black.

SPRINGFIELD— Bro. Zenus Stapp, Claudus Mason, Sisters Dean  
Rushing and Linda Ashby.

TAYLOR SPRINGS— Sisters Mary Dell Barker, Earline Sorrells  
and Charlene Cooper.

UNION CHAPEL— Sisters Rose Mary Shelton, Avis Graves, Jo Ann  
Taylor, Bro. Billy Gene Maddox.

VERNON— Sisters Hilda Chandler, Pearl Waldon, Kitty Lee Turn-  
er, Mattie Ayres, Patricia Millican, Bro. Clyde Motes.

### COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

### COMMITTEES FOR YEAR 1969

#### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Rev. James D. Bussey, Chairman

Rev. Dewey Thomas

Rev. Roy Barnes

Rev. B. T. Alexander

Bro. Raphael Yerby



## **VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

---

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL & C. T. S.**

Bro. Arlando Shelnut, Chairman  
Bro. Bobby Joe Black  
Bro. Pascal Yerby  
Bro. H. L. Williams

### **TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE**

Bro. Jack McDonald, Chairman  
Bro. J. M. Chaffin  
Bro. J. E. Collins  
Bro. Clyde Motes

### **DEVOTION COMMITTEE**

Sister Onyx Randolph, Chairman  
Bro. Victor Tate  
Sister Wilda McAdams  
Deacon of local church

### **DECEASED MEMBERS**

Sister Eulene Moore, Chairman  
Sister Cordelia Williams  
Sister Earlene Sorrells  
Bro. Joe Flynn

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Bro. Clyde Motes, Chairman  
Bro. Dalton Gilpin  
Bro. Dewey Jordan  
Bro. Sam Bridges

# VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

## RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Bro. Loyd Turner, Chairman  
Sister Avis Graves  
Bro. Billy Dockery  
Bro. R. T. Mixon

## CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Bro. V. R. Lay, Chairman  
Bro. B. B. Alexander  
Bro. W. D. Glasgow  
Bro. Loyd Turner

## BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

We beg permission to report as follows:

1. We recommend that the word Sunday be substituted for the word Sabbath in the eighth article of the constitution.

2. That the first Saturday night in October, 6:00 O'Clock P.M. be set aside for meeting time for all committees to meet and make out their reports and that each see to it that their letter is there by this date. We further recommend the Devotion Committee provide a speaker for each session. We also recommend the Association select the meeting place each year.

3. We recommend that the salary of our clerk be raised to thirty dollars for his labor.

4. We recommend the Association to consider the proposition of a state wide promotional secretary and give by our votes, the information requested by Bro. Sharpeston.

Respectfully Submitted  
Rev. G. C. Lawrence



## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

### RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Be it resolved that the delegated body offer a standing vote of thanks and appropriation to the East Side F. W. B. Church and community for their fine reception and hospitality to this delegated body of delegates and visitors.

We suggest those to be present at the beginning of the Association.

Respectfully Submitted  
J. H. Thompson, Chairman

### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your committee in finance make the following report:  
After calling for the minute funds from the various churches, we have collected \$222.00.

Respectfully Submitted  
Byron M. Meyer  
Victor Pate  
Zell Randolph  
James Epperson  
Edna Thompson

### COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We, your committee on deceased members find that death has taken twenty-four (24) of our members. We feel like giving up our loved ones makes a realize how close eternity is and how much we should be concerned about those who are lost. It should behoove us to watch and pray that we will be ready when the Lord shall call for us.

We extend our sympathy to the families of the deceased.

SPRINGFIELD— Bros. Claude Hollis, Onnie Hall, Sister Lizzie Carr.

TAYLOR SPRINGS— Sister Nodilla Price.

BELK— Bro. Dewitt Williams, Sister Tillie Overton.

MT. PLEASANT— Bro. Wiley Kemp, Sister Lula Atkins.

UNION CHAPEL— Sister Priscilla Clearman.

DAVIS CHAPEL— Bro. Billy Ray Snow, Sister Vamie Davis.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

LIBERTY\_\_\_ Sisters Eliza Mixon, Bertha Hester, Bro. James Yerby.

VERNON\_\_\_ Sister Ollie Ryan, Bro. Walter Fields.

MT. HARMONY\_\_\_ Sister Nancy Johnson, Bros. Johnny Stanley,  
Myrt Wheeler, Murray Mitchell.

FRIENDSHIP\_\_\_ Bro. Robert Ford.

PINEY GROVE\_\_\_ Sister Polly Collins.

BEAVERTON\_\_\_ Sister Earline Roden.

Respectfully Submitted  
W. L. Turner, Chairman

### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Temperance Committee offer the following report:

We believe that temperance should begin with our thoughts. Proverbs 23: 7-A says, -'For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.' Since our mind controls our action, if we practice temperate thinking our deeds will be the same.

Respectfully Submitted  
Pascal Yerby, Chairman  
Dalton Gilpin  
Derrell Wheeler  
Maud Chaffin  
Haley Wright

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your Executive Committee, make the following report:

As agreed on page five of last years minutes in the Business Committee Report, Article No. 1, we would hope the clerks will make this report prompt and on time in the future, so that the clerk of the Association may compile the information reported and send this to the chairmen of the respective committees. This is very important and should be complied with, if the reports are to be full and complete.

Upon presentation of letters from their respective Associations,

CHURCHES	CLERKS	PASTOR	Christian Education	Members Received	Number in S. S.	Number in C. T. S.	Number in Ladies' Aux.	Ordnained Ministers	Paid Pastors	Paid Evangelist	Paid Children's Home	Paid Missions	Paid Old Age Ministers	Minute Fund	Paid for Improvement	Total Paid Out	Value of Church Property
BEAVERTON	Mrs. Emma Harris Star Route N. Sulligent, Ala. 35586	Rev. J. W. Spencer Guin, Ala. 35563	0	4 1 1	25	0	0	3	592.68	122.24	0	0	0	15.00	20.50	837.37	4,000.00
BELK	Mr. R. H. Yerby, Sr. Route 6, Box 130 Fayette, Ala. 35555	Rev. Robert Franks Belk, Ala. 35545	0	4 1 3	8	40	10	4	4025.00	125.00	120.00	225.00	60.00	15.00	124.17	6,138.57	50,000.00
DAVIS CHAPEL	Mr. Belton Nelson P. O. Box 67 Berry, Ala. 35546	Rev. Eugene Swindle Route 2 Northport, Ala. 35476	0	8 31	68	0	0	1	850.00	100.15	10.00	0	0	15.00		1,170.97	4,000.00
EASTSIDE	Mr. Delmer L. Meyer 2709 3rd St. E. Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401	Rev. Dewey Thomas Route 2, Box 75 Northport, Ala. 35476	905.81	18 05	96	71	0	1	2300.00	453.16	119.19	0	0	15.00	2,349.46	14,294.56	75,000.00
FRIENDSHIP	Mrs. Agatha Reynolds Route 1 Steens, Miss. 39766	Rev. Leander McAdams 416 Alabama Street Columbus, Miss. 39701	0	7 1 9	20	0	0	1	125.00	103.00	0	27.40	0	15.00	150.00	472.40	7,500.00
HUBBARD SPRINGS	Mrs. Francis Epperson Route 1, Box 34 Duncanville, Ala. 35456	Rev. Lawrence Lynn Route 1, Box 227 Northport, Ala. 35476	0	1 0 40	25	0	0	3	227.19	46.81	0	0	0	15.00	106.00	556.00	3,000.00
LIBERTY	Mr. J. E. Collins Route 2 Vernon, Ala. 35592	Rev. Albert Hamm Route 2 Vernon, Ala. 35592	75.00	22 3 2	125	75	0	2	2859.00	139.00	21.63	0	0	15.00	1,939.45	5,808.18	37,500.00
MT. HARMONY	Mr. Derrell R. Wheeler P. O. Box 257 Vernon, Ala. 35592	Rev. Leander McAdams 416 Alabama Street Columbus, Miss. 39701	0	3 4 3	48	0	0	2	1270.00	100.00	60.00	0	0	15.00	2,201.11	3,802.81	15,000.00
MT. PLEASANT	Mrs. Lorene Crossley Route 1 Vernon, Ala. 35592	Rev. Grover Perkins Star Route Columbus, Miss. 39701	0	1 2 6	30	0	0	0	305.00	72.35	0	0	0	15.00	402.65	954.00	6,000.00
MT. WILLING	Mrs. Carrie H. McGowan Route 1 Guin, Ala. 35563	Rev. Otis Parmer Route 1 Guin, Ala. 35563	0	3 1 1	57	0	0	1	619.50	143.00	60.00	16.40	0	15.00	38.72	933.02	5,000.00
PINEY GROVE	Mr. J. M. Chaffin Route 1, Box 81 Guin, Ala. 35563	Rev. Otis Parmer Route 1 Guin, Ala. 35563	0	3 1 36	60	40	0	4	699.03	75.00	50.00	13.52	25.00	15.00	475.00	1,347.55	10,000.00
PLEASANT GROVE	Mrs. Kathleen Sfakianos 1132 4th Way Pleasant Grove, Ala.	Rev. B. T. Alexander P. O. Box 23 Pleasant Grove, Ala.	0	5 0 09	55	35	20	3	1500.00		0	20.00	0	15.00		7,763.88	75,000.00
SPRINGFIELD	Mr. Tommie Rushing Route 1, Box 217 Vernon, Ala. 35592	Rev. Roy Barnes Route 1 Vernon, Ala. 35592	0	2 3 4	70	40	0	0	1250.00	200.00	298.22	233.66	133.66	15.00	54.05	2,754.04	15,000.00
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Mrs. Christine Sizemore Route 3 Sulligent, Ala. 35586	Rev. Frank Collins Route 3 Sulligent, Ala. 35586	0	2 1 26	30	0	0	0	233.48	99.08	0	0	0	15.00	260.00	726.56	3,000.00
UNION CHAPEL	Mr. James N. Bynum Fayette, Ala. 35555	Rev. L. B. Nix F.W.B. Children's Home Eldridge, Ala. 35554	0	7 1 04	63	28	0	1	1342.22	125.00	120.00	118.00	0	15.00	2,900.00	5,623.32	18,000.00
VERNON	Mrs. Clyde Motes Vernon, Ala. 35592	Rev. M. H. Hollis Vernon, Ala. 35592	124.28	3 2 82	85	40	10	2	4760.00	200.00	434.95	386.26	80.98	15.00	912.14	10,119.34	30,000.00

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

we recommend the acceptance of Rev. Leander McAdams and Rev. Albert Hamm to this Association in full fellowship.

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

After meeting with representatives of the Hubbard Springs F. W. B. Church and listening carefully to the problem this group has experienced, as reported by both sides, we, your Executive Committee made the following recommendation to the group:

It is our recommendation, after not being able to establish an equitable solution to the existing problem, that the group return to their home church and resolve the problem themselves. Each person in the group agreed to make a special effort to pull the church back together.

It was further agreed that upon resolution of this division in the church and after a proper vote was cast for Bros. James Epperson and Charlie Johnson that they be ordained as deacons by the Associational Ordination Committee.

We also recommend that the Association Clerk obtain a more complete list of the addresses of the present ministers. The clerks of the various churches should aid and assist in obtaining this information.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. T. Mixon, Chairman

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance from 1967	\$ 60.00
Minute Funds	\$240.00
TOTAL	\$300.00
PAID OUT	
Moderator & Assistant	\$ 15.00
Clerk	\$ 30.00
State Association	\$ 75.00
Minutes	\$125.00
Postage & Supplies	\$ 10.00
Total Paid Out	\$255.00
Balance on Hand	\$ 45.00

### NAMES & ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

Rev. B. T. Alexander	P. O. Box 23, Pleasant Grove, Al.	35127
Rev. Clarence Barnes	Beaverton, Al.	35544
Rev. Roy Barnes	Rt. 1, Vernon, Al.	35592
Rev. Donald Bussey	Birmingham, Al.	35200
Rev. Frank Collins	Rt. 3, Sulligent, Al.	35586
Rev. Robert Collins	Kennedy, Al.	35574
Rev. Lewis Cooley	Rt. 1. Duscenville, Al.	35456
Rev. Robert Franks	Belk, Al.	35545
Rev. W. D. Glasgow	Route 4, Theodore, Al.	36582
Rev. L. C. Graham	Vernon, Al.	35592
Rev. E. W. Graves	Route 2, Vernon, Al.	35592
Rev. M. H. Hollis	Vernon, Al.	35592
Rev. Anthony Keeton	Route 1, Centreville, Al.	35042
Rev. G. C. Lawrence	Winfield, Al.	35594
Rev. V. R. Lay	Fayette, Al.	35555
Rev. S. F. Lee	Route 1, Guin, Al.	35563
Rev. Lawrence Lynn	Route 1, Box 227, Northport, Al.	35476
Rev. Leander McAdams	416 Alabama St., Columbus, Miss.	39701
Rev. Delmus Miller	Route 1, Winfield, Al.	35594
Rev. L. B. Nix	c-o F. W. B. Children's Home, Eldridge, Al.	35554
Rev. Otis Parmer	Route 1, Guin, Al.	35563
Rev. Grover Perkins	Star Route, Columbus, Miss.	39701
Rev. J. W. Spencer	Guin, Al.	35563
Rev. Eugene Swindle	Route 2, Northport, Al.	35576
Rev. A. L. Warren	Vernon, Al.	35592



## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. G. C. Lawrence  
Rev. Albert Hamm  
Rev. M. H. Hollis  
Rev. Eugene Swindle

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

### LIST OF DEACONS

BELK— L. D. Williams, Britt Belk, R. H. Yerby, Jr., Grady Newman, Dalton Gilpin.  
DAVIS CHAPEL— John D. Moore, Sr., Raymond Gray, Johnny Pike.  
FRIENDSHIP— Paul Shelnut, James Price.  
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.  
EAST SIDE F. W. B.— (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) J. K. Thompson, Delmer L. Meyer, Bill Dockery, Bryon Meyer, Paul Jordan, Victor Pate.  
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, J. L. McNees, P. N. Yerby, Titus Barnes, Eris Wilson, Max Turner.



## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

### 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. M. 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.

### 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 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.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

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 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, Sunday 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 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 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 \$30.00 for their services.

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

# VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST 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.
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 association, either at the association, or by the ordaining council.

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

### 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; 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 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.



## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

---

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) 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 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 administered 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

---

### 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.