

MINUTES

OF THE

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

**VERNON FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Held With
Beaverton Free Will Baptist Church
October 19, 1974

Moderator Rev. Billy Sharpston, Vernon, Alabama

OFFICERS FOR 1975

Moderator Rev. Billy R. Smith, Belk, Alabama

Assistant Moderator Rev. L. B. Nix, Vernon, Alabama

The next session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, beginning at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 18, 1975.

OFFICERS FOR 1975

Moderator Rev. Billy Ray Smith
P. O. Box 8905
Belk, Alabama 35545
Telephone 932-3144

Assistant Moderator Rev. L. B. Nix
Route 2
Vernon, Alabama 35592
Telephone 695-9840

Clerk Raphael H. Yerby
P. O. Box 83
Fayette, Alabama 35555
Telephone 932-4595

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PROCEEDINGS

The ninety-fourth session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with the Beaverton Free Will Baptist Church on October 19, 1974. Rev. Billy Sharpston served as moderator and Raphael Yerby served as clerk.

The meeting of the association opened with a welcome by the moderator and a song, "If Salvation Had Not Been Free," directed by Bro. Dewey Jordan, with Sis. Jordan at the piano. Prayer was by Bro. Ottis Parmer. Another song was directed by Bro. Jordan, "Come and Dine."

The Welcome was given by Sis. Mary Weeks, of the Beaverton Free Will Baptist Church.

The ninety-fourth session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Billy Sharpston. Rev. Roy Barnes brought a devotional message using scripture from Acts 17:22-23, Titus 2:11-14 and I Corinthians 1:10. Prayer was by the speaker.

A motion was entertained and second to adopt the printed program for this session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. The vote carried.

The moderator called for a report of the Digest Committee. The report was given by Rev. Robert Franks. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

We had a roll call of the delegates to the association by the clerk. A motion, second and vote carried to seat the delegates.

A call was given for petitionary letters. The Love Joy Free Will Baptist Church presented a letter requesting membership in this association. Also, Rev. Jerry Smith, Rev. Billy Buchanan, Rev. Byron M. Meyer, and Rev. Billy Ray Smith requested membership in this association and presented letters of recommendation from their respective associations. (See Credential Committee Report.)

Appointment of the Committee on Committees was made at this time. Those appointed were:

Rev. Ottis Parmer, chairman
Rev. Leander McAdams,
Bro. Paul Shelnut

The moderator called for a report of the General Board. The report was given by the association clerk. We had a motion, second and vote carried to table item number 3, 4 and 7 of the report until the afternoon session, since these items dealt with changes in the By-Laws. Another motion and second was made and vote carried to adopt the rest of the report item by item. (See report.)

Next we recognized visitors and invited visiting Brethren to seat with us. Those present at the time were:

Rev. Randall Tice	Bro. Quineth Haney
Rev. Billy Buchanan	Bro. Vernon Dodd
Rev. Ottis Jacobs	Bro. Leaborn Ackers
Rev. Jimmy Reese	Bro. Banister

A congregational song, "I Feel Like Traveling On", was directed by Bro. Dewey Jordan with Mrs. Jordan at the piano. Prayer was by Bro. W. H. Clearman.

The Credential Committee report was given by Rev. Robert Franks. A motion, second and vote carried to accept the report.

We had another congregational song, "Hold To God's Unchanging Hand," directed by Bro. Dewey Jordan.

A report of the Committee on Committees was made by Rev. Ottis Parmer. A motion was made and second that no person would serve on more than one committee. The vote carried. The committee was excused for a few minutes to make some changes in their report.

The moderator called for a report of the Temperance Committee. Bro. Pascal Yerby reported that the committee had asked Rev. Billy Buchanan to speak a few minutes on the subject of Temperance. Rev. Buchanan spoke using Acts 24: 24-25 and I Corinthians 9:24-27 as his scripture. Prayer was by the speaker. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information.

We were dismissed for a short recess.

After a short intermission, a congregational song, "Amazing Grace," was sung, directed by Rev. M. H. Hollis with Mrs. Jordan at the piano.

The moderator called for a final report of the committee on Committees. The report was given by Rev. Ottis Parmer and the various committees were appointed. (See list). A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report.

We had a motion from the floor and a second for the moderator to appoint a Committee on Committees for the 1975 session of the Association and for this committee to meet prior to the associational meeting, make their report and appoint the various committees and report to the body at the opening of the session. The vote carried.

We had a very interesting report from the State Home Mission Board by Rev. John Edwards. Bro. Edwards reported on his work at the Decatur Church and other mission work in Alabama. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information.

We had a short report from Rev. Billy Ray Smith, Moderator of the Alabama State Association, on the State Association.

After Bro. Smith's report we were dismissed for a short recess and the various committees were dismissed to make their reports.

After a short intermission, a congregational song, "Joy Unspeakable," was sung, directed by Rev. M. H. Hollis. Prayer was by Bro. Phil Kimbrough. Bro. Hollis directed another song, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." Prayer was by Rev. O. Z. Johnson.

We received an offering for State Home Missions, Rev. John Edwards account, in the amount of \$81.65. The offertory prayer was by the moderator, Rev. Billy Sharpston.

We had another congregational song, "There Is Power In The Blood," directed by Rev. M. H. Hollis with Mrs. Jordan at the piano.

The Key Note Message was brought at 11:00 a.m. by Rev. John Edwards, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Decatur, Alabama. The subject of his message was "Unity" using Psalms 133 as his scripture. Prayer was by the speaker.

After the very interesting message we were dismissed for the noon hour by Rev Billy Buchanan.

AFTERNOON SESSION

After a wonderful lunch, which every one enjoyed, we convened at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Roy Barnes leading in singing, "Heaven's Jubilee" with Mrs. Jordan at the piano. Prayer was by Rev. Jerry Smith. Bro. Billy Ray Smith brought the afternoon devotion using Matthew 9:37-38 for his scripture.

The report of the Appreciation Committee was given by Bro. Dalton Gilpin. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and dismiss the committee.

The Sunday School and C. T. S. Committee report was given by Sis. Burma Jordan. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and dismiss the committee.

The Finance Committee report was given by Bro. W. H. Clearman. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information and discharge the committee. We had another motion, second and vote carried to adopt the recommendation of this committee. (See Report).

The Deceased Members Committee report was given by Sis. Ora Jordan. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee. After this report the congregation stood in a moment of silent prayer and then Bro. Dewey Jordan led in prayer in memory of those loved ones.

The report of the Board of Christian Education was given by Rev. Ottis Jacobs, Jr. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report.

The selection of meeting places for the Youth Rally each month, October through May, were as follows:

October, 1974 — Springfield	February, 1975 — Mt. Willing
November, 1974 — Belk	March, 1975 — Mt. Harmony
December, 1974 — Union Chapel	April, 1975 — Eastside
January, 1975 — Liberty	May, 1975 — Vernon

The Youth Rally meets at 7:00 p.m. the third Saturday night in each month, except for the last meeting in May, 1975, which will be held during the day.

We had a final report of the General Board by the clerk. A motion was made, second and vote carried to take the report off the table and vote on it item by item. A motion, second and vote carried to adopt the report.

Bro. Billy Sharpston, moderator, gave a report on the Northwest Alabama Free Will Baptist Youth Camp land purchase. We had a motion, second and vote carried for this association to support our part in the purchase of the land and promotion of the camp.

Delegates to the Alabama State Free Will Baptist Association were appointed. They are:

Mrs. Billy Ray Smith	Mr. Jack McLemore	Mrs. Adolph South
Mrs. Robert Franks	Mrs. Jack McLemore	Mr. J. H. Thompson
Mrs. Loyd Turner	Mr. Robert Carter	Mrs. J. H. Thompson
Mr. Richard Dean	Mrs. Robert Carter	Mr. Albert Christian
Mrs. Richard Dean	Mr. Adolph South	Mrs. Albert Christian

Corresponding delegates to other associations were appointed by the moderator. They are:

Alabama-Mississippi State Line Association

Bro. Roy Barnes

Bro. Ottis Parmer

Bro. Jerry Smith

Jasper Association

Bro. Billy Ray Smith

Mt. Moriah Association

Bro. M. H. Hollis

The moderator appointed the Committee on Committees for 1975. (See committees).

Churches requesting the next setting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association were recognized. Three churches, Vernon, Liberty, and Mt. Harmony, requested the next meeting of the association. The body voted to hold the next session of this association at Liberty Free Will Baptist Church. It will be held on October 18, 1975.

Nominations for Moderator of the Association for the coming year was called for. Rev. Billy Ray Smith and Rev. L. B. Nix were nominated. Rev. Billy Ray Smith was elected to serve as Moderator.

Nomination for Assistant Moderator were called for. Rev. L. B. Nix and Rev. Ottis Parmer were nominated. Rev. L. B. Nix was elected to serve as Assistant Moderator.

Nomination was opened for Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the Association. Raphael Yerby was elected to serve as Clerk and Mrs. Raphael Yerby was elected to serve as Assistant Clerk.

The body elected two members to serve on the Board of Christian Education. (See Committees).

The floor was opened for nomination for one member to the Board of Directors for the Northwest Alabama Free Will Baptist Youth Camp. Rev. Billy Ray Smith was elected to serve a three year term on this board.

The moderator appointed the Executive Committee for the next year. (See committees).

A motion, second and vote carried to adjourn this session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Raphael Yerby, Clerk of the Association.

Meeting adjourned.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES AS LISTED

Beaverton — Sisters Mary Weeks, Flair Gosa and Bro. Gearse Harris.

Belk — Sisters Louise Ham, Flora Gilreath, Iva Overton, Bro. H. L. Williams and R. H. Yerby, Sr.

Davis Chapel — Sisters Lorene Pike and Euline Moore.

Eastside — Sisters Burma Jordan, Mary South, Susan Dean, Edna Thompson and Bro. Charles Fowler.

Friendship — Sisters Mary Reynolds, Sue Price and Lura Moore.

Liberty — Sisters Sue Buchanan, Eula Mae Dubose, Lois Perkins, Ida B. Perkins, Louise Couch, Addis Dubose and Bro. Steve Butler.

Love Joy — Bro. Jack Callen, Hermine Yielding, and Grady Bethune.

Mt. Harmony — Sisters Ann Patrick, Betty Brock, Mattie Johnson, Francis Beasley, Bro. Frankie Beasley and Richard Harrison.

Mt. Pleasant — Sister Vickie Crossley, Bro. Raymond Brown and Lowell Hankins.

Mt. Willing — Sisters Harkins Garrison, Sammie Lee Roberts, Sadie M. White, Bro. Kenneth McDonald and Jim Collins.

Piney Grove — Sisters Annette Bobo, Jeanette Cantrell, Bro. Jerry Eastman and Guary Taylor.

Springfield — Sister Ora Jordan and Bro. Rushton Brown.

Taylor Springs — Sisters Eunice Perkins, Donna Brown and Charlene Cooper.

Union Chapel — Sisters Daisy Clearman, Joyce Hardy, Evelyn Duckworth, Bro. Benny Hardy and Bill Freeman.

Vernon — Sisters Sandra Carter, Louise Shelnut, Helene McLemore, Beatrice Christian, Bro. Robert Carter, Jack McLemore and Albert Christian.

GENERAL BOARD

Beaverton - none listed

Belk - Bro. Don Byars

Davis Chapel - none listed

Eastside - Bro. Paul Jordan

Friendship - none listed

Liberty - Bro. Bobby J. Black

Mt. Harmony - Bro. Erbie Robertson

Mt. Pleasant - Bro. Raymond Brown

Mt. Willing - Bro. Earl McDonald

Piney Grove - Bro. J. M. Chaffin

Springfield - Bro. Dewey Jordan

Taylor Springs - none listed

Union Chapel - Bro. Lamon Duckworth

Vernon - Bro. Jack McLemore

The following churches will elect a new member to serve a two (2) year term on the General Board and send them to the next session of the association:

Mt. Pleasant

Springfield

Union Chapel

Mt. Willing

Taylor Springs

Vernon

Piney Grove

Love Joy

COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS FOR 1974

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Rev. L. B. Nix - 1975

Bro. Grady Newman - 1976

Bro. Pascal Yerby - 1977

Rev. Roy Barnes - 1978

Rev. M. H. Hollis - 1979

SUNDAY SCHOOL &

C.T.S. COMMITTEE

Sister Burma Jordan

Sister Sammie Lee Roberts

Bro. Raymond Brown

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Rev. Ottis Parmer

Rev. Leander McAdams

Bro. Paul Shelnut

DECEASED MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Sister Ora Jordan

Sister Lois Perkins

Sister Mary Weeks

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE (1975) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bro. R. H. Yerby, Sr.
Sister Addie Dubose
Bro. J. H. Thompson

Rev. Billy Ray Smith
Rev. L. B. Nix
Bro. Raphael Yerby
Bro. Dewey Jordan
Bro. Earl McDonald
Bro. Jack McLemore
Bro. Paul Jordan

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bro. Harvey Clearman
Sister Betty Brock
Bro. Robert Carter

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Bro. Dalton Gilpin
Sister Mary Reynolds
Bro. Jerry Eastman

DIGEST COMMITTEE (1975)

Rev. Billy Ray Smith
Bro. Paul Shelnut
Bro. Steve Butler

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES (1975)

Rev. Ottis Parmer
Bro. James Thompson
Bro. Dewey Jordan

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

Rev. Billy Sharpston (1976) Chm.
Bro. Jerry Smith (1975)
Rev. Billy Buchanan (1977)

GENERAL BOARD REPORT

We, the General Board make the following report:

- (1) We recommend that we grant a letter of good standing to Rev. T. M. Scott, Rev. Donald Taggart, Rev. Ottis E. Jacobs, Jr., and Rev. Leander McAdams. M.S.C.
- (2) We recommend that item number 12 of the By-Laws be practiced. M.S.C.
- (3) We recommend the changing of the wording of item number 13 of the By-Laws, to read: All ordination of ministers shall be done at the association while in regular session, by the ordaining council. M.S.C.
- (4) We recommend the clarification of item number 14 of the By-Laws as follows: The General Board along with the Credential Committee in a special called session shall have authority to grant letters to ministers leaving our association and to receive ministers into our association, provided they are a member of a church in our association, reporting their action to the annual associational meeting, with their action being subject to final approval by the associational body. M.S.C.
- (5) We recommend that the annual Youth T-N-T Rally be held, beginning in the morning with different contests going on at the same time, Bible Bowl, Tic-Tac-Toe, Bible Memorization, Sword Drill, and the Music and Arts Festival be held in the evening. M.S.C.
- (6) We recommend that this association go on record as favoring a Youth Camp in conjunction with the Progressive and Jasper Associations. M.S.C.
- (7) We recommend item number 15 of the By-Laws to read as follows: No

person shall be ordained by this association as a preacher unless he has been licensed by his local church for at least one year. M.S.C.

- (8) We recommend that the Business Committee be dissolved, since the Executive Committee and the General Board handle the business of the association and meet before the associational meeting to transact business and in turn report the same to the associational body, since we are overlapping by having the Executive Committee, General Board and Business Committee reporting. M.S.C.

We recommend the following By-Laws for the Board of Christian Education:

- (1) It is the duty of this board to promote the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association Youth Rally, and other related projects. M.S.C.
- (2) This Board shall, along with the duly elected officers and the host pastor, plan the programs of the rallies each month. M.S.C.
- (3) The Board of Christian Education shall work with all churches in getting them involved in the Youth Rally Work and other related projects. M.S.C.
- (4) The Board shall act in advisory capacity to the elected officers of the Youth Rally.
- (5) The Board shall consist of three (3) members, with one member going off each year. M.S.C.
- (6) The Board shall be responsible each year for planning the District T-N-T Rally in May. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Billy Sharpston, Chairman

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Appreciation Committee make the following report:

We wish to extend to the Beaverton Free Will Baptist Church our deepest appreciation and sincere thanks for their kind hospitality shown us during our associational meeting. We also appreciate the generous meal provided by the ladies of the host church. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted

Bro. Dalton Gilpin, chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Finance Committee have examined the letters from our various churches and find that a total of \$340.00 was sent to this association as minute funds. The balance from 1973 was \$52.29, which would make a total of \$392.29. Our total estimated expenditures for 1974 is approximately \$529.29. We recommend that each church pay \$35.00 or more each year to the minute fund of our association. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted

Bro. W. H. Clearman, chairman

Note: Some additional money was received by the clerk after this meeting, as shown in the Financial Report.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We, your Committee on Deceased Members report the following:

Beaverton -----	Sister Ester Seals
Belk -----	Sister Lizzie Belk
	Sister Eva Belk
	Bro. Jessie Taylor
Davis Chapel -----	None
Eastside -----	None
Friendship -----	Bro. Henry Jones
	Sister Louise Funderburg
Liberty -----	Bro. Thomas Price
	Sister Ellie Jenkins Price
	Sister Jewel Perkins
	Sister Madie Yerby
Mt. Harmony -----	Bro. Clifton Draper
	Sister Addie Crawford
Mt. Pleasant -----	Sister Addie Brown
	Bro. John Adair
Mt. Willing -----	Bro. Tom Collins
	Bro. Manley Millwood
	Sister Cora Cook
	Sister Ellen Crews Gilmore
	Sister Geneva Chaffin
	Sister Martha Burnette
Piney Grove -----	None
Springfield -----	Bro. M. L. Hollis
	Bro. Jehue Gault
	Bro. Ben Wright
	Bro. Murry Pennington
	Sister Nettie Hankins
Taylor Springs -----	None
Union Chapel -----	Bro. Dewey Harrison
	Bro. Cullen Collins
	Sister Rose Mary Shelton
	Sister Gay Lou Hardy
Vernon -----	Bro. Felton Billingsley

We extend to the families of our deceased members our deepest sympathy. First Thessalonians 4:14 says, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." This verse plainly tells us that the saints which departed this life are asleep in Christ. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted
Sister Ora Jordan, chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.T.S. COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Sunday School and C.T.S. Committee offer the following report:

Our enrollment in Sunday School is 992 with an average attendance of 871. We see a need of more participation in this work. All fifteen churches have an active Sunday School.

Our C.T.S. enrollment is 339 with an average attendance of 288. We encourage all of our churches to participate in the C.T.S., since this is a Church Training Service. Only eight churches have a C.T.S.

We would like to commend those churches who participated in Bible Bowl, Bible Tic-Tac-Toe, Sword Drill, Essay and Declamation, Music and Arts. Some out of this association won the State Competition and went on to win honors in the National Competition. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted

Burma Jordan, chairman

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

The board this past 73-74 season sponsored eight (8) Youth Rallies. We would like to thank the churches who have taken part in these rallies and those churches and their people who have invited us to meet with them.

Our third annual convention of C.T.S. was held again this year with the Belk Free Will Baptist Church. The interest was keen this year as more churches participated. Again, as in the last two years we have had representatives in the State and National levels from our C.T.S. Competition.

We pray that more of our churches would get involved. We urge the pastors to get behind their youth and support them in taking some part in the competition and their related activities. As we have fifteen (15) churches in our association there is adequate room for improved participation.

If any member of this board may be of any kind of help to anyone who needs help to become involved, please feel free to contact us. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Ottis Jacobs, Jr., Chairman

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Credential Committee recommend that Love Joy Free Will Baptist Church be accepted in full fellowship into the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. M.S.C.

We recommend that Rev. Jerry Smith, Rev. Billy Buchanan, Rev. Byron M. Meyer and Rev. Billy Ray Smith be accepted in full fellowship as members of this association. M.S.C.

We recommend that this association grant a letter of good standing to Rev. Leander McAdams and recommend him to the Northeast Mississippi Association. M.S.C.

We recommend that a card of good standing be granted to the ministers on our roll of ministers. M.S.C.

Respectfully submitted
Rev. Robert Franks, chairman

REPORT OF DIGEST COMMITTEE

Statistics

Church membership	
Resident	1,380
Non-Resident	326
Total Membership	1,706
Members Received	
By Baptism	84
By Letter	90
Total Members Received	174
Members Lost	79
Lost to Non Free Will Bapt. Ch.	9
Total Members Lost	88
Sunday School Enrollment	1,092
Average Attendance	860
C.T.S. Enrollment	345
Average Attendance	288
Women's Auxiliary Enrollment	12
Average Attendance	10
Master's Men Enrollment	15
Average Attendance	12
Mid-Week Services	
Average Attendance	212
Evangelistic Outreach	
Visitation	6
Revivals	13
Others	9
Vacation Bible School	8
Enrollment	466
Average Attendance	388
Number of Ordained Ministers	24
Number of Licensed Ministers	4
Number of Students at F.W.B.B.C.	2
No. of Students at other colleges	6
Pastor's Employment	
Full Time Employment	6
No Outside Employment	8

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION				Members Received	Members Deceased	Total Members	Number in Sunday School	No. in C.T.S.	No. in Ladies Aux.	Paid Christian Education	Paid Pastors	Paid Children's Home	Paid Missions	Minute Fund	Paid For Improvement	Total Paid Out	Value of Church Property
CHURCH	PASTOR	Pastor's Telephone	CLERK														
Beaverton	Rev. Jimmy D. Reese, P.O.Box 221 Guin, Al. 35563	468-3835	Mrs. Emma Harris, Star Rt. N. Sulligent, Al. 35586	2	1	48	25	0	0	0	1,225.00	15.00	0	20	100.00	1,525.00	9,100
Belk	Rev. Billy R. Smith, P.O.Box Belk, Al. 35545	932-3144	Mrs. Louise Ham Route 1 Kennedy 35574	9	3	148	90	60	0	32.00	7,655.00	120.00	281.87	40	1,130.00	22,483.40	110,000
Davis Chapel	Rev. J.M. Harbin Route 1 Townley 35587		Mrs. Louise Cannon, Rt. 1, Bx 98 Berry 35546	3	0	133	64	0	0	0	562.80	50.00	0	30	500.00	1,403.00	17,000
Eastside	Rev. Byron M. Meyer, 4014 6th St. E., Tuscaloosa 35401	553-4763	Mrs. Betsy Phillips 515 24th Ave. E. Tuscaloosa 35401	21	0	89	71	48	12	0	3,330.00	0	0	30	0	12,199.10	100,000
Friendship	Rev. W.D. Glasgow Route 2 Vernon 35592	695-9849	Mrs. Mary Reynolds, Route 1 Steens, Ms. 39766	2	2	53	35	0	0	0	1,210.00	0	0	30	242.00	2,699.00	16,000
Liberty	Rev. Billy Buchanan, Route 2 Vernon 35592	695-9400	Mrs. Ora S. Burnett, Route 3 Sulligent 35586	28	4	230	118	50	0	54.37	6,790.00	478.68	653.87	40	15,850.00	26,706.84	80,000
Love Joy	Rev. Randell Tice Hamilton, Al.		Mrs. Kathy Lindsey, Route 1 Guin, Al. 35563	--	--	21	-----	--	--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Mt. Harmony	Rev. M.H. Hollis 8th Street, N.E. Vernon 35592	695-7736	Mr. Erbie Robertson, Rt. 3, Box 622, Vernon, Al.	20	2	128	100	52	0	0	9,525.00	0	598.21	25	981.00	18,401.12	25,000
Mt. Pleasant	Rev. Roy Barnes Route 1 Vernon 35592	695-9229	Miss Vickie Crossley, Rt. 1 Vernon 35592	4	2	46	46	10	0	0	1,278.50	10.00	0	25	2,143.04	3,878.04	25,000
Mt. Willing	Rev. Jerry Smith P. O. Box 616 Vernon 35592	695-7418	Mrs. Sadie M. White, Rt. 2, Bx 468 Winfield 35594	12	5	185	60	0	0	0	2,089.38	120.00	0	35	3,841.21	7,348.82	10,000
Piney Grove	Rev. Dallas Gilliland Star Route Hamilton 35570		Mrs. Freddie Caruth, Route 1 Beaverton 35544	4	0	137	80	0	0	0	1,200.00	240.00	30.00	30	500.00	3,120.00	29,000
Springfield	Rev. Robert D. Franks, P.O. Bx 473, Vernon 35592	695-7556	Mr. Tommie Rushing, Route 1 Vernon 35592	21	4	198	111	50	0	0.00	5,999.35	150.00	0	25	3,860.14	15,313.69	35,000
Taylor Springs	Rev. C.C. Berryhill Route 1 Greenwood Springs, Ms. 38848	256-8225	Mrs. Christine Sizemore, Rt. 3 Sulligent 35586	15	0	70	60	0	0	0	2,041.51	0	0	15	1,500.00	4,142.00	15,000
Union Chapel	Rev. L. B. Nix Route 2 Vernon 35592	695-9840	Mr. James N. Bynum, 622 E. Columbus St., Fayette	5	4	127	85	0	0	0	5,700.00	0	175.50	50	209.83	8,290.50	36,000
Vernon	Rev. Billy Sharpston P. O. Box 582 Vernon, Al. 35592	695-9730	Mrs. Paul Shelnut P. O. Box 57 Vernon, Al. 35592	14	1	114	147	75	0	9.00	5,850.00	1,271.00	2,601.00	35	91,086.00	119,697.00	175,000

Financial**Church Finance**

Total Receipts	\$177,982.72
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Amount Borrowed	141,595.00
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Total Receipts	\$319,577.72
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Spent for Local Causes

Pastor's Salary	\$ 54,456.54
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Other Staff	1,801.65
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Paid for Remodeling and Building	136,843.41
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Debt Retirement	28,442.81
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Other Local Expenditures	32,485.35
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Total Spent for Local Causes	\$254,029.76
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Spent For Outside Causes

Foreign Missions	2,838.65
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Home Missions and Church Ext.	1,501.82
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Bible College	995.37
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Retirement and Insurance	286.00
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Children's Home	2,454.00
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Total Spent For Outside Causes	8,076.44
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Current Value of Parsonage Property	\$ 90,000.00
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Current Value of Church Property	680,100.00
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Church Indebtedness	129,793.00
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Respectfully submitted

Rev. Robert Franks, chairman

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance from 1973	\$ 52.29
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Minute Funds Received	365.00
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Total	\$ 417.29
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Expenditures

Moderator	\$ 10.00
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Minutes	314.29
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Clerk	50.00
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Assistant Clerk	25.00
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Postage and Supplies	15.00
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State Association	105.00
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Total Expenditures	\$ 519.29
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Balance	Minus \$ 102.00
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NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

Rev. S. F. Lee, Route 1, Guin, Alabama 35563
Rev. C. A. Barnes, Rt. 1, Box 95-A, Brilliant, Alabama 35548
Rev. T. C. Barnes, Sulligent, Alabama 35586
Rev. Roy Barnes, Route 1, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Rev. Frank Collins, Route 1, Guin, Alabama 35563
Rev. Robert D. Franks, P. O. Box 473, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Rev. W. D. Glasgow, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Rev. E. W. Graves, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Rev. M. H. Hollis, 201 8th Street N.E., Vernon, Alabama 35592
Rev. V. R. Lay, Fayette, Alabama 35555
Rev. Delmus Miller, Route 2, Winfield, Alabama 35594
Rev. L. B. Nix, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Rev. Ottis Parmer, Guin, Alabama 35563
Rev. Billy Sharpston, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Rev. J. W. Spencer, Route 2, Guin, Alabama 35563
Rev. Rickey Cash, Nashville, Tennessee
Rev. Billy Buchanan, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Rev. Byron Meyer, 4014 6th Street East, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
Rev. Billy R. Smith, Box 8905, Belk, Alabama 35545
Rev. Jerry Smith, P. O. Box 616, Vernon, Alabama 35592

LIST OF DEACONS

Beaverton — Robert Bobo, Connie Smith
Belk — Raphael Yerby, Grady Newman, Dalton Gilpin, Roy Gilreath, Mackey Watkins
Davis Chapel — Raymond Gray, John D. Moore, Sr., E. D. Sanford, John Pike
Eastside (Tuscaloosa) — J. H. Thompson, Bedford Hester, Paul Jordan, E. A. South, Richard Dean, James Cooper
Friendship — James Price
Liberty — R. T. Mixon, John Stewart, Arnold Hester, L. R. Dubose, Bobby J. Black, Edd Collins, Henry Harrison, Chelsea Poore, Henry Perkins
Mt. Harmony — S. L. Cash, Odis Robertson, O. B. Graham, Coy Johnson, Erbie Robertson, D. R. Wheeler
Mt. Pleasant — W. M. Cooper, Raymond Pennington
Mt. Willing — A. J. McDonald, Jeff McDonald, H. E. McDonald, Earl McDonald, Emmett Lee, Arbie Roberts, Elzie Guin, Obie Haney, Hoyt Chaffin
Piney Grove — C. E. Roberts, Arlander Shelnut, Elvada Markham, J. M. Chaffin, Fred Barnes, Ozell Cantrell
Springfield — Dewey Jordan, Dempsey Langley, J. A. Harper, Haley Wright, Tommie Rushing
Taylor Springs — Stanley Cooper, Gary Sizemore
Union Chapel — James E. Maddox, Carlos Bradford, Lamon Duckworth

Vernon — B. E. Turner, P. N. Yerby, Titus Barnes, Eris Wilson, Max Turner, Paul Shelnut, Loyd Turner
Love Joy — Quinith Haney, Coy L. Robertson

NAMES OF DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. J. W. 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, Rev. M. L. Hollis.

NAMES OF DECEASED DEACONS

L. A. Crowder, S. Y. Shelton, J. H. Cole, Lee Mixon, J. S. Crossley, J. D. Shelnut, Earnest Roberts, D. L. Markham, Joe L. McNease, Johnny Williams, Johnny Collins, Dewitt Williams, J. G. Adair, Cullen Collins.

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 practices 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 will be the responsibility of the local church to license the member and later request the association to ordain the 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 the Application For Ministers approved by the National Association of Free Will Baptist. 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, clerk-treasurer, and assistant clerk, 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 close of that session, with the outgoing clerk being responsible for the printing and distribution of the minutes.
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 usage.
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 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 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 the same.
12. The moderator shall receive \$10.00, the assistant moderator \$5.00, the clerk \$50.00, and the assistant clerk one-half that of the clerk for their services.
13. The clerk shall superintend the printing of the minutes after each session of the association and have them out to the churches within 90 days after the associational meeting.
14. The moderator shall appoint a Credential Committee, consisting of five (5) persons with the senior member in point of service being replaced each year. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to Examine All Ministers who become a part of this body, either by ordination or by letter. Any item of business pertaining to ministers or the conduct of ministers must originate with this committee. This committee shall consist of three (3) ministers and two (2) laymen.
15. (A) The association shall have a General Board, which shall consist of the moderator and clerk along with one person from each church. Each person from the local church shall serve for two (2) years, with one-half being elected each year as specified in the printed minutes. When this association is not in session this board shall have power to act as a body, but such action must be approved by the association.

(B) The association shall have an Executive Committee, consisting of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk and four (4) members from the General Board.

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 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 close of that session, with the outgoing clerk being responsible for the printing and distribution of the minutes.
4. The moderator calls for the report of the Digest Committee and a roll call of the delegates. After a reading of the report, the delegates are enrolled by the clerk, at the discretion of the body.
5. The delegates shall be seated at a designated place in the assembly and a majority rule in all cases.
6. The Credential 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 the permission of the moderator.
13. All Ordination of Ministers shall be done at the association while in regular annual session, by the ordaining council.
14. The General Board along with the Credential Committee, in special called session, shall have authority to grant letters to ministers leaving our association and to receive ministers into our association, provided they are a member of a church in our association, reporting their action to the annual associational meeting, with their action being subject to final approval by the associational body.
15. No person shall be ordained by this association as a preacher unless he has been licensed by his local church for at least one year.

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 Savior 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 all 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 Works of Christ. The Son of God by His incarnation, life sufferings, death and resurrection affected all a redemption from sin that is full and free 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 unreserved comital 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, having 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." (I Cor. 16:2).

15. The Lord's Day. 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 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."

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR VERNON ASSOCIATION

1. New Moderator takes over.
2. Devotion
3. Call for Digest Committee report and roll call of delegates.
4. 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: Credential, Digest, Appreciation, Sunday School and C.T.S., Finance, Deceased Members, Temperance, Board of Christian Education, Executive.
9. Call for General Board report.
10. Call for committee reports. (See committees).
11. Final report of General Board.
12. Delegates to State Association.
13. Corresponding delegates to other associations.
14. Place for next setting of association.
15. 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.

APPLICATION FOR MINISTERS

GENERAL

Briefly tell of your conversion and give reasons for your assurance of salvation.

How long have you been a Free Will Baptist?

Why do you want to be ordained?

Give a short account of your call to preach.

Do you meet the qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7?

Do you have a family? _____ Number of children _____

Have you or your wife ever been divorced?

What is the extent of your education? Elementary grades _____ High

School _____ College _____ Other _____

What is your attitude toward intoxicating beverages, tobacco, drugs or worldly amusements?

DOCTRINE

Do you believe without reservation that the Bible is the verbally inspired, infallible Word of God and that it is the only rule of faith and practice?

What do you believe about evolution and the Genesis account of Creation?

What is the gospel?

What is salvation?

How would you proceed to explain the way of salvation to a lost soul?

Explain your views on baptism.

What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?

Should feet washing be observed? Explain.

What do you believe about apostasy and the perseverance of the believer?

What is the church?

Who is eligible for membership?

How should the church discipline a member?

How should the work of the church be financed?

What are the duties of a minister?

What is the mission of the church in the light of Matthew 28:19-20?

GIVE YOUR INTERPRETATION OF THE FOLLOWING DOCTRINES:

God
Diety of Christ
The Virgin Birth of Christ
The Work of the Holy Spirit
Repentance
Faith
Justification
Regeneration
Atonement
Sanctification
Final Judgement
Heaven
Hell
Satan
Second Coming
Resurrection

DENOMINATION

Who is a Free Will Baptist?

What is meant by the term "free moral agent"?

Have you read the Treatise completely and do you subscribe to the doctrines and practices that are outlined in it?

Is there anything in the treatise that you do not believe or would not teach?

If you ever changed your views on any of these doctrines what would you do?

What are the grounds for relinquishing your ordination credentials?

What is the relationship of the local church to the denomination?

Give three character and three credit references.

Do you solemnly pledge to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints and to faithfully uphold the Free Will Baptist doctrines outlined in the Treatise?