

# ***MINUTES***

OF THE

## ***NINETY-SIXTH SESSION***

OF THE

### ***VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION***

HELD WITH

***Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church***

OCTOBER 16, 1976

Moderator ..... Rev. L. B. Nix, Sulligent, Alabama

#### **OFFICERS FOR 1977**

Moderator ..... Rev. M. H. Hollis, Vernon, Alabama

Assistant Moderator ..... Rev. Billy Buchanan, Vernon, Alabama

The next session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 15, 1977.

**OFFICERS FOR 1977**

**MODERATOR .....REV. M. H. HOLLIS**  
208-8th Street N.E., Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Telephone 695-7763

**ASSISTANT MODERATOR .....REV. BILLY BUCHANAN**  
Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Telephone 695-9400

**CLERK .....RAPHAEL H. YERBY**  
P. O. Box 83, Fayette, Alabama 35555  
Telephone 932-4595

## PROCEEDINGS

The ninety-sixth session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on October 16, 1976. Rev. Louie B. Nix served as moderator and Raphael H. Yerby served as clerk.

The meeting of the association opened with a welcome by the moderator and a song, "Heaven's Jubilee," directed by Bro. Edsel Gideon. Rev. Charles Fowler offered the opening prayer.

The Welcome was given by the host pastor, Rev. L. B. Nix.

The ninety-sixth session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was called to order by the moderator, Rev. L. B. Nix. Rev. Edward Puckett brought the morning devotional message using Romans 12:1 as his scripture.

A motion was entertained and seconded to adopt the printed program for this session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association and enter into the business session of the association. The vote carried.

The moderator called for a report of the Digest Committee. The report was given by Rev. Robert Franks, chairman. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee. Bro. Franks then made a motion that we have a meeting of all church clerks, treasurers, pastors, and association moderator and clerk next year when the church letters were sent out, to discuss the letters so they would all carry the same information. M. S. C.

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

The moderator called for petitionary letters. The First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulligent presented a letter requesting membership in the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. Rev. Charles Fowler, Rev. Edward Puckett, Rev. Walter Jagers, and Rev. Charles Hollingshead all requested membership in this association and presented letters of recommendation from their respective associations. (See Credential Committee Report).

Next we recognized visiting brethren and invited them to seat with us during this session of the association. Those present were:

Rev. Marvin Winsett  
Rev. Malone Cobb  
Rev. Leander McAdams  
Rev. Cleburn Berryhill  
Rev. Edward Puckett  
Rev. Walter Matthews

The moderator called for a report of the Committee on Committees. The report was given by Bro. Robert Carter, and the various committees were appointed. (See List). A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

Bro. Hollis made a suggestion that we recall the list of committees and dismiss them to make their committee reports to the association. The committees were dismissed.

A call was given for a report of the General Board. The report was given by Raphael Yerby, association clerk. After some discussion, two amendments were made to item one of the report. Amendment number one passed by a majority vote. Amendment number two failed to pass. We had a motion, second and vote carried to table item two of the report until the afternoon session, since it dealt with a constitutional change. (See Report).

The moderator called for a report of the State Home Missions. Rev. Billy Sharpston gave a very interesting report. Rev. Sharpston reported on the three missions in Alabama - Decatur, Enterprise, and Mobile. We had a motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information.

The moderator called for a report of the Credential Committee. The report was given by Rev. Billy Buchanan. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and vote on it item by item. A motion, second and vote carried to adopt the report item by item.

The report of the Board of Christian Education was given by Rev. Billy Buchanan. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report as information.

The moderator called for the election of one member to the Board of Christian Education. Rev. Charles Hollingshead and Bro. Carroll Gibson were nominated. Rev. Charles Hollingshead was elected to serve a three year term.

We selected a meeting place for the Youth Rally each month, October through May. The meeting places are:

- October, 1976 - Springfield
- November, 1976 - Mt. Harmony
- December, 1976 - Union Chapel
- January, 1977 - Free Will Chapel
- February, 1977 - Belk
- March, 1977 - Vernon
- April, 1977 - Liberty
- May, 1977 - Piney Grove

The Youth Rally meets at 7:00 P.M., the third Saturday night in each month except for the meeting in April 1977. The Youth Rally Competitions will be held on the third Friday and Saturday nights in April, 1977 in place of the last meeting in May.

The moderator called for a report of the Temperance Committee. The committee was not ready to report at this time. The moderator dismissed the committee to complete their report.

Next we had a report of the Finance Committee. The report was given by Bro. Roger Rye. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The moderator called for a report of the Sunday School and C. T. S. Committee. The report was given by Bro. Wayne Dubose. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The Deceased Member Committee was given next by Bro. Charles Fowler. A motion, second and vote carried to receive the report and discharge the committee.

We were dismissed by the moderator for a short recess.

After a short intermission and a time of fellowship, a congregational song, "The Eastern Gate," was directed by Bro. Edsel Gideon with Sis. Kitty Taylor at the piano and Bro. Reedus Wheat at the organ.

We received an offering in the amount of \$81.61 to help pay the expense of our guest speaker. The offertory prayer was by Rev. Louie B. Nix.

The Key Note Message was brought at 11:00 A.M. by Dr. Stanley Outlaw, professor at the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. The subject of Dr. Outlaw's message was "Let Us Go On Unto Perfection," using Hebrews 6:1 as his scripture. Prayer was by the speaker.

After a very interesting and inspiring message we were dismissed for the noon hour by Rev. Roy Barnes.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

After a delicious lunch, which everyone enjoyed, we convened at 1:00 P.M. with Bro. M. H. Hollis leading in singing, "An Old Account Was Settled," with Sis. Dean Rushing at the Piano and Bro. Reedus Wheat at the organ. Prayer was by Rev. Fred Graham.

The Ordination Service was held next. Bro. Herman Yielding and Bro. James C. Newell were ordained to preach the Gospel. Rev. Billy Buchanan delivered the Ordination Message using II Timothy 4:1-5 and Malachi 2:5-7 as his scripture. Rev. M. H. Hollis gave the charge. The Ordination Prayer was offered by Rev. Roy Barnes. The congregation was invited to come by and shake hands with the two preachers that were ordained and their wives. During this time we had two congregational songs, "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus," and "Amazing Grace," directed by Rev. Walter Jagers with Sis. Dean Rushing at the piano.

Rev. Charles Fowler brought the afternoon devotion using Romans 12:1-2 as his scripture. Prayer was by the speaker.



Next the moderator appointed Bro. Dewey Jordan to serve a five year term on the Credential Committee.

The moderator appointed a Committee on Committees for the 1977 associational year.

Next the moderator appointed the Executive Committee for the 1977 associational year.

Next the moderator appointed the seven-member Youth Camp Committee. (See Committees).

Rev. M. H. Hollis was elected to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Alabama Free Will Baptist Youth Camp. Rev. Billy Sharpston was elected to fill the unexpired term on this board, vacated by Rev. Billy R. Smith, leaving the association.

The moderator called for a report of the Temperance Committee. The report was given by Bro. Robert Carter, using Genesis 9:20-21 and Deuteronomy 21:21-23 for his scripture.

A report of the Appreciation Committee was given by Sister Sandy Carter. We had a motion, second and vote carried to give the Free Will Chapel Church a rising vote of appreciation for their fine hospitality.

We had a final report of the General Board by the clerk. We had a motion, second and vote carried to take up the one item of business that was tabled this morning and vote on it. We had a motion, second and vote carried to adopt the report.

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

Mr. Robert Carter	Mrs. Ora Jordan
Mrs. Robert Carter	Mrs. Walter Jagers
Mrs. Billy Sharpston	Mr. Clyde Motes
Mrs. Beatrice Christian	Mr. Jack McLemore
Mrs. Helen Chandler	Mrs. Jack McLemore
Mrs. Avis Graves	Mr. Russell Hudson

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

Alabama-Mississippi State Line Association

Rev. Edward Puckett  
Rev. M. H. Hollis  
Rev. Roy Barnes

Mt. Moriah Association

Rev. Byron M. Meyer  
Rev. W. D. Glasgow  
Rev. M. H. Hollis

Churches requesting the next setting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association were recognized. Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church was the only church requesting the next meeting of the association. We had a motion, second and vote carried to hold the 1977 session of this association at Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church. It will be held on October 15, 1977.

Next we had an election of the officers for the next year. Nomination was opened for moderator of the association for the coming year. Rev. M. H. Hollis, Rev. Robert Franks, and Rev. Billy Buchanan were nominated. The body elected Rev. M. H. Hollis to serve as moderator.

The moderator called for nomination for assistant moderator. Rev. Billy Buchanan, Rev. Fred Graham, and Rev. Robert Franks were nominated. The body elected Rev. Billy Buchanan to serve as assistant moderator.

Nomination was open to clerk of the association. Raphael Yerby was elected to serve the association as clerk.

Next the moderator called for nomination for assistant clerk of the association. Regina Yerby was elected to serve as assistant clerk.

We had a motion, second and vote carried to adjourn this session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. We were dismissed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned.

#### CHURCHES AND DELEGATES AS LISTED

BEAVERTON— Sisters Mary Weeks, Nora Smith and Verla Otts.

BELK— Sisters Lorene Jordan, Flora Gilreath, Iva Overton, Louise Ham, and Bro. Laren Williams.

DAVIS CHAPEL— Sisters Lillie Sanford, Euline Moore, Jesmer Nelson, and Pat Sanford.

EAST SIDE— Sisters Lorene Williams, Burma Jordan, Bros. Charles Fowler, and Robert Miller.

FREE WILL CHAPEL— Bro. Billy Joe Turner, Charles Elliott, Jr., Leon Sizemore, and James Hollis.

FRIENDSHIP— Sisters Lura Moore, Avis Cline, and Bro. Randy Junkin.

LIBERTY— Sisters Eulie Mae Dubose, Louise Couch, Bros. Randolph Couch, and Wayne Dubose.

LOVE JOY— Sisters Nell Brown, Jerri Yielding, and Bro. Ottis Callan.

MT. HARMONY— Sisters Alice Johnson, Dorothy Crawford, Bros. Frankie Beasley, and David Barton.

MT. PLEASANT— Sisters Helen Chandler, Oza Cooper, and Bro. Curtis Corbell.

MT. WILLING— Sisters Dorothy Rye, Sandy Lee Roberts, Bros. Roger Rye, and Ellis Guin.

PINEY GROVE— Sisters Gera Mae Bobo, Annette Eastman, Minnie Robertson, Rosa Nell Robertson, Bro. Jerry Eastman.

SPRINGFIELD— Sisters Dean Rushing, Ora Jordan, Lonie Fay Franks, and Bro. Carroll Gibson.

SULLIGENT— Sisters Elsie Boyett, Kitty Taylor, Bros. James Price, and Snowball

Taylor.

TAYLOR SPRINGS— Sisters Shelia Perkins and Eunice Perkins.

UNION CHAPEL— Sisters Daisey Clearman, Joyce Hardy, Avis Graves, and Bro. Benny Hardy.

VERNON— Sisters Shirley Sharpston, Sondra Carter, Beatrice Christian, Elizabeth Hankins Ina Yerby, Bros. Mike Rogers, and Robert Carter.

### GENERAL BOARD

BEAVERTON— None Listed

BELK— Bro. Don Byars

DAVIS CHAPEL— None Listed

EAST SIDE— Bro. Paul Jordan

FREE WILL CHAPEL— Bro. Reedus Wheat

FRIENDSHIP— Bro. Randy Junkin

LIBERTY— Bro. Bobby Joe Black

LOVE JOY— None Listed

MT. HARMONY— Bro. Erbie Robertson

MT. PLEASANT— Bro. Raymond Brown

MT. WILLING— Bro. Earl McDonald

PINEY GROVE— Bro. Jerry W. Eastman

SPRINGFIELD— Bro. Dewey Jordan

SULLIGENT— None Listed

TAYLOR SPRINGS— None Listed

UNION CHAPEL— Bro. Benny Hardy

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. Harmony

Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Willing

Piney Grove

Sulligent

Springfield

Taylor Springs

Union Chapel

Vernon

### COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS FOR 1976

#### CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Bro. Pascal Yerby - 1977

Rev. Roy Barnes - 1978

Rev. M. H. Hollis - 1979

Rev. Billy Buchanan - 1980

Bro. Dewey Jordan - 1981

#### YOUTH CAMP BOARD

#### OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Billy Buchanan - 1977

Bro. L. C. Steedley - 1978

Rev. M. H. Hollis - 1979

#### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN

#### EDUCATION

Rev. Billy Buchanan - 1977

Rev. Jerry Smith - 1978

Rev. Charles Hollingshead-1979

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. M. H. Hollis

Rev. Billy Buchanan

Bro. Raphael Yerby

Bro. Reedus Wheat

Bro. Erbie Robertson

Bro. Jack McLemore

Bro. Paul Jordan



DIGEST COMMITTEE 1977

Sister Avis Cline  
Sister Eulie Mae Dubose  
Bro. Leon Sizemore

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND  
C.T.S. COMMITTEE

Bro. Wayne Dubose  
Sister Alice Johnson  
Sister Daisey Clearman

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Sister Sandra Carter  
Sister Louise Ham  
Sister Eulene Moore

DECEASED MEMBERS  
COMMITTEE

Bro. Billy Joe Turner  
Bro. Charles Fowler  
Sister Nell Brown

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bro. Roger Rye  
Sister Dean Rushing  
Sister Gera Mae Bobo

YOUTH CAMP COMMITTEE

Rev. Byron M. Meyer - 1977  
Bro. L. C. Steedley - 1978  
Bro. Robert Carter - 1979  
Sis. Shirley Sharpston - 1980  
Sis. L. C. Steedley - 1981  
Rev. M. H. Hollis - 1982  
Sis. Lonie Fay Franks - 1983

COMMITTEE ONGN COMMITTEES

Bro. James Price  
Bro. Wayne Dubose  
Bro. Benny Hardy  
TEMPERANCE

COMMITTEE 1977

Sister Verla Otts  
Sister Beatrice Christian  
Sister Shelia Perkins

**GENERAL BOARD REPORT**

We, the General Board make the following report:

- (1) We recommend that the moderator appoint a seven (7) member Youth Camp Committee of ministers, laymen, and laywomen. This committee will be responsible for making plans, setting standards and guidelines for the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association Youth Camp week activities. This committee will serve a seven (7) year term with one member coming off each year and the moderator appointing a new member each year. The moderator will fill any unexpired terms by appointment. The committee will choose its own chairman. M. S. C.

Item one amended as follows:

The moderator will appoint only those members each year to the committee that plan to attend the Youth Camp Week. M. S. C.

- (2) We recommend that we add to item nine (9) of the Constitution that no member of this association shall be eligible to serve as moderator of the association until he has been a member of the association for at least two (2) years. M. S. C.

Respectfully submitted  
Rev. L. B. Nix, chairman

## APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Appreciation Committee make the following report:

We wish to extend to Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church our sincere appreciation and thanks for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our associational meeting on Saturday, October 16, 1976. We sincerely appreciate the delicious meal prepared for us by the ladies of the host church.

Respectfully submitted  
Sister Sandy Carter, chairman

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Finance Committee have examined the letters from our various churches and find that a total of \$630.00 was sent to this association as minute funds. There is a balance in the treasury from 1976 of \$79.49. Our total estimated expenditures for 1976 is approximately \$550.00.

Respectfully submitted  
Bro. Roger Rye, chairman

## COMMITTEE REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We, the Committee on Deceased Members report the following:

BEAVERTON— Bro. Joe Barnes

BELK— None

DAVIS CHAPEL— Bro. John D. Moore, Sr.

EAST SIDE— None

FRIENDSHIP— None

FREE WILL CHAPEL— Bro. R. D. Franks

LIBERTY— Sister Alfa Hester, Bro. F. L. Lawrence

LOVE JOY— None

MT. HARMONY— Bro. Howell Taggart, Sister Alice Wheeler

MT. PLEASANT— None

MT. WILLING— Sister Vena Guin, Sister Bertha McDonald, Sister Bell Motes,  
Bro. Lloyd Crews, Bro. Leonard McDonald

PINEY GROVE— Sister Lizzie Gosa, Sister Mary Flynn, Bro. Grady Reese

SPRINGFIELD— None

SULLIGENT— None

TAYLOR SPRINGS— None

UNION CHAPEL— Rev. E. W. Graves, Bro. Earnest Haynes

VERNON— None

Revelation 22:5 says "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign for ever and ever." M. S. C.

Respectfully submitted  
Bro. Charles Fowler, chairman

### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C. T. S. COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Our Sunday School enrollment is 1,315 with an average attendance of 1140. We show a gain of 264 in Sunday School over last year.

Our C. T. S. enrollment is 493 with an average attendance of 425. This is an increase of 73 members in C. T. S. classes.

We would like to encourage more of our churches to establish a C. T. S. program and the churches that already have them, to support them as faithfully as possible. M. S. C.

Respectfully submitted  
Wayne Dubose, chairman

### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

The Board this past year, 1975-1976 sponsored eight (8) Youth Rallies. We want to express our thanks to each church who invited us to meet with them and who have taken an active part in the Youth Rallies.

Our fifth annual C. T. S. Rally was held this past year with the Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. The interest was high and the competition was very keen. Again, as in the last four years, we have had representatives in the State and National levels from our association. This year our association had one National winner. Miss Janet Perkins of Liberty Free Will Baptist Church was first runner-up in category nine, Creative Writing.

We pray that more of our young people and churches will become involved in our Youth Rallies and in the C. T. S. competition. We urge our pastors to help their youth and encourage them in taking part in competitive events and related activities.

If we on the Board of Christian Education can be of any help to any of our churches, please contact us.

We make one request of the association this year, that of changing our competitive events from the month of May to April. This will enable us to have more time to get our dues to the state meeting and be better prepared for the state meeting. M. S. C.

Respectfully submitted  
Rev. Billy Buchanan, chairman

### CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Credential Committee recommend that Sulligent Free Will Baptist Church be accepted in full fellowship into the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. Charles Fowler be accepted in full fellowship into the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. Herman Yielding be ordained to preach the Gospel. M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. James C. Newell be ordained to preach the Gospel. M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. C. A. Barnes be granted a letter of good standing and recommend him to the Jasper Association. M. S. C.

We recommend that a card of good standing be granted to the ministers on our roll of ministers with the exception of Rev. V. R. Lay, who no longer attends a church in the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. Edward Puckett be accepted in full fellowship into the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. Billy R. Smith be granted a letter of good standing and recommend him to the Little Brown Creek Association of Mississippi. M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. Walter D. Jaggers be accepted in full fellowship into the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. J. B. Ledlow be granted a letter of good standing and recommend him to the Cahaba River Association. M. S. C.

We recommend that Rev. Charles Hollingshead be accepted in full fellowship into the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. M. S. C.

Respectfully submitted  
Bro. Grady Newman, chairman

## REPORT OF DIGEST COMMITTEE

## STATISTICS

## Church Membership

Resident .....	1586
Non-Resident .....	389
Total Membership .....	1983

## Members Received

By Baptism .....	74
By Letter .....	66
Total Members Received .....	140

## Members Lost

Lost to Non-Free Will Baptist Churches .....	12
Total Members Lost .....	37

## Sunday School Enrollment

Number Enrolled .....	1315
Average Attendance .....	1140

## C. T. S. Enrollment

Number Enrolled .....	493
Average Attendance .....	425

## Women's Auxiliary Enrollment

Number Enrolled .....	25
Average Attendance .....	18

## Master's Men Enrollment

Number Enrolled .....	13
Average Attendance .....	9

## Mid-Week Service

Average Attendance .....	338
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## Evangelistic Outreach

Visitation .....	9
Revivals .....	14
Others .....	2

## Vacation Bible Schools

Enrollment .....	732
Average Attendance .....	675

Number of Ordained Ministers ..... 24

Number of Licensed Ministers ..... 10

## Number of Students at Free Will Baptist

Bible College .....	2
Other Colleges .....	13



## Pastors

Full Time Employment .....	6
No Outside Employment .....	9
Part-Time Employment .....	2

## Financial

## Church Finances

Total Receipts, Tithes, and Offerings .....	\$205,479.17
Amount Borrowed .....	66,377.36
Total Receipts .....	\$282,918.48

## Spent For Local Causes

Pastor's Salary .....	\$ 84,135.13
Other Staff .....	3,908.52
Paid for Remodeling and Building .....	61,117.20
Debt Retirement .....	40,171.59
Other Local Expenditures .....	45,348.70
Total Spent for Local Causes .....	\$234,686.32

## Spent For Outside Causes

Executive Offices .....	\$ 73.40
Foreign Missions .....	3,286.91
Retirement and Insurance Board .....	377.51
C. T. S. ....	335.00
Other National Ministries .....	513.65
Free Will Baptist Bible College .....	1,974.10
Home Missions .....	2,783.59
Designated District or State Ministries .....	12,196.40
Total Spent for Outside Causes .....	\$ 20,204.63

Respectfully submitted  
Rev. Robert Franks, chairman

## VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance from 1975 .....	\$ 79.49
Minute Funds Received .....	630.00
Offering Received .....	81.61
Total .....	\$791.10

## Expenditures

Moderator .....	\$ 10.00
Guest Speaker .....	100.00
Clerk .....	50.00
Assistant Clerk .....	25.00
Minutes .....	\$340.00
State Association .....	\$120.00
Postage and Supplies .....	20.00
Total Expenditures .....	\$665.00

Balance .....	\$126.10
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VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CHURCH	PASTOR	Pastor's Telephone	CLERK	Members Received	Members Deceased	Total Members	Number In Sunday School	Number In C. T. S.	Number In Ladies Auxiliary	Ordained Ministers
BEAVERTON	Rev. Bud Pugh Route # 4 Hamilton, Al. 35570	921-3994	Marie Hayes P. O. Box # 43 Beaverton, Al. 35544	15	1	32	38	0	0	0
BELK	Rev. Walter D. Jaggers Belk, Al. 35545	932-3144	Rosa Lea Atkins Belk, Al. 35545	1	0	132	70	60	0	2
DAVIS CHAPEL	Fev. Charles Fowler Route # 5 Fayette, Al. 35555	932-6589	Pat Sanford Route # 5, Box 193 Northport, Al. 35476	6	1	93	64	0	0	1
EAST SIDE	Rev. Byron M. Meyer 4014 - 6th. Street East Tuscaloosa, Al. 35401	553-4763	Karen M. Wyatt 440 - 26th. Ave. West Tuscaloosa, Al. 35401	21	0	106	84	53	15	1
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Rev. L. B. Nix Route # 2 Sulligent, Al. 35586	695-9840	Reedus Wheat Route # 1 Vernon, Al. 35592	10	1	132	100	0	10	1
FRIENDSHIP	Rev. James C. Newell Route # 1 Vernon, Al. 35592	695-6101	Martha Ford Route # 1, Box 162 Millport, Al. 35576	3	0	48	35	0	0	2
LIBERTY	Rev. Billy Buchanan Route # 2 Vernon, Al. 35592	695-9400	Steve Butler Route # 2 Fayette, Al. 35555	9	2	227	130	70	0	1
LOVE JOY	Rev. Charles Yielding Route # 1 Hamilton, Al. 35570	---	Ellie Ruth Mixon Route # 1 Beaverton, Al. 35544	10	0	49	50	0	0	2
MT. HARMONY	Rev. M. H. Hollis 201 - 8th. Street, N.E. Vernon, Al. 35592	695-7736	Erbie Robertson Route # 3, Box 622 Vernon, Al. 35592	7	2	126	101	54	0	1
MT. PLEASANT	Rev. Roy Barnes Route # 1 Vernon, Al. 35592	695-9229	Peggy Corbell Route # 1 Caledonia, Ms. 39740	0	0	73	47	0	0	1
MT. WILLING	Rev. Jerry Smith P. O. Box # 616 Vernon, Al. 35592	695-7418	Malene Collins P. O. Box # 604 Winfield, Al. 35594	13	5	180	75	0	0	4
PINEY GROVE	Rev. Charles Hollingshead 3705 - 29th. Street Northport, Al. 35476	752-7000	Mrs. Danny Atkinson Route # 1 Guin, Al. 35563	17	3	151	100	50	0	3
SPRINGFIELD	Rev. Robert D. Franks P. O. Box 473 Vernon, Al. 35592	695-7556	Tommie Rushing Route # 1, Box 217 Vernon, Al. 35592	1	0	201	92	50	0	1
SULLIGENT	Rev. Edward Puckett Route # 1, Box 45-A Sulligent, Al. 35586	698-8177	Margaret Price P. O. Box # 681 Sulligent, Al. 35586	8	0	101	70	50	0	1
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Rev. C. C. Berryhill Route # 1 Greenwood Springs, Ms. 38848	256-8225	Christine Sizemore Route # 3 Sulligent, Al. 35586	11	0	50	80	0	0	0
UNION CHAPEL	Rev. Fred Graham Vernon, Al. 35592	695-9631	James E. Maddox Route # 2 Vernon, Al. 35592	4	2	119	53	0	0	2
VERNON	Rev. Billy Sharpston P. O. Box 582 Vernon, Al. 35592	695-9730	Mrs. Paul Shelnut P. O. Box # 57 Vernon, Al. 35592	10	0	163	126	89	0	1

CHURCH	Paid Pastors	Paid Childrens Home	Paid Missions	Paid Christian Education	Paid Association Dues	Paid For Improvements	Total Paid Out	Value Of Church Property
BEAVERTON	1,848.70	25.00	0	0	50.00	1,367.29	5,081.12	15,000.00
BELK	6,268.00	300.00	468.86	152.96	50.00	1,160.91	18,636.16	125,000.00
DAVIS CHAPEL	1,224.28	124.80	200.00	100.00	50.00	1,108.16	3,269.15	22,200.00
EAST SIDE	6,500.00	728.75	550.40	220.20	35.00	0	23,486.24	120,000.00
FREE WILL CHAPEL	8,790.00	314.00	0	0	50.00	1,931.00	16,430.00	80,000.00
FRIENDSHIP	600.00	92.01	0	0	30.00	0	1,273.54	15,000.00
LIBERTY	8,860.00	440.00	1,459.00	522.00	50.00	38,000.00	60,034.00	80,000.00

LOVE JOY	1,461.58	0	0	0	0	1,500.00	3,592.42	19,500.00
MT. HARMONY	11,125.00	0	180.00	399.05	50.00	9,683.73	37,709.75	25,000.00
MT. PLEASANT	2,209.10	150.00	292.00	0	50.00	0	3,559.37	25,000.00
MT. WILLING	4,800.00	932.00	218.00	0	65.00	448.00	7,516.00	20,000.00
PINEY GROVE	3,500.00	1,443.00	425.00	50.00	50.00	812.00	8,984.00	50,000.00
SPRINGFIELD	6,163.65	1,539.63	138.24	138.24	50.00	981.57	17,346.22	35,000.00
SULLIGENT	5,200.00	464.65	929.30	489.65	0	3,654.42	14,793.75	106,000.00
TAYLOR SPRINGS	3,160.00	0	0	0	0	0	6,797.20	20,000.00
UNION CHAPEL	4,625.00	100.00	0	0	50.00	0	6,330.63	38,000.00
VERNON	7,800.00	2,413.16	1,209.70	0	0	470.12	31,366.81	200,000.00

## NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

Rev. S. F. Lee, Route 1, Guin, Alabama 35563  
 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. M. H. Hollis, 201-8th Street, N. E., Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Delmus Miller, Route 2, Winfield, Alabama 35594  
 Rev. L. B. Nix, Route 2, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
 Rev. Billy Sharpston, P. O. Box 582, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. J. W. Spencer, Route 2, Guin, Alabama 35563  
 Rev. Billy Buchanan, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Byron M. Meyer, 4014-6th Street East, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401  
 Rev. Jerry Smith, P. O. Box 616, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. W. H. Clearman, Route 3, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Fred Graham, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Quineth Haney, Guin, Alabama 35563  
 Rev. Charles Fowler, Route 5, Fayette, Alabama 35555  
 Rev. Edward Puckett, Route 1, Box 45-A, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
 Rev. Walter D. Jaggers, Belk, Alabama 35545  
 Rev. Charles Hollingshead, 3705-29th St., Northport, Alabama 35476  
 Rev. James C. Newell, Route 1, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
 Rev. Herman Yielding, Route 1, Beaverton, Alabama 35544

## LIST OF DEACONS

BEAVERTON— Robert Bobo, Bud Woods, Roland White.

BELK— Raphael Yerby, Grady Newman, Dalton Gilpin, Roy Gilreath, Mackey Watkins.

DAVIS CHAPEL— Raymond Grey, John Pike, Belton Nelson.

EAST SIDE— Richard Dean, J. H. Thompson, Bedford Hester, Paul Jordan, E. A. South, James Cooper.

FREE WILL CHAPEL— Charlie Elliott, Sr., Edsel Gideon, Edward Barnes, Connie Smith, L. D. Hall, Daniel Franks.

FRIENDSHIP— James E. Price, James C. Newell.

LIBERTY— R. T. Mixon, Bobby Joe Black, L. R. Dubose, Willie J. Perkins, Arnold Hester.

LOVE JOY— Coy Robertson, Quineth Haney, Herman Yielding.

MT. HARMONY— S. L. Cash, Olen Wheeler, Odis Robertson, O. B. Graham, Coy Johnson, Erbie Robertson, Derrell Wheeler.

MT. PLEASANT— W. M. Cooper.

MT. WILLING— A. J. McDonald, Jeff McDonald, H. E. McDonald, Earl McDonald, Arlie Roberts, Emmett Lee, E. O. Shelnut, Elzie Guin, Obie Haney, Hoyt Chaffin.

PINEY GROVE— Elvada Markham, Arlanda Shelnut, J. M. Chaffin, C. E. Roberts, Fred Barnes, Ozell Cantrell.

SPRINGFIELD— Dewey Jordan, Tommie Rushing, Haley Wright, J. A. Harper, Dempsey Langley.

TAYLOR SPRINGS— Stanley Cooper, Gary Sizemore.



UNION CHAPEL— James E. Maddox, Carlos Bradford, Lamon Duckworth, Don Freeman.

VERNON— B. E. Turner, P. N. Yerby, Titus Barnes, Eris Wilson, Loyd Turner, Paul Shelnut.

### 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. J. A. Isbell, Rev. G. B. Taylor, Rev. A. White, Rev. E. A. Palmer, Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Rev. T. J. Adair, Rev. J. Barnes, Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. J. B. Tittle, Rev. M. L. Hollis, Rev. E. W. Graves.

### 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. McNees, Johnny Williams, Johnny Collins, Dewitt Williams, J. G. Adair, Cullen Collins, John D. Moore Sr., R. D. Franks.

### 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. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this association as a preacher who uses tobacco in any form.



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 on Saturday before the third Sunday in October each year 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(a). 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.
- 9(b). No member of this association shall be eligible to serve as moderator of the association until he had been a member of the association for at least two (2) years.
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.

15(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 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 distributing 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. 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.
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.

16. The Vernon Free Will Baptist Associational Year shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August each year and hold the annual meetings on Saturday before the third Sunday in October of each year.

17. The Executive Committee shall secure a speaker for the 11:00 o'clock message and plan the program for each annual session of the association.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Bible.** The Scripture of the Old and New Testament 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, Preservor, 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 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 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. **Perserverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace perserve 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."

#### 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.

2. This board shall, along with the duly elected officers and the host pastor, plan the programs of the rallies each month.

3. The Board of Christian Education shall work with all churches in getting them involved in the Youth Rally work and other related projects.

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 the senior member in point of service being replaced each year.

6. The board shall be responsible each year for planning the District T-N-T Rally in May.



## 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. Committee 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.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Call to order.
1. 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 perservance 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.

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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?