

**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH
SESSION**

of the

**VERNON FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

held with

**FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH OF SULLIGENT**

1997 Minutes

OFFICERS FOR 1997
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH SESSION

MODERATOR REV. RANDY WRIGHT
ASSISTANT MODERATOR REV. JERRY WILLIAMS
CLERK BRO. RAPHAEL H. YERBY

The next session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with Liberty Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 14, 1998. Registration will begin at 9:30 A.M., and service will begin at 10:00 A.M. The annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon on Saturday, October 17, 1998, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

OFFICERS FOR 1998

MODERATOR REV. RANDY WRIGHT
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Telephone (205) 468-3740
ASSISTANT MODERATOR REV. JERRY WILLIAMS
532 Westwood Road, Vernon, Alabama 35592
Telephone (205) 695-6939
CLERK BRO. RAPHAEL H. YERBY
232 - 20th St., N. W., Fayette, Alabama 35555
Telephone (205) 932-4595

PROCEEDINGS

The one hundred and seventeenth session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with the First Will Baptist Church of Sulligent on Saturday, October 18, 1997. Rev. Randy Wright served as moderator, Rev. Jerry Willialms served as assistant moderator and Bro. Raphael H. Yerby served as clerk.

The meeting opened with a song, "When We All Get To Heaven", directed by Bro. Randy Wright. The opening prayer was by Bro. Paul Jordan

We were welcomed to the First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulligent by the host pastor, Rev. Tim Riggs. The response was given by Rev. Jerry Williams, pastor of the Springfield Church.

The morning devotion was brought by Rev. M. H. Hollis. He used Luke 10:30 as his scripture text. Prayer was by the speaker

We were welcomed to this session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association by the moderator, Rev. Randy Wright.

The Digest Committee report was given by Bro. Paul Jordan, Chairman.. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report and discharge the committee. Bro. Jordan also gave us a brief report on the work of the Gideons. We had prayer for the Gideon work by Rev. Don Taggart.

We had a roll call of the delegates by the clerk. We had a motion, second and vote to seat the delegates and to proceed with the business of the association.

The moderator called for petitionary letters. None were received.

The Committee on Committees' report was given by Rev. David Sanderson, Chairman, and the various committees were appointed to report to this session of the association. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report. At this time, the moderator appointed a Committee on Committees for the 1998 session of the association. (See List.)

Teh moderator recognized visiting brethren and invited them to seat with us during this session of the association. Those present were Rev. Richard Cordell, Rev. Rick Cash, Bro. Jerry Millon and Rev. Terry Forrest.

The moderator recognized Rev. Rick Cash, director of the Trinity Free Will Baptist Youth Camp and asked him to share some of the activities of the youth camp with us. Brother Cash shared a very interesting and informative report with us of what was happening at our youth camp. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report as information.

At this time, we elected one member to serve a three (3) year term on the Youth Camp Board of Directors. (See List.)

The moderator recognized Rev. Richard Cordell, Alabama State Promotional Director. Rev. Cordell gave us a report on many things of the Alabama State Association.

We had a partial report of the Credentials Committee by Rev. Jerry Williams. We had a motion, second and vote to take the report item by item and vote on each item. Two (2) of the items dealt with a change of By-Laws and were tabled until the afternoon session. All other items were adopted by the delegated body.

We had a partial report of the Board of Christian Education by Bro. Mike McDaniel. This report dealt with changing the By-Laws of the Board of Christian Education and was tabled until the afternoon session.

We were dismissed by the moderator for a short recess. The dismissal prayer was by Rev. Rick Cash.

After recess we had a song, "Glory to His Name" directed by Bro. Wright. Prayer was by Rev. Dale Ford. We had another song, "I Want to Be A Worker" and prayer by Rev. Eustace Riggs.

The 11:00 A.M. message was brought by Rev. Terry Forrest, from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. The subject of his message was "The Church That Failed". His scripture texts were Genesis 13:12-13, Genesis 19:14 and Matthew 11:21. Prayer was by the speaker. After a very inspiring message, we had an invitation for an altar prayer. Many of our congregation responded to the invitation. The prayer was by Rev. James Walden..

Just before the noon hour, we received an offering for our guest speaker. The offeratory prayer was by Rev. Larry Reynolds. The offering was \$260.00.

We were dismissed for the noon hour. The dismissal prayer and blessing of the food was by Rev. Mike Dankson.

AFTERNOON SESSION

After a delicious lunch and the noon hour of fellowship, we convened back in session at 1:00 P.M. with a songs, "At The Cross", directed by Bro. Wright.

The afternoon devotion was brought by Rev. Larry Reynolds, Pastor of Belk Free Will Baptist Church. His scripture text was from Isaiah 63:1. Prayer was by the speaker.

We had a final report of the Credentials Committee. Items I and II that were tabled in the morning session were taken off the table and both items were adopted by the delegated body.

The moderator appointed Bro. Pascal Yerby to a five (5) year term on the Credentials Committee.

We had a report of the Women Active for Christ by Sister Bonnie Williams, Chairperson. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report.

The Appreciation Committee report was given by Sister Elwanda Oakes, Chairperson. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The Sunday School and C.T.S. Committee report was given by Bro. David Trentelman, Chairman. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The Finance Committee report was given by Bro. Roger Rye, Chairman. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The Deceased Members Committee report was given by Sister Theresa Taggart, Chairperson. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report, sing "Amazing Grace", and have prayer in memory of these loved ones. Prayer was by Rev. Bill Duncan.

We had a report of the Temperance Committee by Sister Virginia Duncan, Chairperson. We had a motion, second and vote to receive the report and discharge the committee.

We had a final report of the Board of Christian Education by Bro. Mike McDaniel. The items that were tabled in the morning session were taken off the table and voted on and adopted by the delegated body.

At this time, one member was elected to serve a five (5) year term on the Board of Christian Education and one member was elected to serve out the unexpired term of Rev. Clark Ryman. (See List)

The moderator appointed the following delegates to the Alabama State Association:

Sister Elwanda Oakes

Sister Sue Yerby

Sister Bonnie Williams

Bro. Clyde Motes

Sister Dorthy Hollis

We selected a place for the Thanksgiving Service. The Belk Free Will Baptist Church invited us to meet with them for the association Thanksgiving

service. A committee was appointed, Rev. James Walden, Rev. Don Taggart and Rev. David Sanderson, to work with the host pastor, Rev. Larry Reynolds, to plan the Thanksgiving Service and secure a speaker. The Thanksgiving Service will be held with the Belk Free Will Baptist Church on Tuesday night, November 25, 1997, beginning at 7:00 P.M.

A place was chosen for the next two (2) meetings of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. The Liberty Free Will Baptist Church requested the March meeting. The body voted to accept the invitation and hold the March meeting at the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church. The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14, 1998. Registration begins at 9:30 A.M., and the service will begin at 10:00 A.M. The First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon invited us to meet with them for the October meeting. The body voted to hold the annual association meeting at the Vernon Church. The meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17, 1998, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

The moderator called for the election of officers of the association for the next year. The floor was opened for nomination of clerk of the association. Raphael Yerby was the only nominee and was elected by acclamation to serve as clerk.

Nomination was opened for assistant moderator of the association. Rev. Jerry Williams was the only nominee and was elected by acclamation to serve as assistant moderator.

Nomination was opened for moderator of the association.. Rev. Randy Wright was the only nominee and was elected by acclamation to serve as moderator.

We had a motion, second and vote to adjourn this session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. The dismissal prayer was by Bro. Steve Butler. The meeting adjourned.

There were a total of 104 people who registered for this session of the association. They were as follows:

Ministers	25	Delegates	46
Deacons	20	Visitors	13
Ministers that registered			
Rev. Randy Wright		Rev. Roy G. Plymon	
Rev. Richard Cordell		Rev. Donald Kivette	
Rev. Tim Riggs		Rev. James F. Walden	
Rev. Don Taggart		Rev. Dale Ford	
Rev. Charles Fowler		Rev. Jimmy Martin	

Rev. Jerry Williams
Rev. Dewight Bailey
Rev. Mike Dankson
Rev. Lloyd George
Rev. Larry Reynolds
Rev. Bill Duncan
Rev. John Powell
Rev. Mark Collier

Rev. Rick Powers
Rev. David Sanderson
Rev. Terry Forrest
Rev. E. A. Riggs
Rev. M. H. Hollis
Rev. Aubrey Gibson
Rev. Rick Cash

SEMIANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 1996

The semiannual meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held on Saturday, March 15, 1997, with the New Center Point Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. Randy Wright served as moderator.

The meeting was opened with a song "The Glory-Land Way", directed by Bro. Kenny Ford. We had another song, "Sunshine in the Soul", directed by Bro. Ford. The opening prayer was by Rev. M. H. Hollis, pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Free Will Baptist Church.

We were welcomed to the New Center Point Church by the host pastor, Rev. Don Taggart.

We had a special in song by Sister Ruth Vann.

We were welcomed to this session of the association by the moderator, Rev. Randy Wright.

The morning devotion was brought by Rev. Tim Riggs, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulligent.. He used Mark 14:32-38 and Second Corinthians 5:21 as his scripture text. Prayer was by the speaker.

Rev. Rick Cash was asked to share some of the Trinity Free will Baptist Youth Camp plans and activities for the coming year with us. He also gave us a report on the Alabama State Mission work. The State Mission Board challenged the Vernon Association to raise \$3,000.00 for State Mission work. He also announced April 14, 1997, as a work day at Prattville, Alabama, to start a church building.

We had two (2) congregational songs, "The Lily of the Valley" and "O, I Want to See Him", directed by Bro. Ford.

We had a special in song by Sister Dana Rasbury.

The moderator recognized Bro. David Crowe, a young preacher, and asked him to give his testimony.

We received an offering for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Building Fund. the offeratory prayer was by Rev. Don Taggart. The amount of the offering received was \$137.11.

The 11:00 A.M. message was brought by Rev. Dale Ford, pastor of the Splunge Free Will Baptist Church. His subject was "The Thief Without and the Thief Within". He used First Timothy 6:20 as his scripture text. After a very good message, the moderator asked for a time of altar prayer. Many responded to this invitation and prayer was by Rev. Mike Dankson.

The moderator asked for announcements. After several church announcements and prayer requests, we were dismissed from this session of the Vernon Association and for the noon meal. We were served a delicious meal by the New Center Point Church. The dismissal prayer and blessing of the food was by Rev. Roy Plymon, pastor of Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES LISTED

BEAVERTON- Sisters Benita Stanford, Christy Trentelman and Bro. David Trentelman.

BELK- Sisters Sue Yerby, Angie Knight, Sherry Reynolds, Bros. Ed Knight, Scott Stanford, Philip Carroll and Cindy Byars, Alternates.

COOPER - Sisters Evelyn Sandlin, Willadean Miles, Annette Lamb and Willer Dean Spratlin.

DAVIS CHAPEL - Sisters Louise Cannon, Lorene Pike, Dora Lee Pennington and Betty gray.

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sisters Fay Wise, Mary Wise, Virginia Duncan and Sheila Irvin

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Sisters Georgia Lee Hall, Judy Gideon, Jewel Banks Otts and Liz Mays., Alternate

FRIENDSHIP - Sister Lura Moore

LIBERTY - Bros. Steve Butler, Barksdale Higgins, and Sister Ruby Nell Higgins.

LOVE JOY - Bros. James Carter, Heath Yielding, Garry Sorrells, J. R. Coley, George Gilliland and Alternate Marty Stockman.

MT. HARMONY - Bro. J. T. Johnson, Cleo Brown, Sisters Kay Steedley, Vina Walden and Aileen Brown.

MT. PLEASANT - Sisters Olene Morton, Pearlle Allen, Mary Merchant, Mary Parker and Alternate Michelle Merchant.

MT. WILLING - Bro. Roger Rye and Sister Dorthy Rye

NEW CENTER POINT - Bros. Wade Vann, Dennis Tate, Sisters Ruth Vann, Mittie Tate, Theresa Taggart and Johnnie Ford.

PINEY GROVE - Bros. Scott Akers, James Burleson and Sister Gera Mae Bobo.

SPLUNGE - Bro. Bill Elam, Sisters Faye Blaylock and Linda Ford.

SPRINGFIELD - Bros. Dick Walters, Harold Goode, Sisters Betty Jo Goode and Bonnie Williams.

FIRST F.W.B. SULLIGENT - Bros. Robert Carter, Troy Kelley, Sisters Sandra Carter, Una Kelley, Viola Lowe, Shirley Hulsey and Alternates Donna Gunter and Polly Mixon.

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bro. J. C. Young, Steve Spencer, Sisters Karen Sue Brown and Martha Bradford .

UNION CHAPEL - Bro. Benny Hardy, Sisters Joyce Hardy, Lois Simmons, Wilma Dooley and Lucille Bradford.

FIRST F.W.B. VERNON - Bro. Mike McDaniel, Clyde Motes, Sisters Gloria Christian, Eldridge Motes, Lou Ella Knight, Debbie Dankson, Elwanda Oakes, and Alternate Bro. Zadus Turner, Sr.

GENERAL BOARD

BEAVERTON - Elvada Markham

BELK - Dalton Gilpin

COOPER - Edward Finch

DAVIS CHAPEL - None

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Rev. Bill Duncan

FREE WILL CHAPEL - L. D. Hall

FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Lennie R. DuBose

LOVE JOY - Heath Yielding

MT. HARMONY - Phil Wheeler

MT. PLEASANT - Donald Parker

MT. WILLING - Rev. Aubrey Gibson

NEW CENTER POINT - Mickey Hall

PINEY GROVE - Tommy Robertson

SPLUNGE - None

SPRINGFIELD - Dick Walters

SULLIGENT FIRST - Robert Carter

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Steve Spencer

UNION CHAPEL - Jessie Yerby

VERNON FIRST - Zadus Turner, Sr.

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

Mr. Pleasant

Mt. Willing

New Center Point

Piney Grove

Splunge

Springfield

Sulligent, First

Taylor Springs

Union Chapel

Vernon, First

COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS FOR 1997

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Jerry Williams - 1998
 Rev. M. H. Hollis - 1999
 Rev. James Walden - 2000
 Bro. Edsel Gideon, 2001
 Bro. Pascal Yerby, 2002

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.T.S. COMMITTEE

Bro. David Trentelman
 Bro. Ed Knight
 Bro. James Carter
 Sis. Lorene Pike

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bro. J. T. Johnson, Jr.
 Bro. Roger Rye
 Sis. Faye Wise
 Sis. Ruth Vann

DECEASED MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Sis. Theresa Taggart
 Sis. Bonnie Williams
 Bro. Bill Elam
 Bro. Clyde Motes

DIGEST COMMITTEE 1998

Mike McDaniel
 Bro. Robert Carter
 Bro. Tommie Robertson
 Bro. Benny Harday

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Sis. Elwanda Oakes
 Sis. Gloria Christian
 Sis. Martha Bradford
 Sis. Sue Yerby

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rev. Rick Powers - 1998
 Rev. Wade Vann - 1999
 Rev. Aubrey Gibson - 2000
 Bro. Mike McDaniel, 2001
 Bro. Stoney Robertson - 2002

YOUTH CAMP COMMITTEE

All Pastors of the Vernon Association

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Randy Wright
 Rev. Jerry Williams
 Bro. Raphael Yerby
 Bro. Phil Wheeler
 Bro. Dick Walters
 Bro. Dalton Gilpin
 Bro. Zadus Turner, Sr.

YOUTH CAMP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Randy Wright - 1998
 Bro. Steve Butler - 1999
 Bro. Lewis Hindman - 2000

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

Sis. Virginia Duncan
 Sis. Willer Dean Spratlin
 Sis. Faye Blaylock

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES FOR 1998

Rev. Don Taggart
 Rev. Tim Riggs
 Rev. David Sanderson

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND C.T.S. COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Our Sunday School enrollment for this year, 1997, was 1,220 with twenty (20) churches reporting. This is an increase of 46 members over last year.

Our C.T.S. enrollment for this year, 1997, was 150 with four (4) churches reporting as having an active C.T.S. program

We, as a committee, encourage all of our churches to support our Sunday School and C.T.S. programs, as we try to win others to Him.

Respectfully submitted,
David Trentelman, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Finance Committee, submit the following report:

The balance on hand at the end of the current year (8-31-97) is \$612.81. A total of \$1,720.00 has been received from our churches in dues for this year, bringing our balance to \$2,332.81. Our estimated expense for the next year is approximately \$1,950.00, leaving a projected balance of \$382.81 at the end of next year. All of our churches turned in some dues for this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Rye, Chairman

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Credentials Committee, would like to make the following report:

- I. Since our last annual meeting, the Credentials Committee has agreed and voted on the following items of business
 1. January 4, 1997 voted to grant Rev. David Hayes a letter of good standing to the South Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists.
 2. September 28, 1997 we recommend that Rev. Donald Kivette be accepted into the Vernon Association pending a letter of good standing from the State Line Association.
 3. We recommend that Rev. Mark Collier be accepted into the Vernon Association pending a letter of good standing from the State Line Association.
 4. We recommend that Rev. Jimmy Martin be received back into the fellowship of the Vernon Association.

5. We recommend that Rev. Charles Fowler be accepted into the Vernon Association pending a letter of good standing from the Jasper Association.
6. We recommend that Rev. Tim Riggs be accepted into the Vernon Association pending a letter of good standing from the South Mississippi Association.
- II. We recommend that all ministers of the Vernon Association present today be given a card of good standing.
- III. We recommend the following changes be made in the Vernon Association By-Laws.
 1. We recommend that the Vernon Association purchase a new Bible for those who are being ordained and present it to them at the ordination service as a gift from the Vernon Association.
 2. We recommend a change be made in the Vernon Association By-Laws, Item number 11. (A) to read: All ordination of ministers shall be done by the Credentials Committee, the time and place to be agreed upon by the Credentials Committee and the candidate for ordination.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pascal Yerby, Chairman

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Temperance Committee, believe that we are to be temperate in all things as a Christian in God's service. We will have self-control and abstain from worldly pleasures as we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service.

Respectfully Submitted
Virginia Duncan, Chairperson

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Appreciation Committee would like to thank the Sulligent Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association today. We enjoyed the delicious food and wonderful hospitality and fellowship. We appreciate the efforts of our officers, song director and musicians as they led us during the day of worship and business. We thank Rev. M. H. Hollis and Rev. Larry Reynolds for the inspiring devotions and Rev. Terry Forest for

the challenging morning message. We suggest that all in attendance giving a rising vote of thanks to the Sulligent Church for a good day in the Lord.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elwanda Oakes, Chairperson

COMMITTEE REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

We, the Deceased Members Committee, would like to make the following report:

The following members of our association have gone to be with our Lord in the past year:

BEAVERTON - Sister Jackie Spencer

BELK - Sisters Flora Gilreath and Martha Hayes

COOPER - Bros. Gordie Rye and Oscar Jeffreys

DAVIS CHAPEL - None

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Bro. Kelley Easter

FREE WILL CHAPEL - None

FRIENDSHIP - Sisters Cora Allen and Idell Ray

LIBERTY - Sister Icie Tate, Bros. Oder Christian, Vern Randolph and Randolph Couch

LOVE JOY - Bro. Coy Robertson

MT. HARMONY - Bros. Hunter Crawford, Douglas Crawford, Brown Sims and Hoyt Crawford.

MT. PLEASANT - Bro. Garry Springfield

MT. WILLING - Sisters Ethel M. Collins, Judy C. Smith, Autie E. Cook, Nancy Shelnut, Bros. Tom Berryhill, Emmitt Lee, Modie Haney and Harkins Garrison.

NEW CENTER POINT - None

PINEY GROVE - Bros. Pervey Reese, Orville Ritchie, Sisters Donnie V. Reese, Edna Markham and Agnes Collins

SPLUNGE - None

SPRINGFIELD - Sister Ursula Johnson and Bro. Roy Ashby

SULLIGENT, FIRST - Bro. Lee Robinson

TAYLOR SPRINGS - None

UNION CHAPEL -None

VERNON, FIRST - Sisters Docia Turner, Pearlie Duke and Brother James Rector.

We recommend that we stand and sing "Amazing Grace" and have prayer in memory of the loved ones.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Taggart, Chairperson

VERNON DISTRICT WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

The 19th annual session of the Vernon District Women Active for Christ met at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Vernon on March 6, 1997, with 23 ladies attending. Sister Tammy Lancaster from the Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Church and newly appointed missionary to Uruguay was our speaker. A love offering of \$57.00 was given to Sister Tammy. Our total giving for 1997 was \$4,144.47. Of that amount, \$905.00 was sent to foreign missionaries, \$1,115.00 to home missionaries and \$200.00 to the Shirley Kennedy Memorial L.A.M.P. offering. The L.A.M.P. offering was given to Rev. Dave Franks, Jr.

Our state meeting was on May 3, 1997, at the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church in Guin. We had eleven (11) ladies from our district attend this meeting. Bro. Dave and Sis. Becky Franks brought inspiring messages on our theme, "Study: Expanding Knowledge".

The State Prayer Retreat met on September 19-20, 1997, at Shocco Springs Conference Center. There were 13 ladies from the Vernon area at this retreat. We were each challenged and blessed by our speaker, Sister Lois Miller, as she spoke on "Approved to God".

We know that several of our churches have active groups that regularly support our missionaries as well as the other ministries of our denomination. It seems our district gets smaller each year. Therefore, we would like to challenge you to prayerfully consider becoming a part of our district meeting.

We do praise the Lord for what we were able to accomplish in His name last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Sister Bonnie Williams, Sec./Treas.

DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Digest Committee, make the following report:

STATISTICS:

Number of churches (Rural - 17, City - 3)	20
Full-time Pastors	16
Part-time Pastors	4
Tithes and offerings (14 churches reporting)	\$608,685.00
Ordained Ministers	23
Licensed Ministers	1
Ordained Deacons	56
Churches with Day Care	0
Churches with Kindergarten	0
Churches with Sunday School	20
Sunday School Enrollment	1,220
Baptisms	56
Members Added	109
Members Lost	87
Total Membership	2,508
Churches with Parsonage	7
Churches with Budgets	0
Value of all Church Property (12 churches reporting)	\$3,236,000.00
Churches with C.T.S.	4
C.T.S. Enrollment	150
Churches with Ladies Auxiliary	5
Ladies Auxiliary Enrollment	63
Churches with Masters Men	1
Master's Men Enrollment	12

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Jordan, Chairman

VERNON ASSOCIATION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD REPORT

We, the Vernon Association Board of Christian Education, give the following report:

In January, Bro. Clark Ryman left the association and resigned from the board. With the permission from the General Board, we filled this spot until

the annual association, with brother Wade Vann.

February we sponsored a Valentine Banquet for the young people; and for the first time, we offered this to the juniors. Both were well attended. We, the Board, are grateful to Union Chapel and Liberty for hosting this event.

April was the District Youth Competition. There were twelve (12) entries from three (3) different churches. Ten (10) entries went on to the state, with six (6) advancing on to the National Association competition. Congratulations are in order for these young people, for their time, effort and talent that they use for the Lord.

In August, the Board sponsored a Sunday School workshop for the churches in the association. This was a three-session workshop. Brother Alton Loveless did a very good job on presenting this workshop. There was a total of 62 people for all three sessions.

September 6 and 7, we sponsored another workshop on evangelism and soul-winning. The teacher for this was Brother Bob Shockey. Attendance for this was 92 people for all three sessions.

As the C.E. Board, we would like to thank the churches of the association for your support. We want the pastors to use the C.E. Board as another arm of their ministry. I am reminded of a scripture, I Corinthians 3:6-9, where Paul wrote:

"6. I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

This is telling me that we must put away our pride, our jealousy, and indifference and get down to the business of the Lord's work. The C.E. Board wants no recognition, here on earth, for anything that's being done for God's kingdom. That has already been taken care of. Work with us even more this next year. Dedicating it all to Jesus our Wonderful Savior.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike McDaniel, Chairman

CHURCH	PASTOR'S ADDRESS	PASTOR'S TELEPHONE	CLERK'S ADDRESS
BEAVERTON	Rev. DeWight Bailey P. O. Box 85 Nauvoo, AL 35578	697-5979	Mrs. Sharon Cantrell 3105 Mt. Hebron Rd. Beaverton, AL 35544
BELK	Rev. Larry Reynolds P. O. Box 31 Belk, AL 35545	932-3144	Mrs. Pam Byars 6633 Hwy. 96 Fayette, AL 35555
COOPER	Rev. David Sanderson 120 Cooper Church Rd. Detroit, AL 35552	921-2440	Mrs. Willer Dean Spratlin 244 Aston Rd. Hamilton, AL 35570
DAVIS CHAPEL	Rev. Charles Fowler Route 5, Box 194 Fayette, AL 35555	932-6589	Mrs. Louise Cannon 14693 Graham Rd. Berry, AL 35546
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	Rev. Bill Duncan 226 County Hwy. 104 Hamilton, AL 35570	921-4325	Mr. Gene Wise P.O. Box 132 Gattman, MS 38844
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Rev. Roy G. Plymon 5187 Buck Jackson Rd. Sulligent, AL 35586	695-6119	Mrs. Lenora Elliott 2089 Wofford Rd. Vernon, AL 35592
FRIENDSHIP	Rev. James C. Newell 708 Sailor Cemetery Rd. Vernon, AL 35592	695-6101	Mrs. Lura Moore 87 Wheat Road Millport, AL 35576
LIBERTY	Rev. Rick Powers 18154 County Road 49 Vernon, AL 35592	695-9400	Mr. Steve Butler 100 Bethabra Cutoff Fayette, AL 35555
LOVE JOY	Rev. Mark Collier 3247 Military St. N. Hamilton, AL 35570	921-1701	Mrs. Linda Barnes 610 Markham Rd. Guin, AL 35563
MT. HARMONY	Rev. James Walden 5270 Cody Road Kennedy, AL 35574	596-3167	Mr. David Harrison P. O. Box 532 Vernon, AL 35592
MT. PLEASANT	Rev. Donald Kivette Route 2, Box 217 Guin, AL 35563		Mrs. Sarah Hopper 662 Manley Road Vernon, AL 35592
MT. WILLING	Rev. Aubrey Gibson P.O. Box 214 Vernon, AL 35592	695-7255	Mrs. Carol S. McDonald 1663 Guin Road Guin, AL 35563
NEW CENTER POINT	Rev. Don Taggart 738 Pennington Lane Vernon, AL 35592	695-7546	Mrs. Ruth Vann 187 Waterworks Road. Sulligent, AL 35586
PINEY GROVE	Rev. Randy Wright P. O. Box 4 Guin, AL 35563	468-3740	Mrs. Jackie Atkinson P.O. Box 563 Winfield, AL 35594
SPLUNGE	Rev. Dale Ford 50029 Riley Road Greenwood Springs, MS 38848	601-369-7320	Mrs. Delores Northington P. O. Box 182 Gattman, MS 38844
SPRINGFIELD	Rev. Jerry Williams 532 Westwood Rd. Vernon, AL 35592	695-6939	Mr. Jimmy McDaniel 645 Buck Run Vernon, AL 35592
SULLIGENT, FIRST FWB	Rev. Tim Riggs 5201 Hwy 278 Sulligent, AL 35586	698-8177	Mrs. Jo Ann Riggs 3697 County Hwy. 37 Guin, AL 35563
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Rev. C. C. Berryhill 60324 Sipsey Fork Rd. Greenwood Springs, MS 38848	(601)256-8825	Mr. J. C. Young 1501 Taylor Springs Rd. Beaverton, AL 35544
UNION CHAPEL	Rev. Jimmy Martin 2938 Hwy. 96 Fayette, AL 35555	932-8884	Mr. Robert W. Humber P. O. Box 636 Fayette, AL 35555
VERNON, FIRST FWB	Rev. Mike Dankson 221 6th St., N.E. Vernon, AL 35592	695-9730	Miss Elwanda Oakes P. O. Box 351 Vernon, AL 35592

Members Received	Members Deceased	Total Members	Number In Sunday School	Number In C.T.S.	Number In Ladies Aux.	Ordained Ministers
7	1	51	26	0	0	1
2	2	144	90	0	12	2
4	2	139	60	12	0	1
2	0	24	24	0	0	1
0	1	88	50	0	0	1
5	0	216	89	0	14	1
0	2	46	13	0	0	1
5	4	217	61	40	15	1
11	1	125	77	0	0	1
24	4	189	110	0	0	1
0	1	78	30	0	0	1
2	8	91	17	0	0	1
4	0	129	70	0	0	2
2	5	135	70	0	0	1
8	0	35	35	0	0	1
5	2	74	43	0	9	1
8	1	238	164	50	0	3
0	0	46	30	0	0	1
2	0	96	22	0	0	1
18	3	265	91	48	13	2

**FINANCIAL REPORT
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD**

Beginning Balance	\$ 727.66
OFFERINGS RECEIVED	<u>2,426.85</u>
TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR	\$3,154.51
EXPENDITURES:	
Office Expense	\$ 127.37
Valentine Banquet	877.00
C.T.S. Youth Competition	200.00
Registration for State Competition	190.00
Pastors' Appreciation Banquet	189.00
Sunday School Workshop	510.00
Evangelism Workshop	<u>530.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$2,623.37
Balance on Hand, End of Year	\$ 531.14

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee meeting was held on January 27, 1997, at Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Jerry Williams. The Christian Education Board requested permission to replace one (1) member on their board who had resigned. The Executive Committee voted to grant this request.

The Credentials Committee requested that an item be added to our By-Laws for the association to present a candidate for ordination a new Bible at the ordination service. The Executive Committee voted for this item to be presented to the annual business meeting of the association in October by the Credentials Committee.

The following plans were made for the March 15, 1997, meeting of the Vernon Association to be held with the New Center Point Free Will Baptist church. The morning message would be brought by Rev. Dale Ford, Pastor of Splunge Free Will Baptist Church. The devotion would be brought by Rev. Tim Riggs, Pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulligent. The music would be furnished by the local church. An offering would be received for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Eldridge, Alabama.

The following plans for the October 18, 1997, annual meeting to be held with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulligent were made by the committee. The morning message would be by Rev. Terry Forrest of the Free Will Baptist Bible College. The morning devotion would be by Rev. M. H. Hollis, Pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Free Will Baptist Church. The afternoon devotion would be by Rev. Larry Reynolds, Pastor of the Belk Free Will Baptist church. The music would be by the host church. We would receive an offering and give our guest speaker an honorarium of \$200.00 or the offering, whichever was greater.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Randy Wright, Moderator

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on Hand 9-1-96		\$544.29
RECEIPTS:		
Offering at October		
Association Meeting	\$ 131.10	
Association Dues	1,770.00	
Offering at March meeting	<u>137.11</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$2,038.21	
TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR		\$2,582.50
EXPENDITURES:		
Rev. Don Taggart, Moderator	\$ 50.00	
Rev. Danny Williams, Guest Speaker	200.00	
Ala. State Association Dues	950.00	
Thumb Print, Printing Minutes	526.44	
Free Will Baptist Children's Home	137.11	
Postage and Supplies	31.14	
Raphaelyerby, Clerk	<u>75.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .	\$1,969.69	
Balance On Hand 8-31-97		\$ 612.81

Respectfully Submitted,
Raphael H. Yerby, Treasurer

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

Rev. M. H. Hollis, P. O. Box 183, Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. Donald Taggart, 738 Pennington Lane, Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. Lloyd George, 827 Cannon Trace, Columbus, MS 39702
Rev. James Walden, 5270 Cody Road, Kennedy, AL 35574
Rev. Randy Wright, P. O. Box 4, Guin, AL 35563
Rev. John Powell, 2137 Freeman Road, Caledonia, MS 39740
Rev. C. C. Berryhill, 60324 Sipsev Fork Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848
Rev. Jerry Williams, 532 West Wood Road, Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. David Sanderson, 720 Cooper Church Road, Detroit, AL 35552
Rev. Roy G. Plymon, 5187 Buck Jackson Road, Sulligent, AL 35586
Rev. Aubrey C. Gibson, P. O. Box 214, Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. Kevin Stacey, Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. Larry Reynolds, P. O. Box 31, Belk, AL 35545
Rev. Rick Powers, 18154, County Road 49, Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. DeWight Bailey, P. O. Box 85, Nauvoo, AL 35578
Rev. Bill Duncan, 226 County Hwy. 104, Hamilton, AL 35570
Rev. Mike Dankson, 221 6th St., N.E., Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. Dale Ford, 50029 Riley Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848
Rev. Tim Riggs, 5201 Hwy. 278, Sulligent, AL 35586
Rev. Charles Fowler, Route 5, Box 194, Fayette, AL 35555
Rev. Donald Kivette, Route 2, Box 217, Guin, AL 35563
Rev. Mark Collier, 3247 Military St. N., Hamilton, AL 35570
Rev. Jimmy Martin, 2938 Hwy. 96, Fayette, AL 35555

LIST OF DEACONS

BEAVERTON - Bros. Bobby Dykes, Russell Cole and Harrell Cantrell
BELK - Bros. Raphael Yerby, Dalton Gilpin, and Lewis Hindman
COOPER - Bros. Hershel Rye, Edward Finch, and Burley Finch
DAVIS CHAPEL - None
DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Bros. J. C. Cantrell, Joe M. Easter, Phillip Wise and Gene Wise

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bros. Edsel Gideon, Daniel Franks, Tommy Otts,
Jerry Mays and L.D. Hall

FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Bros. Bobby Joe Black, Jack Boman, Lennie R. Dubose, Wayne
Dubose, Roy Guyton, Willie G. Perkins and Wayne Sorrells

LOVE JOY - Bros. Loyd Carter, Guary Taylor and Clayton Barnes

MT. HARMONY - Frankie Beasley, Bros. L. C. Steedley, Coy Johnson,
Oveat Graham and Rickey Owens

MT. PLEASANT - None

MT. WILLING - None

NEW CENTER POINT - Bros. Wayne Puckett, Kenny Ford, C. C. Scott
and Bobby Puckett

PINEY GROVE - Bros. Danny Atkinson and Tommie Robertson

SPLUNGE - Bro. Clovis Blaylock

SPRINGFIELD - Bros. Paul Jordan, Tommie Rushing and Richard Johnson

SULLIGENT FIRST - Bros. Jessie L. Barnes, Jr., Hezzie Harrison, Sammy
Merchant, Frank Mixon, Earnest Northington and Luke Spruiell

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bros. Stanley Cooper, Steve Spencer and Harold
Smith

UNION CHAPEL - Bros. James E. Maddox, Jessie Yerby, Sam Glasgow
and Benny Hardy

VERNON FIRST - Bros. Pascal Yerby, Paul Shelnut, Edgar Turner, Derrell
Wheeler, Eris Wilson, Mike Freeman and Zadus Turner, Jr.

NAMES OF DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. J. W. Springfield, Rev. W. B. Taylor, Rev. W. R. Turman, Rev. Tom Butler, Rev. J. R. Roberson, Rev. M. D. McGee, Rev. J. R. Baker, Rev. W. D. 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. J. A. Tate, Rev. E. A. Palmer, Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Rev. T. J. Adair, Rev. J. Barnes, Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. B. J. Tittle, Rev. M. L. Hollis, Rev. E. W. Graves, Rev. S. F. Lee, Rev. W. H. Clearman, Rev. Roy Barnes, Rev. Frank Collins, Rev. William D. Glasgow, Rev. James Doherty, Rev. T. C. Barnes, Rev. Delmus Miller and Rev. Malone Cobb

NAMES OF DECEASED DEACONS

Brothers L. A. Crowder, S. Y. Shelton, J. H. Cole, Lee Mixon, J. S. Crossley, J. D. Shelnut, Earnest Robertson, D. L. Markham, J. L. McNease, Johnny Williams, Johnny Collins, Dewitt Williams, J. G. Adair, Cullen Collins, John D. Moore, Sr., R. D. Franks, Hoytt Chaffin, Dempsey Langley, S. L. Cash, C. V. Hollis, M. E. Hollis, Raymond Gray, Arnold Hester, H. E. McDonald, Henry Harrison, Henry Perkins, Roy Gilreath, Jack McDonald, Belton Nelson, Clarence Birmingham, Carlos Bradford, Charlie Elliott, Emmit Shelnut, Junie Harper, Lloyd Turner, Johnny Pike, Jeff McDonald, Carlos Roberts, Redden Mixon, David Barton, Odis Robertson, Obie Haney, Arlie Roberts, Richard Mansell, Haley Wright, Earl McDonald, Aubrey Hall, J. M. Chaffin, Titus Barnes, Olen Wheeler, Erbie Robertson, Elzie Guin, Dewey Jordan Quinton Boyett, Charles Crosby, Gordie Rye, Kelly Easter, Coy Robertson, Emmitt Lee, and Roy Ashby.

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 of 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 church unless they depart from the Treaties of Faith and Practice of Free Will Baptists. In this event it will be investigated by the Credential Committee and their findings will be reported to the association for their action. This association shall have authority over all ministers in the matter of doctrine, character, etc. In case any minister in this association depart from and teach doctrine not in keeping with the Treaties of Faith and Practice of Free Will Baptists the same shall be dealt with by the association as it may deem proper according to the teachings of the Bible.

3. When a church desires 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 piety, doctrine, and convictions respecting the work of the ministry and 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 and the Vernon 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, or whose wife has more than one living husband. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this association as a preacher who uses tobacco in any form.

3.(A) When a church recommends a candidate for ordination as a preacher of the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists, they will submit the following information in writing to the Credential Committee, at least one (1) month in advance of the annual association meeting: the name of the candidate, address of the candidate, telephone number of the candidate, present employment, length of membership at the church, offices held in the church, marital status of the candidate, places of ministry by the candidate for the past twelve months.

This recommendation must be the result of a regular conference of the church where the candidate is a member.

3. (B) Any ordained preacher that desires to become a member of this association must submit a letter of recommendation from the church of which he is a member, along with a letter of recommendation from the association from which he is coming. This is to be done at least one (1) month in advance of a regular meeting of the association. This information is to be submitted in writing to the moderator of the association or to the chairman of the Credential Committee.

3. (C) Any ordained preacher coming from a denomination other than Free Will Baptist, joining a Free Will Baptist Church in our association, and requesting membership in the Vernon Association must first surrender his credentials from the other denomination to us, and then the Vernon Association will give him Free Will Baptist credentials.

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 the moderator, assistant moderator and clerk-treasurer, who shall be chosen at the annual session by majority vote of the delegates present. The officers shall be chosen at the close of each annual session with the outgoing clerk being responsible for the printing and distribution of the minutes. The clerk shall have the authority to secure any necessary assistance he needs, at his own expense.

6. The association shall meet semi-annually, with meetings being on Saturday before the third Sunday in March and Saturday before the third Sunday in October each year. The meeting in March will be a worship and fellowship meeting with a time set aside to handle any necessary business and the October meeting being our annual business meeting of the association 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 has 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 influences, 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 shall 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 delegate 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 \$50.00, the assistant moderator \$25.00, and the clerk \$75.00 for their services.

13. The clerk shall superintend the printing of the minutes after each annual session of the association and shall 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 members 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, assistant moderator, and clerk along with one person from each church. Each person from the local church shall serve two 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 reported to 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 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 is to consist of from 3 to 5 members.

3. 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.

4. (A) The Credential Committee shall recommend the issuance, or rejection of a card of good standing for a minister. If a minister misses one association meeting, unless providentially hindered, he will not be given a card of good standing. 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. The Credential Committee, in a special called session, shall have the authority to grant letters to ministers leaving our association, provided they are a member of a church in our association, reporting their action to the annual meeting.

4. (B) If a minister, that is a member of our association, misses two (2)) consecutive annual association meetings, unless providentially hindered, his name will be taken off our roll of ministers.

All ministers must register at the annual association meeting and their names will be printed in the minutes.

5. The moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in the 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.

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

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

8. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without the permission of the moderator nor more than five minutes.

9. No person shall laugh or talk during discussion.

10. No delegate shall absent himself from the association without the permission of the moderator.

11. The Vernon Association will purchase a new Bible for those who are being ordained and present it to them at the Ordination Service as a gift from

the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

11. (A) All ordination of ministers shall be done by the Credential Committee. The time and place to be agreed upon by the Credential Committee and the candidate for ordination.

11. (B) The General Board of the association shall have authority to authorize the Credential Committee to ordain ministers, between sessions of the association, who have been licensed by a local church and who have been accepted as pastor in a Free Will Baptist Church before his one year of license has expired.

12. No person shall be ordained by his association as a preacher unless he has been licensed by his local church for at least one year, or recommended for ordination by the Credential Committee.

13. 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 meeting on Saturday before the third Sunday in October of each year.

14. 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.

15. The Youth Camp Committee shall meet within sixty (60) days after the October association meeting to select a camp director of the youth camp and make plans for the summer camps. All pastors of the Vernon Association shall be on the youth camp committee and will make up the committee.

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. 1 Cor. 1:21; Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 1:16.

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. I Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

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. 1 Tim. 2:5-6, Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:45; Eph. 2:1.

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. Mark 16:5; Luke 24:47; 1 Tim. 2:4.

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. Gen. 2:17; Gen. 3:19.

7. The Works of Christ. The Son of God by His incarnation, life sufferings, death and resurrection effected all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith. Acts 3:19; Matt. 28:19-20; Eph. 2:5-10.

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. Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:10.

9. Election. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ all men become His elect. Matt. 28:20; 1 Cor. 1:21; Matt. 25:31-46.

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. Titus 2nd. Chapter; Rev. 2:10-15

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. Gal. 1:13-14; Rev. 22:17.

12. Perseverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, having promise of eternal salvation. Rom. 5:21.

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. Acts 8th Chapter; 1 Tim. 5:10; Luke 22:49.

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 has 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. Deut. 5:12-14; Heb. 4:4.

16. Resurrection, Judgement, and Final Retribution. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but righteous into eternal life." St. John 5:28-29; II Cor. 5:10; I. Cor. 15:23.

BY-LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

1. NAME: The name of this Board shall be "Christian Board of Education of the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptist".

2. PURPOSE: To promote and assist the local churches in the association in Christian education at all levels of church work. The board will also be responsible for the district CTS competition in April.

3. MEMBERS: The Board shall have five (5) members, with the senior member in point of service being replaced each year. Members shall consist of two (2) laymen, but no more than three (3) laymen, or two (2) ordained ministers but no more than three (3) ordained ministers.

4. MEETINGS: The Board shall meet once a month. The day, time and place will be decided by the Board members. The first meeting will be in November after the annual meeting of the association.

5. OFFICERS: The board shall have as officers chairman, secretary, and treasurer. Elected by the board.

The chairman shall preside over all meetings and shall see that all jobs are carried out properly.

The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of each meeting, shall be responsible for all correspondence for the board and preside over meetings in the absence of the chairman.

The treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies, shall have a report for all meetings and the annual meeting of the association.

6. The board shall have the power to appoint a member to replace a member that has resigned or one that has deceased. This member will serve until the annual meeting of the association. At that time, the Association will elect the temporary member to finish that term or replace with a new member.

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.

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.