

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST
SESSION**

of the

**VERNON FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

held with

**THE SPRINGFIELD
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

2001 Minutes

OFFICERS FOR 2001
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

MODERATOR REV. DANNY THOMPSON
ASSISTANT MODERATOR REV. RANDY WRIGHT
CLERK BRO. RAPHAEL H. YERBY

The next session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with the Belk Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 16, 2002. 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 Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, October 19, 2002, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

OFFICERS FOR 2002

MODERATOR REV. DANNY THOMPSON
5399 Cody Rd., Kennedy, AL 35574
Telephone (205) 596-4041
ASSISTANT MODERATOR REV. RANDY WRIGHT
P.O. Box 4, Guin, AL 35563
Telephone (205) 468-3740
CLERK BRO. STEVE BUTLER
100 Bethabara Cutoff, Fayette, AL 35555
Telephone (205) 932-8496
ASSISTANT CLERK SIS. ELWANDA OAKES
P. O. Box 351, Vernon, AL 35592
Telephone (205) 695-9621

PROCEEDINGS

The one hundred and twenty-first session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with the Springfield Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, October 20, 2001. Rev. Danny Thompson served as moderator, Rev. Randy Wright served as assistant moderator and Bro. Raphael H. Yerby served as clerk.

The meeting opened with a song, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms", directed by Bro. Randy Wright. The opening prayer was by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

We were welcomed to the Springfield Church by Rev. John Johnson, host pastor. The response was given by Rev. Randy Wright.

The morning devotion was brought by Rev. Anthony Robbins, pastor of the Love Joy Free Will Baptist Church. He used Luke 2:49 and II Timothy 3:1-5 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. Danny Thompson. Prayer was by Rev. James Walden.

We had a roll call of the delegates by the clerk. We had a motion, second, and vote to seat the delegates for this session of the association.

The association was called to order by the clerk.

The moderator recognized visiting brethren and invited them to seat with us during this session of the association. Those present were Rev. Buddy Henry, Joyce Henry, Rev. Rick Cash, Rev. Ashley Culp, Rev. Jimmy Aldridge, Rev. Jerry Smith, Rev. Chad Kivette and a delegation from the Fairview Free Will Baptist Church.

The Digest Committee report was given by Bro. Joseph Callahan, Chairman. We had a motion, second, and vote to receive the report and discharge the committee.

We had a partial report of the General Board by the clerk. This report dealt with changes in the Constitution and By-Laws and was tabled until the afternoon session.

The Committee on Committees report was given by Bro. Mike McDaniel, 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 and discharge the committee.

The moderator called for petitionary letters. None were received.

We had a report of the Vernon District Women Active for Christ by Sister Elwanda Oakes, President. We had a motion, second, and vote to receive the report.

The moderator recognized Rev. Rick Cash, State Promotional Director and asked him to give us a report on the work of the Promotional Office and the Acts 1:8 Program. Bro. Cash gave us a very interesting and informative report of both programs. We had a motion, second, and vote to receive the report as information.

At this time, the moderator recognized Rev. Ashley Culp, Director of Trinity Free Will Baptist Youth Camp and asked him to share with us a report of the youth camp. Bro. Culp gave us a very interesting report of the activities at the camp this past year and some plans for the future. We have a very good camp and a busy camp. We had a motion, second, and vote to receive the report as information.

We were dismissed by the moderator for a recess and time of fellowship and a time for the committees to get together and make their reports. The dismissal prayer was by Rev. Scott Nicholson, pastor of the New Center Point Free Will Baptist Church

After recess, the moderator appointed a Committee on Committees for the year 2002. (See List.)

The report of the Christian Education Board was given by Bro. Mike McDaniel, Chairman. We had a motion, second, and vote to receive the report.

We had a report of the Credentials Committee by Rev. Randy Wright. We had a motion, second, and vote to receive the report. At this time, the moderator appointed Bro. Dalton Gilpin to serve a five (5) year term on the Credentials Committee.

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

We had a very interesting report of the Gideons International by Bro. Dick Walters.

At this time, we had a song, "What a Day That Will Be," directed by Bro. Wright. Prayer was by Rev. Dwayne Hammontree, pastor of the Sulligent Free Will Baptist Church.

We received an offering for the Russia Bible Institute Building Renova-

tion: The offertory prayer was by Rev. Joe Beckon, pastor of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Church. The amount of the offering was \$579.00.

At this time, we had a special presentation by the Vernon Association to Raphael Yerby for thirty (30) years of service as clerk of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

The keynote morning message was brought by Rev. Jimmy Aldridge of the Foreign Missions. The subject of his message was "My Heart to Yours -- Am I Committed to God?" His scripture was Philippians 4:11-12, Hebrews 12, I Timothy 6:3-7, Matthew 5:19, Luke 22:24, and 9:46-48. Prayer was by the speaker. We had a song of invitation, "All to Jesus" and many were in the altar to pray. Prayer was offered by Rev. Rick Cash.

After this wonderful message that spoke to all of our hearts, we were dismissed for the noon hour. The dismissal prayer and blessing of the food was by Rev. Dale Ford, pastor of the Splunge Free Will Baptist Church.

AFTERNOON SESSION

After a very delicious lunch provided by the good people of the Springfield Church and the noon hour of fellowship, we convened back in session at 1:30 P.M. with a song directed by Rev. Randy Wright. Prayer was by Rev. Wright. Due to the unavoidable absence of the moderator, Rev. Danny Thompson, the assistant moderator, Rev. Randy Wright, took charge and did a great job moderating the afternoon session.

The afternoon devotion was brought by Rev. Lamar Cox, pastor of Belk Free Will Baptist Church. He used Psalms 119:117 as his scripture text. Prayer was by the speaker.

The Deceased Members Committee report was given by Sister Frances Butler, Chairperson. We had a motion, second, and vote to receive the report and sing "Precious Memories" in memory of these loved ones, and prayer was by Bro. Leonard Corbett.

The Temperance Committee Report was given by Bro. Harold Goode. We had a motion, second, and vote to receive the report and discharge the committee.

The Appreciation Committee report was given by Sister Susan Nicholson, Chairperson. A special thanks was given to the Springfield Church for hosting this session of the association and the fine hospitality shown to all of us for this meeting.

We had a final report of the General Board. All items of the report were adopted by the body.

The moderator appointed a Nominating Committee for the 2002 session of the association. (See List.)

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

Sister Elwanda Oakes

Sister Charlotte Hammontree

Sister Lucy Cox

Sister Etta Jane White

Sister Sue Yerby

We selected a place for the association Thanksgiving Service. The Liberty Free Will Baptist Church invited us to meet with them for this meeting. The congregation accepted their invitation to host the association Thanksgiving service. The moderator appointed a committee, Rev. Darrel Burkett, Rev. Jerry White and Rev. John Johnson, to plan the service and secure a speaker. The Thanksgiving Service will be held with the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church on Tuesday night, November 20, 2001, beginning at 7:00 P.M.

A place was chosen for the next two (2) meetings of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. The Belk Church requested to host the March meeting. The body voted to accept the invitation and hold the March meeting with the Belk Free Will Baptist Church. The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2002. Registration begins at 9:30 A.M., and the service will begin at 10:00 A.M. The Free Will Chapel Church invited us to meet with them for the annual meeting in October. The body voted to hold the annual association meeting with the Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. The meeting will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2002, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Nomination was opened for two (2) people to serve on the Board of Christian Education. Stephnie Butler was elected to serve a five (5) year term on the Board, and Rev. David Crowe was elected to serve out the unexpired term of Rev. Scott Montgomery.

The moderator appointed five (5) people from the General Board to serve on the Executive Committee. (See List.)

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

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

Nomination was opened for clerk of the association. The Executive Committee recommended Bro. Steve Butler to serve as clerk of the associa-

tion: The body accepted the recommendation and Bro. Steve Butler was elected to serve as clerk.

Nomination was opened for assistant clerk of the association. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Sister Elwanda Oakes was elected to serve as assistant clerk of the association.

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 was adjourned.

There were a total of 127 people who registered for this session of the association. They were as follows:

Ministers	29	Delegates	70
Visitors	28		

Ministers that registered

Rev. Danny Thompson	Rev. Jerry White
Rev. Al Hamm	Rev. Donald Kivette
Rev. Charles Fowler	Rev. C. C. Berryhill
Rev. Lamar Cox	Rev. John Johnson
Rev. Jim Martin	Rev. Dale Ford
Rev. Joe Beckon	Rev. Darrell Burkett
Rev. Ashley Culp, Visitor	Rev. Jerry Barnes
Rev. James Walden	Rev. John Powell
Rev. Dwight Bailey	Rev. M. H. Hollis
Rev. Mark Kelley	Rev. David Crowe
Rev. Anthony Robbins	Rev. Jerry Smith, Visitor
Rev. Dwayne Hammontree	Rev. Buddy Henry, Visitor
Rev. Randy Wright	Rev. Chad Kivette, Visitor
Rev. Scott Nicholson	Rev. Rick Cash, Visitor
Rev. Jimmy Aldridge, Visitor	

SEMIANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 2001

The semi-annual meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held on Saturday, March 17 2001, with the Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. Scott Montgomery served as moderator.

The meeting was opened with a song "When We All Get to Heaven", directed by Bro. Randy Wright. The opening prayer was by Rev. Rick Cash.

We were welcomed to this association meeting by Rev. Scott Montgomery, moderator.

At this meeting, the Executive Committee elected to have two (2) devotional

speakers. The first devotion was brought by Bro. Patrick McDaniel. He used Exodus 18:17-24 as his scripture text. Prayer was by the speaker.

Rev. Rick Cash, State Promotional Director, gave an interesting report on the state work and the Acts 1:8 Program, along with other programs coming up in our state.

Rev. Ashley Culp, Director of Trinity Youth Camp, gave a report of the activities of the youth camp and plans and events for this summer's camps. At this time, we had a prayer by Rev. Bill Duncan.

We had a special in song, "God Will Provide," by a Preacher's Trio, Bro. Chad Kivette, Bro. Scott Nicholson, and Ryan Musgrove.

Our second devotion was brought by Bro. Sam House. He used Matthew 18:20 as his scripture text. Prayer was by the speaker.

We were dismissed by the moderator for a short recess. After recess, we had a song, "Victory in Jesus," directed by Bro. Chad Kivette.

We received an offering for Bro. Patrick McDaniel for his summer mission trip. The offertory prayer was by Rev. Dwayne Hammontree. The amount of the offering was \$130.80.

We had another special in song, "Pick Up the Pieces," by the Preacher's Trio.

The 11:00 A.M. message was brought by Rev. Danny Thompson, pastor of the Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church. His subject was, "God Calls Leaders." He used Joshua 1:1-9 and Exodus 32:31-32 as his scripture text. Prayer was by the speaker. We had a song of invitation, and many were in the altar of prayer. We had a prayer of dedication by Rev. Randy Wright.

Our moderator, Rev. Scott Montgomery, resigned his position as moderator of the association due to his leaving the association for another pastorate. Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, Rev. Danny Thompson, assistant moderator, was elected to replace Bro. Montgomery as moderator. Rev. Randy Wright was elected as assistant moderator.

In this short business meeting, the Victory Free Will Baptist Church of Columbus, Mississippi, petitioned the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association for membership in the Vernon Association. By unanimous vote, the Vernon Association welcomed the Victory Free Will Baptist Church into the fellowship of the Vernon Association.

We were dismissed from this session of the Vernon Association. The dismissal prayer and blessing of the food was by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES LISTED

BEAVERTON-Sisters Joan Mosley, Benita Stanford, and Sharon Cantrell

BELK- Sisters Sue Yerby, Lucy Cox, Iva Powell, Bros. Doug Stripling and Laren Williams

COOPER - Sisters Sylvia Taylor, Debbie England, Mary Nash, Judy Lewis. Bros. Justin Finch, David Spratlin, Zach Kelley, and Sister Willer Dean Spratlin, Alternate

DAVIS CHAPEL - Bro. Paul Corley, Sisters Dora Lee Pennington, Lorene Pike, and Betty Gray

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sisters Mary Wise and Susie Franklin

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bros. Johnny Quin, Mike Gideon, Doug Barnes, David Gunnels, and Paul McLemore

FRIENDSHIP - Bro. Jerry Woods and Sis. Karen Winters

LIBERTY -Sisters Loree Christain, Mary Ann Perkins, Frances Butler, Margaret Corbett, Bros. Carl Perkins, Leonard Corbett, Maurice Griffin, and Jeff Campbell, Alternate

LOVE JOY - Bros. Freddie Pickle, Marty Stockman, W. C. Guyton, J. R. Coley, Chris Corruth, and Matthew Paul, Alternate

MT. HARMONY - Bro. Joseph Callahan, Sisters Kay Callahan, Edith Huguley, Lanore Nesbitt, and Kay Thompson, Alternate

MT. PLEASANT - Sisters Pearlie Allen, Clara Bush, and Betty Elrod

MT. WILLING -None

NEW CENTER POINT - Sisters Susan Nicholson, Shelia Rasbury, Ruth Vann, and Bro. Wade Vann.

PINEY GROVE - None

SPLUNGE - Sisters Linda Ford and Deloris Northington

SPRINGFIELD - Sisters Belva Pennington, Burma Jordan, Betty Goode, Bros. Dick Walters and Harold Goode

SULLIGENT FIRST F.W.B. - Bros. Bob Carter, Troy Kelley, Josh Northington, Jeremy Hammontree, Sisters Sandra Carter and Una Kelley

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bros. J. C. Young and Robert Perkins

UNION CHAPEL - Sis. Joyce Hardy and Bro. Dean Maddox

VERNON FIRST F.W.B. - Sisters Elwanda Oakes, Marsha McDaniel, Gloria Christian, Lou Ella Knight, Louise Shelnut, Martha Turner, Bros. Mike McDaniel, and Scott Stanford

VICTORY - None

GENERAL BOARD

BEAVERTON - None

BELK - Dalton Gilpin

COOPER - Edward Finch

DAVIS CHAPEL - None

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - T.L. Webb

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Billy J. Turner

FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Leonard Corbett

LOVEJOY - Guary Taylor

MT. HARMONY - Phil Wheeler

MT. PLEASANT - Johnny Bigham

MT. WILLING - None

NEW CENTER POINT - Jim Northington

PINEY GROVE - Danny Atkinson

SPLUNGE - None

SPRINGFIELD - Dick Walters

SULLIGENT FIRST - Bob Carter

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Steve Spencer

UNION CHAPEL - Dean Maddox

VERNON FIRST - Mike McDaniel

VICTORY - Matthew May

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.

Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Willing

New Center Point

Piney Grove

Splunge

Springfield

Sulligent, First

Taylor Springs

Union Chapel

Vernon, First

Victory

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Bro. Pascal Yerby, 2002
Rev. Randy Wright - 2003
Rev. Dwayne Hammontree - 2004
Rev. Scott Nicholson - 2005
Bro. Dalton Gilpin, 2006

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND
C.T.S. COMMITTEE

Sis Elwanda Oakes
Bro. Bob Carter
Sis. Sue Yerby

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sis. Belva Pennington
Bro. Scott Stanford
Sis. Sylvia Taylor

DECEASED MEMBERS
COMMITTEE

Sis. Frances Butler
Sis. Sandra Carter
Bro. Freddie Pickle

DIGEST COMMITTEE 2002

Bro. Joseph Callahan
Sis. Burma Jordan
Bro. Mike Gideon

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Sis. Susan Nicholson
Bro. Doug Barnes
Sis. Pearlie Allen

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Rev. Dwayne Hammontree - 2002
Rev. Dale Ford - 2003
Rev. David Crowe - 2004
Bro. Harold Goode - 2005
Sis. Stephanie Butler, 2006

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Danny Thompson
Rev. Randy Wright
Bro. Steve Butler
Sis. Elwanda Oakes
Bro. Dalton Gilpin
Bro. Leonard Corbett
Bro. Phil Wheeler
Bro. Jim Northington
Bro. Matthew May

YOUTH CAMP BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

Bro. Steve Butler - 2002
Bro. Lewis Hindman - 2003
Rev. Randy Wright, 2004

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

Bro. Harold Goode
Bro. Johnny Quin

COMMITTEE ON
COMMITTEES FOR 2002

Rev. John Johnson
Rev. Joe Beckon
Bro. Mike McDaniel

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, 2001, was 1,287 with all churches reporting having an active Sunday School. This is an increase of 105 members from last year.

Two of our twenty-one (21) churches, Liberty and the First Free Will Baptist of Vernon reported that they have a C.T.S. program. They have a total of 142 members, which is an increase of seven (7) members over last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Elwanda Oakes, Chairperson

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Finance Committee, submit the following report:

The balance on hand at the end of the current year (8-31-2001) is \$578.53. A total of \$3,200.00 has been received from our churches in dues for this year. That brings our balance to \$3,778.53. Our estimated expense for the next year is approximately \$2,550.00, leaving a projected balance of \$1,228.53 at the end of next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Stanford, Chairman

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Temperance Committee, make the following report:

Temperance is needed in several ways, eating, the finer things in life and especially sexual appetites. In First Corinthians 9:25-27 tells us that we need to be temperate in all things so we can be an example to others. Solomon made some mistakes and Abraham made some mistakes.

Respectfully Submitted
Harold Goode, Chairman

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- I. The Credentials Committee granted a letter of good standing to Bro. Aubrey Gibson to the Union Association in Limestone, Tennessee.
- II. The Credentials Committee granted a letter of good standing to Bro. David Cook to the Mt. Moriah Association.

- III. The Credentials Committee granted a letter of good standing to Bro. Mike Dankson to the Northern Quarterly of the Cumberland Association of Clarksville, Tennessee.
- IV. The Credentials Committee granted a letter of good standing to Bro. David Sanderson to the Northeast Mississippi Association of Smithville, Mississippi.
- V. The Credentials Committee has received the following preachers, along with their letters of good standing, into our association this year:
1. Rev. Al Hamm, Victory Free Will Baptist Church, from Northeast Mississippi Association
 2. Rev. Lamar Cox, Belk Free Will Baptist Church from the North Mississippi Association.
 3. Rev. Anthony Robbins, Love Joy Free Will Baptist Church from the Bear Creek Association.
 4. Rev. Joe Beckon, First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon, from the Florida State Line Association.
- VI. The Credentials Committee voted to receive Rev. Jerry White and Rev. David Crowe into the Vernon Association, pending a letter of good standing from their respective associations.
- VII. The Credentials Committee met with Bro. Devin Henry on September 13, 2001. We recommend him to be ordained to preach the Gospel. His request was that his dad, Rev. Buddy Henry, preach the ordination message. The ordination service will be held at the Cooper Free Will Baptist Church on October 21, 2001, at 2:30 P.M.
- VIII. We recommend that all ministers of the Vernon Association present today be given a card of good standing.

Respectfully submitted,
Edsel Gideon, Chairman

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Appreciation Committee, would like to give a special thanks to the Springfield Free Will Baptist Church for their hospitality, delicious food, and fellowship during this 2001 fall session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. We leave you with a verse of Scripture from Philippians 4:6,, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God."

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Nicholson, Chairperson

COMMITTEE REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS

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

Twenty-six (26) brothers and sisters have gone to be with our Lord this past year.

Revelation 14:13 says, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from labours; and their works do follow them."

We would like to remember the following deceased members:

BEAVERTON - None

BELK - Sister Pauline Taylor

COOPER - Bros. Allen Beers, Wilson Lochart, Sisters Melba Beers, and Ferleen Nichols

DAVIS CHAPEL - Bros. Ollie Snow, Van Snow, and Sister Esteen Snow

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sister Judy Ling

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. L. D. Hall

FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Bro. Hastor Guyton

LOVE JOY - Bro. George Gilliland

MT. HARMONY - Bros. Coy Johnson, Chelsey McGee, Macon Chaffin, and Sister Onnie Carr

MT. PLEASANT - None

MT. WILLING - Bro. Milton Shelnut

NEW CENTER POINT - Sister Lillie Tate

PINEY GROVE - None

SPLUNGE - None

SPRINGFIELD - Sisters Icy Banks Davis and Viola Rogers

SULLIGENT FIRST F.W.B.- Bro. Billy Moore

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Sisters Julia Fay Barker Thompson and Leona Lewis

UNION CHAPEL - Bro. Tommie J. Yerby

VERNON FIRST F.W.B.- Bro. Connie Smith and sister Maureen Turner

VICTORY - None

We will remember these members by singing "Precious Memories," led by Bro. Randy Wright and being led in prayer by Bro. Leonard Corbett of the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Butler, Chairperson

VERNON DISTRICT WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Vernon District Women Active for Christ met at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Vernon on March 1, 2001, for their 23rd annual meeting. Registration was at 6:45 P.M., and the meeting started at 7:00 P.M.

Lori Stanford led the congregation in singing "Give Me a Vision" and "I Love to tell the Story" with Marsha McDaniel at the piano and Amanda Freeman at the organ. Then Elwanda Oakes called on Lucy Cox to lead in prayer. She is the pastor's wife from Belk Free Will Baptist Church.

The welcome was given by Jean DuBose and the response by Joyce Gibson.

Motion was made to seat all members present as delegates. Motion made and seconded to this effect. Motion carried.

Special music was provided by Amy Kilpatrick, Lori Stanford, and Jackie Harrison.

Jackie Harrison introduced our speaker, Janie Aldridge. Janie is a retired missionary to the Ivory Coast. She used several scriptures -- Colossians 1:27, Galatians 6:1, and I John. Be kind and share the Word of Hope with others. Everyone enjoyed what she had to say.

A love offering of \$125.00 was taken and given to Sis. Janie Aldridge.

The treasurer's report was given. We have a balance of \$68.38 in the bank. There was a total of 26 present. Belk had 3, Mt. Harmony had 2, Springfield had 7, and Vernon had 13.

The resolutions committee consisted of Kim Johnson and Louise Shelnut. They presented the following.

1. That our district continue to serve in our Care Center in Vernon.
2. That we continue to support Richard Yerby by collecting postage stamps, car tags, and leather.
3. Continue to take the Hope Center as a project.
4. That we have a project for the Youth Camp.

The nominating committee, Burma Jordan, Lou Ella Knight, and Doris Higdon gave their report.

President - Joyce Gibson

Vice President/President-elect - Jackie Harrison

Secretary/Treasurer - Burman Jordan

Missions Prayer - Louise Shelnut

Missions Study - Belva Pennington

Missions Action - Lou Ella Knight

Field Worker - Jean DuBose

There were no nominations from the floor and these were elected to serve a two-year term.

Delegates to the AFWBWAC were Lou Ella Knight, Sue Yerby, and Lori Stanford.

Elwanda Oakes installed the officers.

She assigned committees to serve for the State meeting to be held at First Free Will in Vernon in 2002.

After the dismissal prayer, refreshments were served in the fellowship hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Burma Jordan, Secretary

DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Digest Committee, make the following report:

STATISTICS:

Number of churches (Rural - 17, City - 4)	21
Full-time Pastors (14 churches reporting)	13
Part-time Pastors (14 churches reporting)	8
Tithes and offerings (13 churches reporting)	\$725,398.79
Ordained Ministers	27
Licensed Ministers	15
Ordained Deacons	64
Churches with Day Care	0
Churches with Kindergarten	1
Churches with Day School	1
Churches with Sunday School	21
Sunday School Enrollment	1,237
Baptisms	57
Members Added	122
Members Lost	57
Total Membership	2,532
Churches with Parsonage	5
Churches with Budgets	2
Value of all Church Property (11 churches reporting)	\$3,707,000.00
Churches with C.T.S.	2
C.T.S. Enrollment	142
Churches with Ladies Auxiliary	10
Ladies Auxiliary Enrollment	132
Churches with Masters Men	2
Master's Men Enrollment	18

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Callahan, Chairman

CHURCH	PASTOR'S ADDRESS	PASTOR'S TELEPHONE	CLERK'S ADDRESS
BEAVERTON	Rev. Dewight Bailey P. O. Box 366 Nauvoo, AL 35578	697-5584	Mrs. Sharon Cantrell 3105 Mt. Hebron Rd. Beaverton, AL 35544
BELK	Rev. Lamar Cox P. O. Box 31 Belk, AL 35545	932-3144	Mrs. Pam Byars 6633 Hwy. 96 Fayette, AL 35555
COOPER	Rev. Mark Kelley 500 E.E. Kelley Rd. Detroit, AL 35552	921-2440	Mrs. Willer Dean Spratlin 244 Aston Rd. Hamilton, AL 35570
DAVIS CHAPEL	N/A		Mrs. Louise Cannon 14693 Graham Rd. Berry, AL 35546
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	N/A		Mr. Gene Wise P.O. Box 132 Ganttman, MS 38844
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Rev. Jerry White 5187 Buck Jackson Road Sulligent, AL 35586	695-6119	Mrs. Lenora Hopper 1522 County Lake Rd. Sulligent, AL 35586
FRIENDSHIP	Rev. Charles Young 116 Woolbright St. Columbus, MS 39702	662-327-3104	Karon Winters 822 Sudduth Rd. Stevens, MS 39766
LIBERTY	Rev. Darrell Burkett 624 Sexton Road Fayette, AL 35555	932-8683	Mr. Steve Butler 100 Bethabara Cutoff Fayette, AL 35555
LOVEJOY	Rev. Anthony Robbins 11644 State Hwy. 253 Brilliant, AL 35548	468-8210	Mrs. Linda Barnes 610 Markham Rd. Guin, AL 35563
MT. HARMONY	Rev. Danny Thompson 5399 Cady Rd. Kennedy, AL 35574	596-4041	Mr. David Harrison P. O. Box 532 Vernon, AL 35592
MT. PLEASANT	Rev. Donald Kivette 870 County Hwy. 74 Guin, AL 35563	468-2657	Ms. Joyce Bigham 1124 Prospect Rd. Sulligent, AL 35586
MT. WILLING	N/A		Mrs. Carol S. McDonald 1663 Guin Road Guin, AL 35563
NEW CENTER POINT	Rev. Scott Nicholson 60320 Sipsey Fork Road Greenwood Springs, MS 38848	662-257-1111	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	662-369-7320	Mrs. Delores Northington P. O. Box 182 Ganttman, MS 38844
SPRINGFIELD	Rev. John Johnson P. O. Box 207 Vernon, AL 35592	695-6343	Mr. Jimmy McDaniel 645 Buck Run Vernon, AL 35592
SULLIGENT, FIRST FWB	Rev. Dwayne Hammontree 5201 Hwy. 278 Sulligent, AL 35586	698-8177	Geneva Sorrels P.O. Box 64 Ganttman, MS 38844
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Rev. C.C. Berryhill 60324 Sipsey Fork Rd. Greenwood Springs, MS 38848	662-256-8825	Mr. J. C. Young 1501 Taylor Springs Rd. Beaverton, AL 35544
UNION CHAPEL	N/A		Mrs. Jo Ann Humber P. O. Box 636 Fayette, AL 35555
VERNON, FIRST FWB	Rev. Joe Beckon 221- 6th St., N.E. Vernon, AL 35592	695-9730	Ms. Elwanda Oakes P. O. Box 351 Vernon, AL 35592
VICTORY	Rev. Al Hamm 806 Belmont Dr. Columbus, MS 39702	662-328-0977	Johnnie Mae Newman 85 Weathers Rd. Columbus, MS 39702

Members Received	Members Deceased	Total Members	Number In Sunday School	Number In C.T.S.	Number In Ladies Aux.	Ordained Ministers
0	0	55	28	0	0	1
7	1	157	75	0	12	3
10	4	144	60	0	15	2
0	3	23	23	0	0	1
12	1	85	60	0	0	1
6	1	213	49	0	10	1
0	0	23	23	0	0	2
13	1	233	62	70	25	1
4	1	56	40	0	7	1
19	4	223	97	0	0	2
1	0	89	28	0	0	3
0	1	92	18	0	0	0
7	1	150	70	0	15	2
5	0	200	130	0	0	2
11	0	40	45	0	10	1
0	2	56	45	0	10	1
2	1	245	142	0	10	1
0	2	47	30	0	0	0
0	1	95	22	0	0	0
17	2	290	110	72	15	2
13	0	120	130	0	0	2

VERNON ASSOCIATION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD REPORT

We, the C.E. Board, submit the following report:

Our spring vevival was a wonderful time of worship. Rev. Mike Rogers, our evangelist, brought us sound méssages from God's Word to help edify the Christian family. Our attendance was a little off this year over previous years. Bro. Waymon Fields, from the Mt. Moriah Association, led the singing for each service. We also had talented special music each night and great fellowhsip with our sister churches. We thank our host of the revival, First Free Will Baptist Church of Vernon for giving us a warm welcome and a beautiful place to worship our Lord.

There was a good turn out for C.T.S. competition this past year. We had four entries, with four participants from one church. All went to state competition and performed well. All received number one raitings and an opportunity to go to the National Association. Only two entries went on to the National competition in Detroit, Michigan, giving wonderful performances.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike McDaniel, Chairman

GENERAL BOARD REPORT

The General Board met on April 2, 2001, and again on August 27, 2001, at Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church. Each meeting was opened and closed with prayer. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss changes in our Constitution and By-Laws. We make the following recommendations:

- I. We recommend the Youth Camp Committee be deleted from the Constitution.
- II. We recommend the office of assistant clerk/treasurer be added to the Constitution.
- III. We recommend the assistant clerk/treasurer be a member of the Executive Committee.
- IV. We recommend the assistant clerk/treasurer's name be included on the association checking account.
- V. We recommend the assistant clerk/treasurer be paid \$50.00 per year for their services.
- VI. We recommend the association have a nominating committee. The committee will submit one (1) name for each vacancy, as specified in the Constitution. Nominations can still be made from the floor.

VII. We recommend the following persons be nominated for the office of clerk/treasurer and assistant clerk/treasurer: Bro. Steve Butler, clerk/treasurer Sister Elwanda Oakes, assistant clerk/treasurer

VIII. We recommend the Constitution and By-Laws of the Vernon Association be amended and reorganized as follows. (See Constitution and By-Laws.)

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Danny Thompson, Moderator

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee of the Vernon Association met on January 30, 2001, at Free Will Chapel Church to make plans for the semi-annual meeting of the association to be held march 17, 2001. The meeting opened with prayer by Bro. Danny Thompson.

The committee voted for Bro. Danny Thompson to preach the 11:00 A.M. message. The committee also voted to start the service at 9:45 A.M. and have two (2) fifteen (15) minute devotions. The devotions are to be brought by Bro. Sam House and Bro. Patrick McDaniel.

The Committee voted to receive an offering for Bro. Patrick McDaniel to help on his expense for his mission trip this summer.

The Executive Committee met again on March 12, 2001, to discuss our moderator and assistant moderator. Our moderator, Rev. Scott Montgomery, advised us that he had resigned his church as pastor and would probably be leaving the association and resigned as moderator of the association. The Executive Committee voted for Rev. Danny Thompson to move from assistant moderator to replace Bro. Montgomery as moderator. We also voted to elect Rev. Randy Wright as assistant moderator.

The Executive Committee met again on April 2, 2001, along with the General Board, to make plans for the annual meeting of the Vernon Association on October 20, 2001.

The Committee voted to ask Rev. Anthony Robbins, pastor of Love Joy Church to have the morning devotion and to ask Rev. Lamar Cox of the Belk Church to have the afternoon devotion.

The committee voted to invite Rev. Jimmy Aldridge to preach the 11:00 A.M. message and give him an honorarium of \$100.00. The committee recommended that we receive an offering and designate it to the Russian work.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Danny Thompson, Moderator

**VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT**

Balance on Hand 9-1-00 \$ 168.76

RECEIPTS:

Offering at October meeting \$ 211.00

Offering at March meeting 130.80

Association Dues 3,100.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$3,441.80

TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR \$3,610.56

EXPENDITURES:

Rev. Mike Dankson, Moderator \$ 50.00

Rev. M. H. Hollis, Asst. Moderator 25.00

Rev. Danny Williams, Honorarium 200.00

Ala. State & National Dues 1,700.00

Thumb Print, Minutes 589.68

Patrick McDaniel, Mission Trip 130.80

Postmaster, Postage 25.00

Raphael Yerby, Clerk 75.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$2,795.48

Balance On Hand 8-31-01 \$ 815.08

Respectfully Submitted,
Raphael H. Yerby, Treasurer

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

Rev. M. H. Hollis, P. O. Box 183, Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. Lloyd George, 327 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, 3127 Freeman Road, Caledonia, MS 39740
Rev. C. C. Berryhill, 60324 Sipsev Fork Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848
Rev. Charles Fowler, 5121 Hwy. 102, Fayette, AL 35555
Rev. DeWight Bailey, P. O. Box 366, Nauvoo, AL 35578
Rev. Bill Duncan, 226 County Why. 104, Hamilton, AL 35570
Rev. Dale Ford, 50029 Riley Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848
Rev. Donald Kivette, 870 County Hwy. 74, Guin, AL 35563
Rev. Mark Collier, 3247 Military St. N., Hamilton, AL 35570
Rev. Jimmy Martin, 2938 Hwy. 96, Fayette, AL 35555
Rev. Scott Nicholson, 60320 Sipsev Fork Rd., Greenwood Springs, MS 38848
Rev. Randy Key, P. O. Box 8, Eldridge, AL 35554
Rev. Danny Thompson, 5399 Cody Rd., Kennedy, AL 35574
Rev. Jerry Barnes, 50066 J. U. Dobbs Rd., Amory, MS 38821
Rev. John Johnson, P. O. Box 207, Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. Darrell Burkett, 624 Sexton Rd., Fayette, AL 35555
Rev. Mark Kelley, 500 E. E. Kelley Rd., Detroit, AL 35552
Rev. Dwayne Hammontree, 5201 Hwy. 278, Sulligent, AL 35586
Rev. Lamar Cox, P. O. Box 31, Belk, AL 35545
Rev. Al Hamm, 806 Belmont Dr., Columbus, MS 39702
Rev. Jerry White, 5187 Buck Jackson, Red., Sulligent, AL 35586
Rev. Anthony Robbins, 11644 State Hwy. 253, Brilliant, AL 35548
Rev. Joe Beckon, 221 - 6th St. NE, Vernon, AL 35592
Rev. David Crowe, P. O. Box 4, Guin, AL 35563
Rev. Devin Henry, 484 E. E. Kelley Rd., Detroit, AL 35552

LICENSED MINISTERS

Bro. Sam House, 520 House Rd., Millport, AL 35576
Bro. Mark McCraney, 78 Pineview Circle, Tullahoma, TN 37388
Bro. J. C. Crawford, 2269 Stembridge Rd., Millport, AL 35576

LIST OF DEACONS

BEAVERTON - Bros. Bobby Dykes, Russell Cole and Harrell Cantrell

BELK - Bros. Raphael Yerby, Dalton Gilpin, Lewis Hindman, Edward House, and David Fowler

COOPER - Bros. Burley Finch, Dwight Lamb, and Edward Finch

DAVIS CHAPEL - None

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Bros. Joe M. Easter, Phillip Wise, Gene Wise, and Charles Franklin

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bros. Edsel Gideon, Tommy Otts, and Daniel Franks

FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Bros. Wayne DuBose, Willie Gene Perkins, Wayne Sorrells, Steve Butler, Leonard Corbett, Lamon Duckworth, Tony Perkins, and Kevin Sudduth

LOVEJOY - Bros. Guary Taylor, Clayton Barnes, Gary Sorrells, and Scotty Tucker

MT. HARMONY - Bros. L. C. Steedley, Frankie Beasley, and Rickey Owens

MT. PLEASANT - None

MT. WILLING - None

NEW CENTER POINT - Bros. C. L. Scott, Kenny Ford, Bobby Puckett, and Jerry Hall

PINEY GROVE - Bros. Danny Atkinson and Tommie Robertson

SPLUNGE - Bro. Clovis Blaylock

SPRINGFIELD - Bros. Tommie Rushing and Richard Johnson

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

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bros. Steve Spencer, Edgar S. Cooper, Harold Smith, and Robert Perkins

UNION CHAPEL - Bros. James E. Maddox, Jessie Yerby, Benny Hardy, and Calvin Jones

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

VICTORY - Bro. Jim Harrell

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, Roy Ashby, Oveat Graham, Gordie Rye, Sam Glasgow, L. D. Hall, and Coy Johnson.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE ONE - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section I - Name:

The association shall be known as the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama.

Section II - Purpose:

This body shall be composed of ministers, deacons, and delegates from the different churches that form this association. This body shall be considered an advisory council having no authority over the internal affairs of the local church. The association is organized for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining religious worship, the building, maintaining, and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, camps, and nursing homes.

ARTICLE TWO - ARTICLES OF FAITH AND CHURCH COVENANT

Section I - Treatise

This association accepts the Bible, the inspired Word of God as its sole authority in matters of faith and practice. The association further subscribes to the Treatise of Faith and Practice of the Original Free Will Baptist Church as adopted November 7, 1935 by the National Association of Free Will Baptists and any revisions thereafter.

Section II - Covenant

The association has adopted the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant of the National Association of Free Will Baptists as a guide for principals of Christian conduct concerning its members.

ARTICLE THREE - MEMBERSHIP

Section I - Petition for Membership

A church may present a request for membership to the Executive Committee of the Vernon Association. The request will be reviewed by the Executive and/or the Credentials Committee, and a recommendation will be made to the body of the association for approval.

Section II - Privileges of Member Churches

Each churches has full power to vote on all questions that come before the association. Each church is entitled to three (3) delegates for the first fifty (50) members and one (1) additional delegate for each twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof, in addition to ministers and deacons.

Section III - Duties of Member Churches

Churches wishing to become a member of this association must adopt The Free Will Baptist Articles of Faith and Church Covenant and conform to its usage.

Section IV - Discipline of a Church

The Credentials Committee will investigate any church that fails to adhere to the Treatise and Practice of Free Will Baptists and the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant. This will be reported to the association. The association will take whatever action it deems necessary.

Section V

We agree as churches of the 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.

Section VI

This association shall in all cases in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of all delegates present.

ARTICLE FOUR - FINANCES

Section I

All churches of the association with 100 members or more shall send the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) dues per year, and all churches of the association with less than 100 members shall send the sum of one hundred (\$100.00) dues per year.

Section II

The moderator shall receive \$50.00, the assistant moderator, \$25.00, the clerk, \$75.00, and the assistant clerk, \$50.00 per year for their services.

ARTICLE FIVE - OFFICERS

Section I

The officers of the association shall be the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk-treasurer, and assistant clerk-treasurer, who shall be chosen at the annual session by majority vote of the delegates present.

Section II

The outgoing clerk will be responsible for the printing and distribution of the minutes. The clerk will distribute the minutes to the churches within 90 days after the annual session.

Section III

No member of the 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.

Section IV

No member of the association shall be eligible to serve as moderator of the association until he has been a member of this association for at least two (2) years.

ARTICLE SIX - MEETINGS

Section I

The association shall meet semiannually with the meetings being on Saturday before the third Sunday in March and Saturday before the third Sunday in October each year.

Section II

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 until all business matters be transacted.

Section III

The Vernon Free Will Baptist Association year shall begin on the first day of September and end the last day of August each year.

ARTICLE SEVEN - COMMITTEES**Section I - Credentials Committee**

- A. The moderator shall appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of five (5) persons with the senior member in point of service being replaced each year.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to examine all members to become a part of this body either by ordination or letter.
- C. Any item of business pertaining to ministers or the conduct of members must originate with this committee.
- D. The committee shall consist of three (3) ministers and two (2) laymen.
- E. The Credentials Committee shall recommend the granting or rejection of a card of good standing for a minister.
 - (1) If a minister misses one association meeting, unless providentially hindered, he will not be given a card of good standing.
 - (2) The final decision to be made by the body.
- F. The Credentials 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 this association, and reporting this action to the annual meeting.
- G. The ordaining of ministers shall be the work of the Credentials Committee.
- H. The time and place of the ordaining service is to be determined by the Credentials Committee and the candidate to be ordained.

Section II - Executive Committee

- A. The Association shall have an Executive Committee consisting of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, and five (5) members from the General Board.
- B. The Executive Committee shall secure a speaker for the 11:00 A.M. message and plan the program for each session of the association.

Section III - General Board

- A. The Association shall have a General Board which shall consist of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, and assistant clerk along with one person from each church.

- B. Each person from the local church shall serve two (2) years, with one-half being elected each year as specified in the printed minutes.
- C. 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.
- D. The General Board of the association shall have the authority to authorize the Credentials Committee to ordain ministers between sessions of the association.

Section IV - Committee on Committees

- A. The moderator shall appoint a Committee on Committees whose duty it is to appoint various committees at each session.
- B. Each committee is to consist of from three (3) to five (5) members.
- C. The moderator shall call for a roll call of the delegates by the clerk. After the roll call, the delegates are enrolled at the discretion of the body.
- D. The moderator shall call for the report of the Digest Committee.

Section V - Nominating Committee

- A. The moderator shall appoint a Nominating Committee for each annual session of the association. The committee will consist of three (3) people.
- B. The Nominating Committee will submit one (1) name for each vacancy to be filled.
- C. Nominations will still be permitted from the floor.

ARTICLE EIGHT - LICENSING AND ORDAINING

Section I - Licensing of Ministers

- A. 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.
- B. The examination for license should refer to piety, doctrine and convictions of the candidate.

Section II - Ordination of Ministers

- A. 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 Baptists and the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists.
- B. A minister shall not be licensed, ordained, or accepted into this association who has more than one living wife or whose wife has more than one living husband.
- C. A minister shall not be licensed, ordained, or accepted into this association who uses tobacco in any form.
- D. A person must have received a ministerial license from a local Free Will Baptist Church for a period of one year before becoming a candidate to be ordained.
- E. When a church recommends a candidate for ordination as a minister

- of the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists, they will submit any additional information that the Credentials Committee may deem necessary for a more thorough evaluation of the candidate.
- F. The recommendation for ordination must be the result of a regular conference of the church where the candidate is a member.
- G. Any ordained minister that desires to become a member of this association must submit a letter of recommendation from the Free Will Baptist Church of which he is a member.
- (1) The request from the church should be submitted to the moderator or the chairman of the Credentials Committee a month prior to the annual association meeting.
 - (2) The association clerk will request a letter of good standing from the association of which the minister was previously a member.
 - (3) The minister's full acceptance into the Vernon Association is based upon a favorable letter of good standing.
- H. An ordained minister coming from a denomination other than Free Will Baptists:
- (1) The minister must join a local Free Will Baptist Church of this association.
 - (2) The minister must surrender credentials held from another denomination.
 - (3) The minister must be recommended by the Credentials Committee to the association body to receive Free Will Baptist credentials in the Vernon Association.
- I. 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 this association.
- J. Any minister of this association who is known to be guilty of using intoxicating spirits by drinking as a beverage which 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.
- K. If a minister that is a member of this association, misses two (2) consecutive annual association meetings, unless providentially hindered, his name shall be removed from the roll of ministers.
- L. A minister that has been removed from the roll of ministers of the Vernon Association may be reinstated to the roll of ministers, pending the approval of the Credentials Committee.
- M. The Vernon Association shall 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.

- N. A church having licensed a minister for one year may request that the minister be ordained between association meetings if the minister is called as a pastor of a church before his one year of license has expired.

ARTICLE NINE - AMENDMENTS

Section I

This constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Vernon Association by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided proposed amendment be presented in writing to the body and shall lie on the table at least from the morning session till the evening session.

BY-LAWS

- I. This association shall be called to order and presided over by the officers elected at the last session.
- II. All ministers must register at the annual association meeting and their names will be printed in the minutes.
- III. 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.
- IV. Rules of Decorum:
 - A. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the moderator and after recognition by the moderator shall proceed.
 - B. No person shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.
 - C. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without permission of the moderator nor more than five minutes.
 - D. No person shall laugh or talk during discussion.
 - E. No delegate shall absent himself from the association without permission from the moderator.
- V. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of this association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

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. Acknowledgments.
9. Committee reports.
10. New Business.
11. Adjournment.