

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND  
SESSION**

**of the**

**VERNON FREE WILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**held with**

**THE FREE WILL CHAPEL  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**2002 Minutes**

**OFFICERS FOR 2002**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND SESSION**

MODERATOR ..... REV. DANNY THOMPSON  
ASSISTANT MODERATOR ..... REV. RANDY WRIGHT  
CLERK ..... BRO. STEVE BUTLER  
ASSISTANT CLERK ..... SIS. ELWANDA OAKES

The next session (Spring Meeting) of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 15, 2003 with registration beginning at 9:30 A.M., and service beginning promptly at 10:00 A.M. The annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held with the Sulligent First Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, October 18, 2003, beginning promptly at 9:00 A.M.

**OFFICERS FOR 2003**

MODERATOR ..... REV. SCOTT NICHOLSON  
60320 Sipsev Fork Road  
Greenwood Springs, MS 38848  
Telephone 662-257-1111  
ASSISTANT MODERATOR ..... REV. LAMAR COX  
P.O. Box 31, Belk, AL 35545  
Telephone 205-932-3144  
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-second session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with the Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, October 19, 2002. Rev. Danny Thompson of the Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church served as moderator. Rev. Randy Wright, pastor of the Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, served as assistant moderator and Bro. Steve Butler served as clerk, Sis. Elwanda Oakes as assistant clerk.

The meeting began with a song, "Amazing Grace," which was directed by Bro. Daniel Franks. Rev. Bill Smith led the opening prayer.

Everyone was welcomed to the Free Will Chapel Church by host pastor, Rev. Jerry White. Rev. Donald Kivette gave the response. Following the welcome, a time of fellowship was enjoyed. Prayer was led by the moderator before the morning devotion.

Rev. David Crowe conducted the morning devotion taking as his text verses from the Book of Philemon. Prayer following the devotion was by the speaker.

After the devotion time, the one hundred and twenty-second session of the Vernon free Will Baptist Association was officially called into the business session by Association Clerk, Bro. Steve Butler. The clerk next read a roll call of delegates. After a motion, second and vote the delegates were seated for this session of the association.

The moderator recognized any visiting brethren to be seated with us during this association session. Those present were Rev. Rick Cash, Rev. Larry Powell, Rev. Ashley Culp, Rev. Mark Cash, and a delegation from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Fayette, Alabama.

The Digest Committee report was given by Bro. Joseph Callahan as Chairman. A motion, second, and vote was received to accept the report and discharge the committee.

The General Board report was given next by clerk, Bro. Steve Butler. Following a motion, second, and vote the report was approved.

The Committee on Committees report was given by Bro. Mike McDaniel. With this report the various committees of the association were appointed to report later during this session of the association. Following a motion, second and vote to receive the report, the committee was discharged.

The moderator called for petitionary letters. The First Free Will Baptist Church of Fayette, Alabama, has requested membership in the Vernon Association.

A report of the Vernon District Women Active for Christ was given by Sis. Burma Jordan. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to receive the report as information.

The moderator recognized Rev. Rick Cash, Alabama State Promotional Director and the Acts 1:8 Program. The report was informative, interesting and encouraging showing that progress has been made during the past year. A motion, second and vote was made to accept the report as information.

Next, the moderator recognized Rev. Ashley Culp, Director of Trinity Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, and asked him to report on the activities at the camp. Rev. Culp mentioned that the camp had a busy year, but still had need of financial help to offset some increased costs at the camp. A motion, second, and vote was taken to accept the report as information.

Rev. Randy Key, director of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Eldridge, Alabama, was asked by the moderator to share with the session the activities at the Children's Home. He mentioned that there were twenty-five children at the home at this time and that plans are being made to develop more of the property at the Home. A motion, second, and vote was made to accept this report as information.

The session was dismissed by the moderator for a short time of recess, and fellowship. During this time various committees met and prepared their reports.

The Finance Committee Report was given next by Sis. Burma Jordan, Chairperson of the Committee. A motion, second, and vote was made to approve the report and dismiss the committee.

Rev. Randy Wright gave the Credentials Committee Report. A motion, second and vote was given to accept the report.

The moderator asked for churches who would like to host either the Thanksgiving Service, Spring Meeting, or the Annual Meeting. The First Free Will Baptist Church in Vernon asked to host the Thanksgiving Service, the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church requested to host the Spring Meeting, and the First Free Will Baptist Church in Sulligent asked to host the Annual Meeting.

Delegates to the State Association meeting were appointed by the moderator. They are Bro. Mike McDaniel, Sis. Elwanda Oakes, Sis. Sue Yerby, and Sis. Lucy Cox.

Rev. Dwayne Hammontree next gave a report of the Christian Education Board. After a motion, second, and vote the report was approved.

At this time we entered into the 11:00 AM worship service, with the singing of "A New Name in Glory" led by Bro. Daniel Franks. Next, an offering was



received, to the given to the Home Missions Department in Nashville, Tennessee. Rev. Mark Cash gave the offertory prayer. The amount of the offering was \$272.07. Special music was provided by a quartet of members from the Free Will Chapel Church. The group sang the song, "Wait Until You See My Brand New Home." The message followed with Rev. Larry Powell, Home Missions Director doing the preaching. His text was from Acts 17:26, 27. Prayer was given by the speaker. An altar call followed, with many coming to pray for our missionaries as well as other needs. Rev. Randy Wright led the congregation in singing, "God Is So Good." The meeting was dismissed for lunch.

Following a delicious meal provided by the Free Will Chapel Church, the one hundred twenty-second session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was called back into session. The congregation was led in singing "Jesus, Hold My Hand" by Bro. Daniel Franks. A song of special music was next offered by Sis. Lacrechia Barnes.

The afternoon devotion was conducted by the host pastor, Rev. Jerry White citing verses from Hebrews 13 as his text. Prayer was by Rev. Randy Wright.

The next report of the Sunday School and Church Training Service was given by Sister Elwanda Oakes. Following a motion, second and vote the report was approved.

The Temperance Committee Report was given by Bro. Mike McDaniel. A motion, second, and vote was made to receive the report.

The Deceased Members Committee made the next report. Sis Frances Butler gave the report. Following a motion, second and vote the report was approved. A song, "Where We'll Never Grow Old" followed the reading of the report. Rev. Darrell Burkett then led in prayer.

A report of the Appreciation Committee was next given by Sis. Carol Kivette. With a motion, second, and vote the report was received.

The moderator asked for nominations to the Executive Committee. A motion, second, and vote was made to retain all current members on the committee. The motion was seconded and the vote and election by acclamation.

The Committee on Committees for the coming year was appointed by the moderator.

The moderator appointed the members of the Nominating Committee for the next year. The present Nominating Committee gave their report or recommendations for moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, and assistant clerk. Recommendations were for Moderator, Rev. Scott Nicholson; Assis-

tant Moderator, Rev. Lamar Cox; Clerk, Bro. Steve Butler; and Assistant Clerk, Sis. Elwanda Oakes. Also recommended were: Bro. Mike McDaniel to replace Rev. Dwight Hammontree on the C.E. Board, and Bro. Steve Butler to remain on the Youth Camp Board. All recommendations were approved by acclamation.

A motion, second, and vote was made to adjourn this session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

A total of 115 people registered for this session of the association. They were as follows:

Ministers 27

Visitors 25

Deacons 14

Delegates 49

Ministers that registered

Rev. Jerry R. White

Rev. Mark Cash

Rev. Rick Cash

Rev. Kelvin Price

Rev. Danny Thompson

Rev. James Walden

Rev. Devin Henry

Rev. Al Hamm

Rev. Ashley Culp

Rev. Charles Fowler

Rev. Billy R. Smith

Rev. Randy Wright

Rev. Scott Nicholson

Rev. Dwight Bailey

Rev. Dwayne Hammontree

Rev. Scott Montgomery

Rev. Donald Kivette

Rev. John Reid

Rev. Lamar Cox

Rev. David Crowe

Rev. Joe Beckson

Rev. Clevert Berryhill

Rev. Randy Key

Rev. Dale Ford

Rev. M. H. Hollis

Rev. Darrell Burkett

Rev. Johnny Quinn

### SEMIANNUAL MEETING

The semiannual meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association was held with the Belk Free Will Baptist Church, Belk, Alabama on Saturday, March 16, 2002 at 9:00 AM. Rev. Danny Thompson served as moderator.

The session was opened with a song, "Are You Washed in the Blood," directed by Rev. Randy Wright. Following the song, Rev. Rich Cash prayed the opening prayer. The Association was welcomed to the meeting by host pastor, Rev. Lamar Cox, from the Belk Free Will Baptist Church.

A song was next sung by Sis. Cindy Byars from the Belk Free Will Baptist Church. The song was entitled, "He Touched Me."

Following the special music, a devotion was given by Rev. Joe Beckon of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Vernon, Alabama. His text was from

Nehemiah 1: 3, 4 and titled "Building and Battling." Prayer was given by the speaker.

An invitation was given by the moderator rev. Danny Thompson for those present to respond to the message. A prayer followed being offered by Rev. James Walden.

The moderator asked for a time of testimony by those present. Many testimonies were given as to how God has blessed them through His goodness and His mercy.

Following a time of testimony, the congregation enjoyed a time of fellowship with one another.

After the fellowship time, the congregation sang a song, "I'll Fly Away."

Special music was next given by Sis. Lucy Cox of the Belk Free Will Baptist Church. Her song was entitled "Holy of Holies."

The second devotion was next given by Rev. Al Hamm with his text taken from Psalms 119: 121-128. Prayer was by Rev. M. H. Hollis.

An opportunity to make an announcements was made available to the congregation.

Announcements were:

1. A special service at the Lamar County High School with the Free Will Baptist Bible College Drama and Music group will be held Saturday, May 4, 2002.
2. The fall meeting of the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2002.
3. The National Association of Free Will Baptists will meet in Alabama in 2006. Each church has been asked to send \$45 per year for 4 years (\$180.00) to the State Promotional Office to help with the expense of the meeting.

Rev. Ashley Culp with the Trinity Camp shared with the congregation a fund raising project at the camp which involves the construction of a vinyl fence at the camp. The estimated cost of the project is \$6,000. He asked that any church, Sunday School classes, or individuals donate \$6.00 per foot of fence toward the cost of the project.

State Promotional Director Rev. Rick Cash reported on the Acts 1:8 program. He mentioned that program giving had exceeded the budget goal for the year. Rev. Rich Cash and Rev. Danny Thompson will leave Monday, March 17, 2002 to visit Russia and to attend an association meeting there.

A song, "Tell It To Jesus," was led by Rev. Randy Wright. Next Frankie Beasley of the Mt. Harmony Church sang a song of special music.

Rev. Tom Malone gave the noon message. His message text was from Job

1:1-10. Rev. Malone asked for an altar call following the message. Many came and responded to the challenge of the message.

An offering was taken after the message. The collection will go to the Free Will Baptist Bible College. The amount of the offering was \$224.00.

Rev. Thompson encouraged all churches in the Vernon Association to have 100% participation in the Acts 1:8 program.

Rev. Ashley Culp concluded the session with prayer.

The congregation was dismissed to enjoy a wonderful meal provided by the Belk Free Will Baptist Church.

### CHURCHES AND DELEGATES LISTED

BEAVERTON- Brother David Trentelman; Sisters Christy Trentelman, Sharon Cantrell

BELK- Sisters Jeanne Fowler, Lucy Cox, Sue Yerby, Iva Powell, Cindy Byars, Pam Byars, Alt., Brother Sam House, Alt.

COOPER - Brothers Devin Henry, John Stoddard; Sisters Tammy Henry, Sylvia Ford, Debbie England, Willa Dean Miles, Mary Nash, Willer Dean Spratlin, Denise Stoddard

DAVIS CHAPEL - Brothers Joe Lay, Doyle Pendley

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sisters Mary Wise, Laura Franklin, Brenda Langford, Shelia Irvin, Alt.

FAYETTE, FIRST - No delegates listed

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Brothers Doug Barnes, David Gunnells, Billy Joe Turner, Paul McLemore, James Earl Hall, Alt.

FRIENDSHIP - No delegates listed

LIBERTY - Sisters Donna Yerby, Stacey Perkins, Loree Christain, Janice Sorrells, Margaret Corbett, Frances Butler, Stephanie Butler, Mary Ann Perkins, Alt., Brother Carl Perkins, Alt.

LOVE JOY - Brothers Freddie Pickle, W. C. Guyton, J. R. Coley, Marty Stockman, Chris Carruth, Matthew Paul, Alt.

MT. HARMONY - Sisters Kaye Callahan, Lavore Nesbitt, Linda Hubbert, Brothers Joseph Callahan, J. C. Crawford

MT. PLEASANT - Sisters Carol Kivette, Betty Elrod, Pearlie Allen

MT. WILLING - No delegates listed

NEW CENTER POINT - Sisters Susan Nicholson, Stephanie Stafford, Shelia Rasberry; Brother Dale Stanford



PINEY GROVE -Brothers Trey Cole, Dock Lynn, Terry Cummings, Stoney Robertson

SPLUNGE - Sisters Linda Ford Delores Northington

SPRINGFIELD - Sisters Burma Jordan, Belva Pennington, Kim Johnson, Brothers Dick Walters, John Pennington

SULLIGENT FIRST - Sisters Sandra Carter, Teresa Kerr; Brothers Bob Carter, Ken Kerr, Josh Northington, Jerry Hammontree

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Sister Karen Sue Brown, Brothers J. C. Young, Robert Perkins

UNION CHAPEL - Sister Joyce Hardy, Brother Dean Maddox

VERNON FIRST - Sisters Lou Ella Knight, Marsha McDaniel, Elwanda Oakes, Louise Shelnut, Amber Beckon, Alt., Brothers Mike McDaniel, Scott Stanford

VICTORY - No delegates listed

### GENERAL BOARD

BEAVERTON - None listed

BELK - Dalton Gilpin

COOPER - Edward Finch

DAVIS CHAPEL - None listed

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - T.L. Webb

FAYETTE, FIRST - None Listed

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Mike Gideon

FRIENDSHIP - None listed

LIBERTY - Leonard Corbett

LOVEJOY - Guary Taylor

MT. HARMONY - Phil Wheeler

MT. PLEASANT - Johnny Bigham

MT. WILLING - None listed

NEW CENTER POINT - Jim Northington

PINEY GROVE - Tommie Robertson

SPLUNGE - None listed

SPRINGFIELD - Dick Walters

SULLIGENT FIRST - Bob Carter

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Steve Spencer

UNION CHAPEL - Dean Maddox

VERNON FIRST - Mike McDaniel

VICTORY - None listed

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.

Beaverton

Belk

Cooper

Depriest Chapel

Fayette, First

Free Will Chapel

Friendship

Liberty

Love Joy

Mt. Harmony

**Committee on Committees**

**2002-2003**

Rev. Joe Beckon, Chairman

Bro. Leonard Corbett

Rev. John Johnson

**Executive Committee**

**2002-2003**

Rev. Scott Nicholson

Rev. Lamar Cox

Bro. Steve Butler

Sis. Elwanda Oakes

Bro. Dalton Gilpin

Bro. Leonard Corbett

Bro. Phil Wheeler

Bro. Jim Northington

Bro. Matthew May

**Credentials Committee**

Rev. Randy Wright - 2003

Rev. Dwayne Hammontree - 2004

Rev. James Walden - 2005

Bro. Dalton Gilpin - 2006

Bro. Pascal Yerby - 2007

**Finance Committee - 2002**

Sis. Burma Jordan

Rev. Jerry White

Sis. Donna Yerby

**Nominating Committee**

**2002-2003**

Rev. Jerry White, Chairman

Rev. Donald Kivette

Bro. Raphael Yerby

**Youth Camp Board of Directors**

Bro. Lewis Hindman - 2003

Rev. Randy Wright - 2004

Bro. Steve Butler - 2005

**Board of Christian Education**

**(C.E.)**

Rev. Dale Ford - 2003

Rev. David Crowe - 2004

Rev. John Johnson - 2005

Sis. Stephanie Butler - 2006

Bro., Mike McDaniel - 2007

**Sunday School and C.T.S.**

**Committee - 2002**

Sis. Elwanda Oakes

Rev. Dwayne Hammontree

Bro. J. C. Crawford

**Deceased Members**

**Committee - 2002**

Sis. Frances Butler

Sis. Sue Yerby

Sis. Marsha McDaniel

**Digest Committee - 2003**

Bro. Joseph Callahan

Bro. Scott Stanford

Bro. Bob Carter

**Appreciation Committee**

**2002**

Sis. Susan Nicholson

Sis. Carol Kivette

Sis. Pearlle Allen

**Temperance Committee - 2002**

Bro. Edsel Gideon

Bro. Mike McDaniel

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Finance Committee, submit the following report:

The balance on hand, on 01-03-02 was \$1,367.73. A total of \$3,250.00 has been received from our churches in dues for this year. That brings our balance to \$4617.73. Our estimated expenses for the coming year are estimated to be \$3100.00, leaving a projected balance of \$1517.73.

Respectfully submitted by the committee:

Sis. Burma Jordan, Chairperson

Rev. Jerry White

Sis. Donna Yerby

### **TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Temperance Committee, would like to submit the following report:

In Ephesians 4:26, we are told to be angry and sin not. Sometimes we do not finish this verse out, and finish the thought not to let the sun go down on our wrath. When someone has wronged us, we are not to harbor these feelings. Settle these feelings through prayer. The Lord will guide.

Respectfully submitted by the committee:

Bro. Edsen Gideon, Chairman

Bro. Mike McDaniel

### **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

- I. We recommend that a letter of good standing be granted to Rev. Mark Kelly, who has assumed the pastorate of the Howard Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Cottonwood, Alabama with the Florida State Line Association.
- II. We recommend that all ministers of the Vernon Association present today receive a card of good standing.

Respectfully submitted by the committee

Rev. Randy Wright, Chairman

### **APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

In Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." How great it is to be thankful all the time. God is so good.

We extend to the Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church our heartfelt appreciation for opening their doors to the Vernon Association. Thanks for the wonderful meal and hospitality. We have had a wonderful day. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

To our moderator, clerk, delegates, ministers, speakers, and to all who took part, we say thank you.

Respectfully submitted by the committee  
Carol Kivette  
Pearlie Allen

### DECEASED MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Deceased Members Committee, submit the following report: Twenty-eight (28) brothers and sisters have gone to be with our Lord during 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 their labors; and their works do follow them."

We wish to remember the deceased from our churches:

BEAVERTON - None

BELK - Bro. Jeffery Dunn, Sis. Pauline Moore, Bro. Charles Buckner

COOPER - Bro. Pete Lewis, Sis. Lola Downs

DAVIS CHAPEL - Bro. Van Snow

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - None

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Buddy Gideon, Sis Dot. McCracken

FRIENDSHIP - None

LIBERTY - Sis. Bessie Allen, Sis. Ruth Fowler

LOVE JOY - None

MT. HARMONY - Bro. Clayton Huguley, Bro. Melvin Wheeler, Bro. Prentiss Johnson, Bro. Richard Hulsey, Sis. Lois Allen

MT. PLEASANT - Bro. Curtis Corbell

MT. WILLING - Sis. Willie Haney, Sis. Maxine Robertson, Sis. Ida Mae McGowin

NEW CENTER POINT - Sis. Verla Scott

PINEY GROVE - Bro. Leslie Kennedy

SPLUNGE - None

SPRINGFIELD - Sis. Dovie Pennington, Sis. Dorothy Johnson

SULLIGENT FIRST F.W.B.- Bro. Earnest Northington



TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bro. Edgar Stanford Cooper

UNION CHAPEL -None

VERNON FIRST F.W.B.- Sis. Judy Daddell

VICTORY - Bro. Bob Templeton

Respectfully submitted by the committee

Sis. Frances Butler, Chairperson

Sis. Sue Yerby

Sis. Marsha McDaniel

### **VERNON DISTRICT WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST**

The Vernon District Women Active For Christ met at the Springfield Free Will Baptist Church on March 7, 2002 for their 24th annual meering with 25 ladies in attendance. Our theme was "For Such a Time as This" Esther 4:14. Sister Sarah McDaniel, one of our members, was our speaker.

A love offering of \$75,00 was taken and a motion made to send this to Ms. Icie Mae Frederick, missionary to Haiti.

Some of our projects for this year are the 2006 project, the Care Center in Vernon, the Hope Center, Richard Yerby and the Children's Home. We were in charge of the birthday party at the Care Center in August and had ten ladies attend.

The state meeting was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Vernon. Rev. Randy Key from the Children's Home in Eldridge was guest speaker.

Six members from the Vernon District attended the prayer retreat in Ridgecrest in September.

WAC gave \$185.00 to Home Missions and \$230 to Foreign Missions. We gave \$120.92 to the Children's Home, \$180 to the Trinity Youth Camp, \$2509 to the 2006 project. Total gifts sent through the Vernon District WAC were \$2,289.12.

We are very thankful for the things we have been able to do last year and desire your prayers and support as we work together to win others for Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Burma Jordan, Secretary/Treasurer

DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT:

Statistics

Number of Churches reporting (Rural-18, City-4) . . . . .	22
Full-time pastors (19 churches reporting) . . . . .	14
Part-time pastors (19 churches reporting) . . . . .	5
Tithes and offerings (14 churches reporting) . . . . .	\$789,066.71
Ordained Ministers . . . . .	31
Licensed Ministers . . . . .	9
Ordained Deacons . . . . .	66
Churches with Daycare . . . . .	1
Churches with Kindergarten . . . . .	1
Churches with Day School . . . . .	1
Churches with Sunday School . . . . .	22
Sunday School Enrollment . . . . .	1,297
Baptisms . . . . .	39
Members Added . . . . .	80
Members Lost . . . . .	55
Total Membership . . . . .	2,490
Churches with Parsonages . . . . .	8
Churches with Budgets . . . . .	2
Value of Church Property (12 churches reporting) . . . . .	\$4,701.000
Churches with CTS . . . . .	2
CTS Enrollment . . . . .	146
Churches with Ladies Auxiliary . . . . .	10
Ladies Auxiliary Enrollment (one not reporting) . . . . .	103
Churches with Masters Men . . . . .	1
Masters Men Enrollment . . . . .	8

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Callahan, Chairman

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (C.E.) REPORT**

We the Board of Christian Education respectfully submit the following report:

Beginning balance:	\$1902.61
Paid Out:	
Life Line Tours	-975.00
Received:	
Offering for Bible College in Nashville	789.86
Paid Out:	
Bible College in Nashville	<u>-789.86</u>
Current Ending Balance:	\$927.61

Respectfully submitted by the committee:  
David Crowe, Chairman  
Stephanie Butler, Secretary  
Dwayne Hammontree, Treasurer  
Dale Ford  
John Johnson

**GENERAL BOARD REPORT**

The General Board did not have any items of business to be considered during the past year and therefore has no report to submit.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee of the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptist met on Monday evening, January 28, 2002, at the Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church. Those present were: Rev. D. Thompson, Rev. R. Wright, Bro. S. Butler, Sis. E. Oakes, Bro. D. Gilpin, Bro. L. Corbett, and Bro. P. Wheeler.

Subjects discussed were:

1. Spring Meeting of the Vernon Association: A proposed program of activities was presented and approved by the committee with a voice vote.
2. Fall Meeting of the Vernon Association: A speaker for the 11:00 AM worship service was discussed. Those mentioned as possible speakers were Rev. Larry Powell, Bro. Trymon Messer, Rev. Wayne Wilson, Dr. Dan Ireland, and Rev. Rick Cash. Rev. Thompson agreed to contact each person listed starting with the first on down the list, taking into account the schedules of the speakers and their availability to come. It was agreed on by the committee that any offering taken would be designated for the ministry that the speaker requested or wished for it to be given to.

For the morning devotion, Rev. Jerry White was chosen.

For the afternoon devotion, Rev. Mark Kelley and Rev. John Johnson were suggested. Rev. Thompson agreed to contact each person beginning with Rev. Kelley and then Rev. Johnson, considering their availability to come.

3. Free Will Baptist Bible College Music/Drama Program: The committee discussed the program planned by the Christian Education Board. The Music/Drama program would be performing at the Lamar county High School Auditorium. The rental of a chartered bus to transport the group would be paid for by the Christian Education Board, said cost being \$975.00. An offering would be received during the program, which would be given to the Bible College. The date set for the program was Saturday, May 4, 2002.

There being no future discussion or business, the committee dismissed in prayer, led by Rev. Thompson

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Danny Thompson, Moderator



CHURCH	PASTOR'S ADDRESS	PASTOR'S TELEPHONE	CLERK'S ADDRESS
BEAVERTON	Rev. Dwight Bailey P. O. Box 366 Nauvoo, AL 35578	205-697-5584	Mrs. Sharon Cantrell 3105 Mt. Hebron Rd. Beaverton, AL 35544
BELK	Rev. Lamar Cox P. O. Box 31 Belk, AL 35545	205-932-3144	Mrs. Pam Byars 6633 Hwy. 96 Fayette, AL 35555
COOPER	Rev. Devin Henry 484 E.E. Kelley Rd. Detroit, AL 35552	205-921-2440	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 Gattman, MS 38844
FAYETTE, FIRST	Rev. Mark McCraney 918 Temple Avenue Fayette, AL 35555	205-904-9049	Mrs. Era Aldridge 531 3rd Ave. NW Fayette, AL 35555
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Rev. Jerry White 5187 Buck Jackson Road Sulligent, AL 35586	205-695-6119	Mrs. Lenora Hopper 5187 County Lake Rd. Sulligent, AL 35586
FRIENDSHIP			Ms. Beverlye Wood 2375 Highway 82 Ethelsville, AL 35461
LIBERTY	Rev. Darrell Burkett 624 Sexton Road Fayette, AL 35555	205-932-8683	Mr. Steve Butler 100 Bethabara Cutoff Fayette, AL 35555
LOVEJOY	Rev. Anthony Robbins 11644 State Hwy. 253 Brilliant, AL 35548	205-468-8210	Mrs. Linda Barnes 610 Markham Rd. Guin, AL 35563
MT. HARMONY	Rev. Danny Thompson 5399 Cody Rd. Kennedy, AL 35574	205-596-4041	Mr. David Harrison P. O. Box 532 Vernon, AL 35592
MT. PLEASANT	Rev. Donald Kivette 870 County Hwy. 74 Guin, AL 35563	205-468-2657	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 6711 Co. Hwy. 69 Guin, AL 35563	205-468-3740	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 Gattman, MS 38844
SPRINGFIELD	Rev. John Johnson P. O. Box 207 Vernon, AL 35592	205-695-6343	Mr. Jimmy McDaniel 645 Buck Run Vernon, AL 35592
SULLIGENT, FIRST FWB	Rev. Dwayne Hammontree 5201 Hwy. 278 Sulligent, AL 35586	205-698-9540	Ms. Vivian Spencer P.O. Box 507 Sulligent, AL 35586
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	Rev. Charles Fowler 5121 Hwy. 102 Fayette, AL 35555	205-932-6589	Ms. Jo Ann Maddox P. O. Box 636 Fayette, AL 35555
VERNON, FIRST FWB	Rev. Joe Beckon 221- 6th St., N.E. Vernon, AL 35592	205-695-9730	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	-	-	1
3	3	157	75	-	12	3
3	2	125	70	12	-	1
7	1	26	NR	-	-	1
0	0	70	40	-	-	0
0	1	180	133	-	NR	3
8	2	219	52	-	10	1
2	0	13	13	-	-	0
7	2	221	63	74	25	1
1	0	57	40	-	6	1
4	5	220	102	-	-	2
0	1	88	28	-	-	3
0	3	89	18	-	-	1
5	1	154	60	-	10	2
5	1	NR	130	-	-	3
-	-	NR	50	-	15	1
11	2	NR	NR	-	9	1
1	1	243	144	-	-	1
0	1	50	35	-	-	0
-	0	95	17	-	-	1
20	1	303	124	72	19	2
3	1	125	125	NR	NR	1

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on Hand 01-21-02 \$1,367.73

RECEIPTS:

Offering at March meeting .....	\$ 224.00	
Offering at October meeting .....	272.07	
Dues from churches .....	<u>3,250.00</u>	
		<u>\$3,441.80</u>

TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR EXPENDITURES: \$5,113.80

Check Charge .....	\$ 14.00
Postage .....	34.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College .....	224.00
Postage .....	14.24
Kountry Kitchven .....	115.00
Rev. Danny Thompson .....	50.00
Rev. Randy Wright .....	25.00
Elwanda Oakes, Asst. Clerk .....	50.00
Twinn Gables Inn .....	70.00
Ala. State & National Dues .....	1,870.00
Home Missions Dept. ....	272.07
Steve Butler, Clerk .....	<u>75.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$2,813.31

Balance On Hand 8-31-02 \$2,300.49

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Butler, Treasurer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Nominating Committee, make the following recommendations:

- For moderator - Rev. Scott Nicholson
- For Asst. Moderator - Rev. Lamar Cox
- For Association Clerk - Bro. Steve Butler
- For Asst. Association Clerk - Sis. Elwanda Oakes

For Board for Christian Education:

Replacing Rev. Dwight Hammontree with Bro. Mike McDaniel

For Youth Camp Board of Directors:

Replacing Bro. Steve Butler with Bro. Steve Butler

Respectfully submitted,  
Bro. Raphael Yerby, Chairman  
Bro. Edward Finch

**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 Sipsey 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 Sipsey 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. 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. Russell Cole, Bobby Dykes, Harrell Cantrell

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

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

DAVIS CHAPEL - None listed

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Bros. Joe Mack Easter, Phillip Wise, Gene Wise

FAYETTE, FIRST - Bros. Mike Kimbrell, Billy Hamm, Reedus Wheat, T. J. Johnson, I. J. Britnell

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

FRIENDSHIP - None listed

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

LOVE JOY - Bros. Guary Taylor, Clayton Barnes, Gary Sorrells, Scotty Tucker

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

MT. PLEASANT - None listed

MT. WILLING - None listed

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

PINEY GROVE - Bros. Danny Atkinson, Tommie Robertson

SPLUNGE - Bro. Clovis Blaylock

SPRINGFIELD - Bros. Tommie Rushing, Richard Johnson

SULLIGENT FIRST - Bros. Jessie Barnes, Jr., Luke Spruiell, Frank Mixon,

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Bros. Steve Spencer, Robert Perkins, Harold Smith

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

VERNON FIRST - Bros. Pascal Yerby, Paul Shelnut, Edgar Turner, Derrell Wheeler

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, Paul Jordan, P. E. Maddox, Albert Christian, Edgar Stanford Cooper.

## **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. 1 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.

