

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD  
SESSION**

**of the**

**VERNON FREE WILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**held with the**

**FIRST  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
BELK, ALABAMA**

**2013 Minutes**

**OFFICERS FOR 2013**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD SESSION**

MODERATOR ..... REV. DANNY THOMPSON  
ASSISTANT MODERATOR ..... REV. STEPHEN CANTRELL  
CLERK ..... BRO. STEVE BUTLER  
ASSISTANT CLERK ..... SIS. SANDRA CARTER

The next session (Spring Meeting) of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014. Registration will start at 9:30 A.M. and service beginning at 10:00 A.M. The location of the service will be announced at a later date.

The annual meeting (Fall Meeting) of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M. and service beginning at 9:00 A.M. The location of the service will be announced at a later date.

**OFFICERS FOR 2014**

MODERATOR ..... REV. DANNY THOMPSON  
5399 Cody Road, Kennedy, Alabama 35574  
205-712-2223 (c)  
E-mail dtkt@frontiernet.net

ASSISTANT MODERATOR ..... REV. STEPHEN CANTRELL  
5201 Hwy 278, Sulligent, Alabama 35586  
205-698-8177 (H)  
205-712-4896 (c)

CLERK ..... BRO. STEVE BUTLER  
100 Bethabara Cutoff, Fayette, Alabama 35555  
205-932-8496 (H)

ASSISTANT CLERK ..... SIS. SANDRA CARTER  
186 Pinehills Avenue NW, Vernon, Alabama 35592  
Telephone 205-695-9785 (H)

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**SPRING MEETING**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013**

The Spring Meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met at the New Center Point Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 16, 2013. To begin the meeting, a congregational song was sung by all present and led by Bro. Adam Taggart of the New Center Point Church. Following the song, Bro. Eric Keeton, Pastor of New Center Point Church, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bro. Danny Thompson, Moderator, gave the response and thanked New Center Point Church for hosting the meeting.

Special music was given by the choir of New Center Point Church. The song was a rendition of "How Great Thou Art". Bro. Eric Keeton gave the morning devotion. The scripture used was from Acts 1:6-8. Prayer following devotion was by Bro. Keeton.

Brief reports of information were given next. Bro. Ashley Culp, Director of Trinity Camp, gave a brief report about the camp. Preparations have been made for summer camp. Air conditioning units have been installed in the girls' dorm. New flooring has been installed in the gym. Bro. Danny Williams, Children's Home Promotional Director, gave a report on the Children's Home. House parents have been hired. There are currently 18 children being served at the Home. There have been improvements made at the Home with one set of house parents still needed. He shared with those present information about the World Missions Offering. Last year Free Will Baptists received \$1.1 million to send to missionaries in foreign countries. Last year 51 churches in Alabama gave to the World Missions Offering.

Those present were dismissed to break in the fellowship hall for refreshments.

Following the break, a congregational song was sung, "Just Over In The Glory Land", led by Bro. Adam Taggart. Next, a song of special music was given by the choir of the New Center Point Church with a solo part given by church pastor, Bro. Eric Keeton.

The morning message was by Bro. Jaimie Lancaster, missionary to Uruguay. The message scripture was from Matthew 16:13-16. Prayer was by the speaker following the message.

Bro. Rick Cash gave a report on the Acts 1:8 Program as well as the Executive Office. Construction on the Executive Office building is

progressing on schedule. Bro. Danny Thompson gave a brief report on the mission work in Castle Rock, Colorado

An offering was received that would be for and used by the Vernon Association.

The dismissal prayer was by Bro. Rick Cash. All present were invited to remain and enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by the New Center Point Church

**PROCEEDINGS  
VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
FALL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2013**

The annual session of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association convened on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the Belk Free Will Baptist Church in Belk, Alabama. Bro. Danny Thompson, Moderator, opened the meeting at 8:55 AM. Prayer followed by Bro. Randy Wright of the Piney Grove Church. A congregational song was next led by Dr. Fred Yerby of the Belk Church. The song was entitled, "Little Is Much When God Is In It".

Bro. Lamar Cox, pastor of the Belk Church, welcomed the Association delegates and others to the Belk Church. Following the welcome, a song of special music was sung by Sis. Cindy Byars of the Belk Church. The title of the song was "I'm A Child of the King". The morning devotion was next given by Bro. Matthew Paul of the Taylor Springs Church. Scripture for the devotion was taken from Titus 2:7,8. The title of the devotion was "Is Our Life a Pattern?"

The reading of the List of Delegates followed by the Association Clerk, Bro. Steve Butler. The delegates were then seated and the meeting called to order.

A call for reports was next made by the Moderator. The Executive Report was given by the clerk and approved by voice vote. The Digest Committee Report was given by Bro. Bob Carter, Digest Committee Chairman, and approved by voice vote. The report of the C.E. Board was presented by Bro. Chris Willhite of the Mt. Harmony Church. There was a total of 16 entries from the Vernon Association at the National Association this year in C.T.S. Competition. The report was approved by voice vote.

Reports for information were next received. A report of Trinity Youth Camp by Director Ashley Culp was given. Following the Trinity Camp report, a report on the Executive Office was given by Director Bro. Rick Cash. A



total of \$71,799.58 was given to the Acts 1:8 Program through the Vernon Association this year. Bro. Mike Corley gave a report of the Children's Home at Eldridge, Alabama. Currently, there are eighteen children at the home. Bro. Corley mentioned that they are needing one set of house parents at the home. A motion was made to receive all the above reports as information. The motion carried by voice vote.

A break from business session was made so the various committees could meet and prepare their reports. Following the break, the Deceased Members Committee Report was given by Sis. Ann Reed fo the Belk Church. With a motion the report was approved by voice vote. Bro. M. H. Hollis, Bro. James Walden, and Bro. Bill Smith were recognized for their faithful service for many years. The Credentials Committee Report was given by Bro. Randy Wright of the Piney Grove Church. The motion to approved the report was by voice vote. Election of replacements on the C. E. Board and Trinity Camp Board were approved.

Recommendation from the Executive Committee to the Association were considered. A motion to set up a procedure to select the sites for the Spring, Fall, and Thanksgiving services was made. The motion carried. A motion to adopt a budget for the Vernon Association was made. The motion carried by voice vote. A motion was made to give the Executive Office Building Fund \$150.00 from Association Funds toward the cost of the new office building.

The morning offering was next received with the offertory prayer given by Bro. Edward Puckett of the Love Joy Church. A motion to dismiss from business session was made. The motion carried.

The morning worship service began with a song led by Dr. Fred Yerby entitled "He's Been So Good to Me". A song of special music was given by Bro. David I. Crowe and Sis. Jennifer Crowe of the Piney Grove Church. Bro. Joe Beckon, pastor of the Vernon Church delivered the message. Following the mesage a hymn of invitation was given titled "Have Thine Own Way". Prayer was by the moderator, Bro. Danny Thompson.

Bro. Lamar Cox invited all present to stay and enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the Belk Church. The blessing on the food was given by Bro James Walden.

There were 25 ministers, 15 delegates, 13 deacons, and 17 visitors present for the meeting.

**LISTING OF DELEGATES BY CHURCH**

**2013 MEETINGS**

BEAVERTON - Sis. Rebecca Osberg, Bro. Timmy Osberg, Bro. Bill Sizemore, ALT: Sis. Nell Sizemore

BELK - Sis. Genine Fowler, Sis. Lucy Cox, Sis. Ann Reed, Sis. Pam Byars, Sis. Reba Jenkins, Alt: Sis. Sue Yerby, Sis. Jane Hindman

COOPER - Bro. Zac Kelly, Sis. Tammy Henry, Sis. Teresa Norris, Sis. Mary Nash

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sis. Mary Wise, Sis. Sheila Irving, Sis. Ruby Easter, Sis. Theresa Taggart

FAYETTE, FIRST - Bro. Doyle Simmons, Sis. Sarah Simmons

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Sis. Judy Gideon, Sis. Brenda Turner, Bro. Johnny Quinn, Sis. Tina Quinn, Alt: Sis. Sandra Hudson

LIBERTY - Sis. Frances Butler, Sis. Stephanie Butler, Sis. Janie Staggs, Sis. Sandra Nabors, Sis. Georgene McDonald, Sis. Joan Gilliland

LOVE JOY - Sis. Patsy Puckett, Sis. Lena Puckett, Bro. J. R. Coley.

MT. HARMONY - Bro. Chris Scott, Bro. Chris Willhitte

MT. PLEASANT - None listed

MT. WILLING - Sis. Carol Kivette

NEW CENTER POINT - Bro. Troy Kelly, Sis. Stephanie Stafford, Sis. Ruth Vann, Bro. Kyle Hathcock, Sis. Audine Puckett

PINEY GROVE - Bro. Buddy Norris, Sis. Wynell Norris, Sis. Jackie Atkinson, Sis. Carole Barnes, Sis. Ray Easterwood, Bro. Tom Easterwood, Bro. Mike Corley, Sis. Jennifer Crowe

SPLUNGE - Sis. Linda Ford

SPRINGFIELD - Sis. Burma Jordan, Sis. Doris Frye, Sis. Joyce Gibson

SULLIGENT FIRST - Bro. Bob Carter, Sis. Sandra Carter, Sis. Viola Lowe, Sis. Grace Turman, Bro. Sammy Merchant, Jr., Sis. Christy Merchant

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Sis. Martha Bradford, Sis. Kitty Bradford, Sis. Mary Cannon

UNION CHAPEL - Sis. Joyce Hardy, Bro. Dean Maddox, Sis. Kathy Taylor

VERNON FIRST - None listed

VICTORY - None listed

**GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS BY CHURCH**

- BEAVERTON - Tommy Bridges, 60349 Sipsev-Detroit Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848, 662-315-4901 (c)
- BELK - Dale Bozeman; 4496 Co. Road 38, Fayette, Alabama 35555; 205-932-7273
- COOPER - Edward Finch; 66815 Hwy 17, Detroit, Alabama 35552; 205-273-4493
- DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Jim Northington, Hwy 278, Gattman, Mississippi 38844; 662-315-9274
- FAYETTE, FIRST - Bill R. Smith; P. O. Box 631, Fayette, Alabama 35555; 205-932-3943
- FREE WILL CHAPEL - David Gunnels; P. O. Box 145, Vernon, Alabama 35592; 205-712-1388
- LIBERTY - James Brown; 276 Red Top Lane, Vernon, Alabama 35592; 205-695-9461.
- LOVE JOY - None listed on letter
- MT. HARMONY - Phil Wheeler; 42373 Hwy. 17, Vernon, Alabama 35592; 205-695-9870
- MT. PLEASANT - None listed on letter
- MT. WILLING - Donald Kivette; 11457 Co. Hwy. 42, Guin, Alabama 35563; 205-468-2206 (H), 205-412-8430 (c)
- NEW CENTER POINT - Kenny Ford, 60003 Guy Ford Drive, Greenwood Springs, Mississippi 38848 662-412-8430 (c)
- PINEY GROVE - Tommie Robertson; 2212 Co. Hwy. 39, Guin, Alabama 35563; 205-468-2575.
- SPLUNGE - None listed on letter
- SPRINGFIELD - None listed on letter
- SULLIGENT FIRST - Sammy Merchant, Jr., P. O. Box 776, Sulligent, Alabama 35586; 205-712-9046
- TAYLOR SPRINGS - None listed on letter
- UNION CHAPEL - Dean Maddox; 4330 Co. Rd., 38 W., Fayette, Alabama 35555; 205-270-9370 (c)
- VERNON FIRST - Derrell Wheeler; 146 Wheeler Circle, Vernon, Alabama 35592; 205-695-7844
- VICTORY - None listed on letter

The following churches will need to elect a new board 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. Willing

New Center Point

Piney Grove

Splunge

Springfield

Sulligent

Taylor Springs

Union Chapel

Vernon

Victory

## **COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **Committee on Committees 2013-2014**

Rev. Mike Nabors (Liberty)

Rev. Devin Henry (Cooper)

Bro. Bob Carter (Sulligent)

### **Executive Committee 2013-2014**

Bro. Phil Wheeler (M. Harmony)

Bro. Dale Bozeman (Belk)

Bro. James Brown (Liberty)

Bro. Derrell Wheeler (Vernon)

Rev. Bill R. Smith (Fayette)

### **Credentials Committee**

Rev. Lamar Cox (Belk) - 2014

Rev. James Walden (Mt. Harmony) - 2015

Bro. Reedus Wheat (Fayette) - 2016

Bro. David Fowler (Belk) - 2017

Rev. Joe Beckon (Vernon) - 2018

### **Nominating Committee 2014**

Rev. Wade Peoples (Springfield)

Bro. Phil Wheeler (Mt. Harmony)

Rev. Don Taggart (Depriest Chapel)

### **Board of Christian Education (C.E.)**

Rev. Ryan Taylor (Sulligent) - 2013

Rev. Chris Willhite (Mt. Harmony) - 2014

Bro. Devin Henry (Cooper) - 2015

Sis. Stephanie Butler (Liberty) - 2016

Rev. Michael Nabors (Liberty) - 2017

### **Digest Committee - 2014**

Rev. Scott Montgomery (Fayette)

Bro. Edsel Gideon (Free Will Chapel)

Bro. James Brown (Liberty)

### **Trinity Youth Camp**

#### **Board of Directors**

Rev. Stephen Cantrell (Sulligent) - 2014

Bro. Lewis Hindman (Belk) - 2015

Rev. David I. Crowe (Piney Grove) - 2016

### **Deceased Members Committee - 2013**

Sis. Ann Reed (Belk)

Sis. Patsy Puckett (Love Joy)

Sis. Sarah Simmons (Fayette)

## **DECEASED MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Deceased Members Committee, would like to report that 26 of our members went to be with our Lord this past year. Philippians 1:21 says "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

The following deceased members are listed by the church they attended.

BEAVERTON - None listed

BELK - None listed Sis. Michelle Woods Godsey Jackie Clark

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - None listed

FAYETTE FIRST - Bro. Grady Hayes, Bro. Jackie Kelley

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Don Taylor

LIBERTY - Bro. Lamon Duckworth, Bro. Willie Banks Burnette, Sis. Rodie Ridgeway, Sis. Betty Perkins, Sis. Joan Yerby



LOVE JOY - Sis Polly Woods

MT. HARMONY - Sis. Olivia Johnson, Bro. Billy Ray Gilpen

MT. PLEASANT - None listed

MT. WILLING - Bro. Joe Dill, Sis. Renee Dill

NEW CENTER POINT - Bro. Ronald Blaylock, Sis Nell Hawkins

PINEY GROVE - Bro. Vance Pollard, Sis. Goldie Dykes, Sis. Jeanette Cantrell

SPLUNGE - None listed

SPRINGFIELD - None listed

SULLIGENT FIRST - Bro. Farrell Northington, Sis. Clytee Jagers, Sis. Maxine Byrd

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Sis. Jane Parker, Sis. Charlene Cooper

UNION CHAPEL - Sis. Dorothy Haynes Morris, Sis. Wilma Yerby Dooley

VERNON FIRST - Sis. Elwanda Oakes, Sis. Clara Sue Cannon

VICTORY - Bro. Paul Tilley, Sis. Mary Gann

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

The Vernon District Women for Christ is represented by two local groups with 17 active members.

Our 35<sup>th</sup> annual district meeting was held on Tuesday night March 5, 2013 at Liberty Free Will Baptist Church. A total of 19 ladies attended the meeting. Rachel Taylor provided the special music and Judy Godfrey was the speaker. Refreshments were served following the meeting.

We would like to remember one of our faithful members of WAC and Free Will Baptists, Elwanda Oakes. She went home to be with our Lord this year. She is greatly missed.

We give to several missionaries on a monthly basis and also other projects. We give to the Jimmy and Janie Aldridge scholarship fund. If you know of someone that is attending one of our Bible colleges, please tell them about the scholarship and maybe they could apply for it.

We are involved with the monthly birthday party at Generations of Vernon, the Harvest Drive & Toy Run for the Children's Home in Eldridge.

Several of our ladies attended the Southern Ladies Retreet at the Hamilton Free Will Baptist Church in September and Several attended the Ladies Retreat at Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in August.

We thank you for your support and prayers as we labor together for the cause of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Burma Jordan/Secretary-Treasurer  
Vernon District WAC

DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Digest Committee wishes to make the following report:

Number of Churches reporting (Rural - 14, City/Town - 5)	19
Pastors Full Time	11
Bi-vocational	7
Ordained Ministers	26
Licensed Ministers	16
Ordained Deacons	58
Sunday School/Enrollment	1,059
CTS/Enrollment	115
WNAC/Enrollment	68
Masters Men/Enrollment	27
Daycare	1
Kindergarten	1
Day School	1
Churches Having a Budget	6/Yes, 12/No
Total Tithes/Offerings (8 churches reporting)	\$645,287.84
Churches Having a Parsonage	7
Property Value (5 churches reporting)	\$1,846,700.00
Church Membership	2,159
Members Lost (death, transfer, etc.)	62
Deceased	30
Baptisms	106

Respectfully submitted,  
Bro. Robert Carter, Chairman  
Rev. Mike Nabors  
Bro. James Brown

**VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Christian Education**  
**Financial Report**  
**09-01-12 THROUGH 08-31-13**

Beginning balance:		\$511.20
Funds Received:		
Competition Fees	<u>\$1,790.00</u>	
Total Funds		\$2,301.20
Expenses/Disbursements		
Competition Fees to Alabama		
State C.E. Board)	\$1480.00	
Competition Supplies	270.63	
Fee Refund to Churches	265.00	
Total Expenses/Disbursements		<u>\$2,015.63</u>
Ending Balance:		<u>\$285.57</u>

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met on Monday evening, January 21, 2013 at the Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church. Bro. Danny Thompson presided as moderator. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Moderator, Bro. Stephen Cantrell of the Sulligent Church, Bro. Steve Butler as Clerk and Sis. Sandra Carter as Assistant Clerk. In addition, there were four committee members present. Prayer to open the meeting was by Bro. Phil Wheeler of the Mt. Harmony Church.

Speakers for the Spring and Fall meetings were the first business discussed following a devotion by Bro. Danny Thompson. For the Spring Meeting, the speaker selected to conduct the Morning Devotion was Bro. Eric Keeton of the New Center Point Church. A speaker for the Morning Message will be selected at a later date. Bro. Randy Wright of the Piney Grove Church was selected as the alternate devotion speaker and Bro. Chris Willhite of the Mt. Harmony Church was selected as the alternate speaker

for the Morning Message. For the Fall Meeting, Bro. Matthew Paul from the Taylor Springs Church was selected to conduct the Morning Devotion and Bro. Keith Rhudy of the Free Will Chapel Church was selected to preach the Morning Message. Alternate speakers selected for the service were Bro. Wade Peoples of the Springfield Church for the Morning Devotion and Bro. Joe Beckon of the Vernon Church for the Morning Message.

The next item of business concerned the Morning Devotion Program on WJEC-FM Radio. Concerns were discussed and expressed about the participation by the churches in the Association, the cost of the program, and the future participation in the program. One suggestion was made to have representatives of the radio station to attend the Fall Meeting and discuss the program with those present.

Discussion was made concerning the offerings received from the Spring, Fall, and Thanksgiving services. It was recommended that the offerings be kept within the Association to be used to promote the Gospel within the Association, possibly through the C. E. Board and the Women's Auxiliary. It was recommended that honorariums to speakers be limited according to the distance driven and the expense involved.

Also mentioned was setting a theme for each of the meetings and setting up a budget for the Association. The Committee also talked about funding issues for the Acts 1:8 Program, State Promotional Office, and the Alabama Children's Home. Also discussed were concerns involving the National and State Association concerning communication and reporting of information.

A suggestion was made to resume the Pastor's Fellowship Meal to promote fellowship and communication among the Pastors of the Association.

With no further business, we were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Billy Smith.

A second meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Monday, September 30, 2013. Bro. Billy Smith opened the meeting with prayer. A recommendation through a motion was made to donate \$250.00 from association funds to the Mission Account of Bro. Jamie Lancaster. With a second and voice vote, the motion passed.

The Committee discussed the hosting of the Thanksgiving, Fall, and Spring meetings by the churches of the Association. A recommendation will be made to the Association at the Fall Meeting. A motion to make a recommendation was made, seconded, and passed by voice vote of the Committee.



Also discussed by the Committee was a recommendation to create a budget for the Association. There was discussion by the Committee about some of the churches in the Association not paying their dues in full or at all. The Committee strongly recommends and encourages all the churches to send in their total dues.

A recommendation was made that honorariums only be paid to missionary and other visiting speakers. The recommendation passed with a motion, second, and voice vote. The recommendation will be considered at the upcoming Fall Meeting.

With no other business to discuss, the Committee was dismissed with prayer by Bro. Donald Kivette of the Mt. Willing Church.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Nominating Committee, wish to make the following report:

We recommend for moderator, Rev. Danny Thompson, for assistant moderator, Rev. Stephen Cantrell, for associational clerk, Bro. Steve Butler, for assistant clerk, Sis. Sandra Carter. On the Trinity Camp Board of Directors, we recommend Rev. David I. Crowe and on the Board of Christian Education we recommend Rev. Ryan Taylor to replace Bro. Dale Ford and Bro. Devin Henry to replace Bro. Mike Kelly.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. Troy Kelly

Bro. Edsel Gideon

Bro. Doyle Simmons

VERNONFREEWILLBAPTISTASSOCIATION

Financial Report

09-01-11 through 08-31-12

Beginning Balance		\$873.83
Funds received:		
Dues from churches	\$ 4,850.00	
Spring Meeting Offering	238.65	
Designated	1,000.00	
Total Funds		\$6,962.48

EXPENSES

Salaries for Officers.....	\$ 150.00
Ala. State Assoc. Dues .....	3,700.00
Postage .....	108.35
Printing/Supplies .....	715.98
Honorariums paid to speakers.....	50.00
Designated Amounts	
Trinity Camp .....	500.00
Executive Office Building Fund .....	600.00

ENDINGBALANCE ..... + \$1,138.15

**NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS**

Rev. Lamar Cox, P. O. Box 446, Fayette, AL 35555

205-270-8970 (C)

Rev. Devin Henry, 150 Cooper Church Rd., Detroit, AL 35552

205-921-2128

Rev. Don Taggart, P. O. Box 159, Vernon, AL 35592

205-712-6158 (C)

Rev. Scott Montgomery, 2112 Shannon Circle, NW, Fayette, AL 35555

205-932-7354 (H)

Rev. Michael Nabors, 760 Berry Circle, Fayette, AL 35555

205-717-4191 (C)

Rev. Edward Puckett, 61811 Hwy 17, Sulligent, AL 35586

205-698-0336 (H)

Rev. Danny Thompson, 5399 Cody Rd., Kennedy, AL 35574

205-712-2223 (C)

Rev. Donald Kivette, 11457 Co. Hwy. 42, Guin, AL 35563

205-468-2206 (H); 205-412-8430 (C)

Rev. Eric Keeton, 60320 Sipsey Fork Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848

662-257-1111 (H), 662-825-0154 (C)

Rev. Randy Wright, 6711 Co. Hwy. 69, Guin, AL 35563

205-468-3740 (H)

Rev. Dale Ford, 50029 Riley Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848

662-305-2340

Rev. Wade Peoples, P. O. Box 207, Vernon, AL 35592

205-712-4525 (C)

Rev. Stephen Cantrell, 5201 Hwy 278, Sulligent, AL 35586

205-698-8177

Rev. Matthew Paul, 561 Cole Road, Guin, AL 35563

205-468-3001 (H)

Rev. Fred Graham, P. O. Box 435, Vernon, AL 35592

205-695-9631

Rev. Joe Beckon, 221 6th Street NE, Vernon, AL 35592

205-695-9842

Rev. Al Hamm, 806 Belmont Dr., Columbus, MS 39702

662-549-0035

Rev. Willard Pless, 4281 Hwy 18, Vernon, AL 35592

205-695-9267

Rev. John Reed, P. O. Box 153, Belk, Alabama 35545

Rev. Bill R. Smith, P. O. Box 631, Fayette, Alabama 35555

205-932-3943

Rev. Albert Staggs, 161 Sunset Road, Vernon, Alabama 35592

Rev. James Walden, 5270 Cody Road, Kennedy, AL 35574

205-596-3167

Rev. Chris Willhite, 543 9th St. NW, Vernon, Alabama 35592

Rev. David I. Crowe, 2527 State Highway 253, Guin, AL 35563;

205-412-5448 (C)

Rev. Mike Corley; 806 Arrowhead Vlg., Winfield, Alabama 35594

Rev. Dale Stafford, 60421 Parham Store Rd, Smithville, MS 39970

662-651-5307; SKS38870@yahoo.com

Rev. Rick Cash, 1767 2nd Ave., SW, Fayette, AL 35555

205-904-9402, 205-932-1279, 205-468-3897, www.alfwb.com

Rev. M. H. Hollis, 2215 6th Ave., NW, Fayette, AL 35555

205-932-7736, dlhollis0408@centurytel.net

Rev. Rick Cash, 1767 2nd Ave. SW, Fayette, Alabama 35555

205-904-9402; 205-932-1279; 205-468-3897; 222; alfwb.com

### **LICENSED MINISTERS**

Bro. Sam House, 520 House Road, Millport, AL 35576

Bro. J. C. Crawford, 2269 Stembridge Rd., Millport, AL 35576

Bro. Tim Osberg, 81 Crutchfield Road, Sulligent, AL 35586

Bro. Nathan Peoples, P. O. Box 207, Vernon, AL 35592

Bro. Dustin Walters, 3606 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37205

205-495-5841

Bro. Ryan Taylor, 5201 Hwy 278, Sulligent, Alabama 35586



CHURCH	PASTOR'S NAME & ADDRESS	PASTOR'S HOME PHONE/CELL PHONE/EMAIL
BEAVERTON		HP: CP: E-Mail:
BELK	Lamar Cox P. O. Box 446 Fayette, AL 35555	HP: CP: 205-270-8970 E-Mail: lcox@WATVC.com
COOPER	Devin Henry 150 Cooper Church Road Detroit, AL 35552	HP: 205-921-2128 CP: E-Mail:
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	Don Taggart 2112 Shannon Circle Fayette, AL 35555	HP: 205-695-9876 CP: 205-712-6158 E-Mail stagbone1@yahoo.com
FAYETTE, FIRST	Scott Montgomery 2112 Shannon Circle NW Fayette, AL 35555	HP: 205-932-7354 CP: E-Mail pastor@fayettefirstfwb.org
FREE WILL CHAPEL		HP: CP: E-Mail:
LIBERTY	Michael Nabors 760 Berry Circle Fayette, AL 35555	HP: CP: 205-717-4191 E-Mail: msnabors@AOL.com
LOVE JOY	Edward Puckett 61811 Hwy. 17 Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: 205-698-0336 CP: E-Mail:
MT. HARMONY	Danny Thompson 5399 Cody Rd. Kennedy, AL 35574	HP: CP: 205-712-2223 E-Mail: dtrt@frontiernet.net
MT. PLEASANT		HP: CP: E-Mail
MT. WILLING	Donald Kivette 11457 Co. Hwy. 42 Guin, AL 35563	HP: 205-468-2206 CP: 205-412-8430 E-Mail donald213@centurytel.net
NEW CENTER POINT	Eric Keeton 60320 Sipsey Fork Road Greenwood Springs, MS 38848	HP: 662-257-1111 CP: 662-825-0154 E-Mail eric.keeton@ymail.com
PINEY GROVE	Randy Wright 6711 Co. Hwy. 69 Guin, AL 35563	HP: 205-468-3740 CP: E-Mail: ranman60@centurytel.com
SPLUNGE	Dale Ford 50029 Riley Road Greenwood Springs, MS 38848	HP: CP: 662-305-2340 E-Mail wdford@wildblue.net
SPRINGFIELD	Wade Peoples P. O. Box 207 Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-6213 CP: E-Mail wadepeoples@ymail.com
SULLIGENT, FIRST	Stephen Cantrell 5201 Hwy 278 Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: 205-698-8177 CP: E-Mail sdcantrell91@gmail.com
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Matthew Paul 561 Cole Rd. Guin, AL 35563	HP: 205-468-3001 CP: E-Mail:
UNION CHAPEL	Fred Graham P. O. Box 435 Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-9631 CP: E-Mail
VERNON, FIRST	Joe Beckon 221 6th St. N.E. Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-9842 CP: E-Mail: jabeckon@ad.com
VICTORY	Al Hamm 806 Belmont Dr. Columbus, MS 39702	HP: 662-549-0035 CP: E-Mail

CHURCH	CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	CLERKS HOME PHONE/CELL PHONE/E-MAIL
BEAVERTON	Nell L. Sizemore 12310 Hwy 278 Beaverton, AL 35544	HP: 205-698-7244 CP: E-Mail
BELK	Pam Byars 6633 Hwy 96 Fayette, AL 35545	HP: 205-932-5853 CP: E-Mail:
COOPER	Becky Nichols 4746 County Highway 26 Detroit, AL 35552	HP: CP: 205-431-6115 E-Mail:
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	Gene Wise P. O. Box 132 Gattman, MS 38844	HP: 662-640-8461 CP: E-Mail
FAYETTE, FIRST	Jennifer Sanford 4863 Hwy 18 E Fayette, AL 35555	HP: 205-904-9019 CP: E-Mail
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Lenora Hopper 1522 County Lake Road Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: 205-695-1897 CP: E-Mail:
LIBERTY	Steve Butler 100 Bethabara Cutoff Fayette, AL 35555	HP: 205-932-8496 CP: E-Mail:
LOVE JOY	Lena Puckett 61769 Hwy 17 Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: CP: 205-412-2861 E-Mail:
MT. HARMONY	David Harrison P. O. Box 532 Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-9355 CP: E-Mail:
MT. PLEASANT		HP: CP: E-Mail
MT. WILLING	Carol McDonald 1663 Guin Road Guin, AL 35563	HP: 205-468-2965 CP: E-Mail
NEW CENTER POINT	Ruth Vann 187 Water Works Road Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: 205-698-9991 CP: E-Mail
PINEY GROVE	Jackie Atkinson 6809 County Rd. 36 Guin, AL 35563	HP: 205-487-2172 CP: E-Mail:
SPLUNGE	Delores Northington P. O. Box 182 Greenwood Springs, MS 38844	HP: 662-256-9946 CP: E-Mail
SPRINGFIELD	Peggy Wright 91 J Drive Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-6213 CP: E-Mail
SULLIGENT, FIRST	Christy Merchant P. O. Box 776 Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: CP: 205-712-9045 E-Mail
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Mitchell Puckett 58840 Hwy. 17 Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: 205-698-9160 CP: E-Mail:
UNION CHAPEL	Dean Maddox 4330 County Road 38 West Fayette, AL 35555	HP: CP: 205-270-9370 E-Mail
VERNON, FIRST	Amanda Freeman P. O. Box 543 Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-9842 CP: E-Mail:
VICTORY	Johnnie Mae Newman 85 Weathers Road Columbus, MS 39702	HP: 662-549-0035 CP: E-Mail

CHURCH STATISTICS							
Church	Members Received	Members Deceased	Total Members	Number In Sunday School	Number In C.T.S.	Number In Ladies Aux.	Ordained Ministers
Beaverton	3	-	40	39	20	-	0
Belk	5	-	160	80	-	10	2
Cooper	2	1	143	-	-	-	1
Depriest Chapel	-	-	-	18	-	-	1
Fayette, First	2	2	-	-	-	-	4
Free Will Chapel	2	1	233	45	-	-	-
Liberty	0	5	222	65	35	20	2
Love Joy	1	1	75	-	-	8	1
Mt. Harmony	10	2	306	150	-	-	2
Mt. Pleasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mt. Willing	5	2	33	17	-	-	1
New Center Point	0	2	216	65	-	10	2
Piney Grove	2	3	216	170	-	-	3
Splunge	4	-	65	-	-	-	1
Springfield	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sulligent, First	0	3	212	120	-	15	2
Taylor Springs	3	2	-	26	-	-	1
Union Chapel	0	2	36	12	-	-	1
Vernon, First	7	2	122	125	60	5	1
Victory	5	2	97	90	-	-	1
Totals	53	30	2,159	1,022	115	68	26

# LIST OF DEACONS

BEAVERTON - Fred Barnes

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

COOPER - Mike Kelly, Dwight Lamb, Ed Finch, Burley Finch

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Gene Wise

FAYETTE - Billy Hamm, Mike Kimbrell, T. J. Johnson, Reedus Wheat

FREEWILL CHAPEL - Edsel Gideon, Daniel Franks, Billy Jo Turner

LIBERTY - Wayne Dubose, Wayne Sorrells, Leonard Corbett, Tony Perkins, Steve Butler

LOVE JOY - Gary Sorrells, Clayton Barnes, Scotty Tucker

MT. HARMONY - Frankie Beasley, L. C. Steedley, Ricky Owens

MT. PLEASANT - None listed

MT. WILLING - None listed

NEW CENTER POINT - Bobby Puckett, Kenny Ford, Jerry Rasberry, Wade Vann

PINEY GROVE - Tommie Robertson, Danny Atkinson

SPLUNGE - Clovis Blaylock

SPRINGFIELD - Tommie Rushing, Chris Jones, Jimmy McDaniel

SULLIGENT - Frank Mixon, Luke Spruiell, Luke Spruiell, Jessie Barnes, Jr., Ken Kerr, Sammy Merchant, Jr., Willard Lovelady, Richard Jagers

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Steve Spencer

UNION CHAPEL - Benny Hardy, Calvin Jones

VERNON - Derrell Wheeler, Aaron Black, Edwin Collins, Mike Freeman, Demus Shelnut, Zalus Turner, Jr.,

VICTORY - Jimmy E. Harrell, Ron Musgrove



### 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, Rev. Malone Cobb, Rev. C. C. Berryhill, Rev. Lloyd George, Rev. James C. Newell, Rev. Darrell J. Burkett.

### 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. Mrkham, J. L. McNease, Joghunny 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, Emmitt Shelnut, Junie Harper, Lloyd Turner, Johnny O 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, Sam Glasgow, L. D. Hall, Coy Johnson, Paul Jordan, P. E. Maddox, Albert Christian, Edgar Stanford Cooper, Pascal Yerby, James Maddox, Willie Gene Perkins, Eris Wilson, Edgar Turner, Paul Shelnut, Lamon Duckworth

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Credentials Committee, make the following report:

We hereby grant a letter of good standing for Rev. Charles Fowler to the Jasper Association.

We hereby received Rev. Mike Corley into the Vernon Association pending a letter of good standing from the Jasper Association.

We hereby render the Credentials of Rev. Keith Rhudy void after being ordained by another denomination.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Randy Wright, Chairman

**PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING  
MEETING SITES FOR THE SPRING,  
FALL, AND THANKSGIVING SERVICES**

Following the 2013 annual Vernon Association Thanksgiving Service, the following plan will be implemented for hosting Associational meetings in the future that include the Spring, Fall, and annual Thanksgiving service.

1. Churches will be chosen based on the alphabetical listing in the minutes of the Association.
2. Each church has the privilege to accept, defer, or decline hosting a meeting of the Vernon Association.
3. The Association Clerk will contact the pastor or an official representative of the church before the end of December each year to confirm whether or not a church wishes to host a meeting.
4. Any church may request at any time an opportunity to host an Associational meeting. This request should be noted on the annual letter to the Association.
5. The host church of a meeting has the option to provide refreshments or a meal at the Annual Thanksgiving Service.
6. Churches are asked to provide a lunch for the Spring and Fall meetings of the Association.
7. The host church for the Spring and Fall meetings are asked to provide a Minister of Music and Special Music for the service. The church should contact the moderator if this is not possible.

## **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 church 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 three hundred dollars (\$300.00) in dues per year, and all churches of the association with less than 100 members shall send the sum of two hundred (\$200.00) in 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.

**Section V**

The moderator shall serve as the General Board Member from the Vernon Association to the State Association.

**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.
- O. A minister desiring to be ordained must be called to a current ministry position before he can be ordained.

#### 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 Free Will Baptist Association".

2. **PURPOSE:** This board will be responsible for the district CTS competition in April, and all youth related activities within the Vernon Association.

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 at the Spring Association Meeting of the Vernon Association to plan the district CTS competition in April and any pending youth activities. Be it resolved that the District CTS competition be held each year on the second Saturday of April. Be it further resolved that the competition not be conducted on Easter weekend. Finally, be it resolved that each church in the association receive a letter from the C. E. Board four weeks prior to the meeting with all pertinent information, forms, etc.

5. **OFFICERS:** The board shall have as officers a chairman and secretary, both 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 the annual meeting and shall be responsible for all correspondence for the board and preside over the annual meeting in the absence of the chairman.

6. **FINANCES:** The finances for the CE Board will be taken care of by the clerk/treasurer of the association. At the fall meeting the clerk/treasurer will present a detailed report of all monies for the CE Board, along with the annual report for the association.

**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, Deceased Members, 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.