

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH
SESSION**

of the

**VERNON FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

held with the

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

2014 Minutes

OFFICERS FOR 2014
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOURTH 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 14, 2015. 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 17, 2015. 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. DON TAGGART
P. O. Box 159, Vernon, Alabama 35592
205-712-6158 (c)
E-mail stagbone1@yahoo.com

ASSISTANT MODERATOR REV. MICHAEL NABORS
760 Berry Circle, Fayette, Alabama 35555
205-717-4191 (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 15, 2014

The Spring Meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association convened with the Depriest Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Gattman, Mississippi on Saturday, March 15, 2014. The meeting started with registration of the delegates at 9:00 am and the service beginning at 9:30 am. There were sixteen ministers, twenty-three delegates, six deacons, and seventeen visitors who registered for the meeting.

The meeting began with two congregational songs led by Bro. Chris Willhite of the Mt. Harmony Church. The songs were "He Set Me Free" and "I'll Fly Away". Bro. Don Taggart, pastor of the Depriest Chapel Church, welcomed all present to the meeting. Bro. Danny Thompson, pastor of the Mt. Harmony Church and current Moderator, gave the response to the welcome on behalf of the Vernon Association by thanking the Depriest Chapel Church for hosting the meeting and their fellowship.

A song of special music followed the welcome. The song, "What A Day That Will Be," was sung by three members of the Depriest Chapel Church just prior to the first message. Bro. Tim York of the Life Free Will Baptist Church, Smyrna, Tennessee, preached the first message using John 14:1-4 as his text. Following the message, prayer was by the speaker. The Moderator, Bro. Danny Thompson, next gave an opportunity for any of those present to stand and give a word of testimony for the Lord.

A time of fellowship was next announced with refreshments provided in the fellowship hall of the church. Following the fellowship time, a congregational song was sung by the assembly. The title of the song was "Heaven's Jubilee". An offering was received following the song. Another song, "I'll Have A New Life", was sung.

Next, special music was provided by Sis. Jennifer Morris of the Mt. Harmony Church. The song was titled "The Midnight Cry". Bro. Tim York next preached the second and final message from John 14:1-4. Prayer was by the speaker following the message.

There were many prayer requests received from those present representing many churches throughout the Vernon Association and National Association. Bro. James Walden of the Mt. Harmony Church led the assembly in prayer. Bro. Mike Corley of the Alabama Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Eldridge, Alabama, gave a brief report on the Children's Home. Bro. Rick Cash gave a brief report from the Executive Office concerning the Acts 1:8

Program and the progress on the construction of the Executive Office building. Following the reports, the meeting was adjourned.

All were invited to stay and enjoy lunch provided by members of the Depriest Chapel Church. The blessing on the meal and the closing prayer was by Bro. Hank Hollis.

PROCEEDINGS
VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
FALL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014

The one-hundred-thirty-fourth session of the Vernon Association met at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Vernon, Alabama with twenty-one ministers, thirty-six delegates, sixteen deacons, and ten visitors present.

The meeting began with a congregational song, "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus", led by Bro. Mike McDaniel of the Vernon Church. Prayer followed by Rev. Joe Beckon. Bro. Beckon welcomed all those present to the meeting.

A song of special music followed being sung by Sis. Amber Beckon. Bro. Chris Willhite brought the Morning Devotion. His scripture selection was from Acts 3:1-10. The title of the devotion was "A Change of Vision". Prayer followed by the speaker.

The calling of the delegates and the seating of the delegates was given by Association Clerk, Bro. Steve Butler.

The Association Financial Report was next given by the clerk. The Association Budget and the C. E. Board Budget were presented to the delegates. With a motion, second, and voice vote, the Financial Report, Association Budget, and C. E. Board Budget were approved by the delegates.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by voice vote to eliminate the Committee on Committees. This motion was tabled until after the break because this motion involved a change in the Association Constitution.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the suggestions/guidelines for the clerk. The Moderator appointed members of the Digest Committee, Nominating Committee, and the Executive Committee. There was no old or new business to be considered.

The Credentials Committee gave a partial report. Bro. Lamar Cox gave the report. It was announced by Bro. Cox that Bro. Ryan Taylor of the Sulligent Church would be ordained to preach the Gospel at a later date. The Committee recommended that Bro. Bradley Long, pastor of the New

Center Point Church, be accepted into the Vernon Association. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

A refreshment break followed the reports. After the break the Credentials Committee made one other recommendation. Bro. Arnold Sheets, pastor of the Free Will Chapel Church, was recommended into the Vernon Association pending a letter of good standing from the Saline Association of Free Will Baptists.

A report from the Children's Home was given by Bro. Danny Williams. The report was received as information.

Next the item which had been tabled earlier was brought up for consideration. The item had to do with the elimination of the Committee on Committees. With a motion, second, and voice vote the motion passed. The Committee on Committees is therefore eliminated and the Constitution changed to reflect the action.

A report of the Deceased Members Committee was next given by Sis. Sandra Nabors of the Liberty Church. There were 39 brothers and sisters who went home to be with the Lord. The congregation was led in a prayer of remembrance by Bro. Rich Cash.

A call for delegates to the State Association Meeting was made by the Moderator. No one volunteered to be a delegate. The Moderator announced that delegates would be appointed the day of the state meeting.

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Bro. Stephen Cantrell of the Sulligent Church. There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was made to elect those nominated by the Committee by acclamation. With a second and vote by voice vote, the nominees were elected. Following the report, various prayer requests were received from the congregation. Prayer was offered by Bro. James Walden of the Mt. Harmony Church.

The Morning Worship Service began with a congregational song, "Onward Christian Soldiers" led by Bro. Mike McDaniel. The offering followed. Bro. Mike McDaniel led the offertory prayer. Another congregational song, "In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified", was sung. A selection of special music was given by Sis. Marsha McDaniel of the Vernon Church. The song, "I Need You More Today Than I Did Yesterday", preceded the morning message. Bro. Edward Puckett brought the message using II Kings 6:1-7 as his text. Prayer followed by the speaker.

A motion was made to adjourn. With a second and vote by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned with prayer. All were invited to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the ladies of the Vernon Church.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee of the Vernon Association met at the Mt. Harmony Church on January 13, 2014. Bro. Danny Thompson, Moderator, presided over the meeting. There were five committee members present. Bro. Thompson gave a short devotion before the meeting began.

The first item discussed was the selection of speakers for the Spring and Fall Meetings. Depriest Chapel was selected for the Spring Meeting and the Fall Meeting site selected was the Vernon Church. Bro. Wade Peoples was selected to speak at the Fall Meeting.

The second item discussed concerned the reduction of the Associational dues cost to the churches. A recommendation was made, after discussion, to adjust the dues down to \$250.00 per church with a membership of 100 members or more and \$150.00 per church with a membership of 99 members or less. It was also recommended that all churches need to send their dues directly to the Association Clerk.

It was announced that the Radio Program on WJEC-106.5 had been discontinued as of December 30, 2013. The meeting was adjourned following prayer.

The second meeting of the Vernon Association met on Monday, September 8, 2014 at the Mt. Harmony Church. The meeting began at 6:30 pm. Bro. Danny Thompson, Moderator, presided over the meeting. Following a short Bible reading, devotion, and prayer the meeting was called to order. The minutes from the previous meeting were read by the Association Clerk.

Various items were discussed by those present. Recommendations were approved by the Committee to be presented to the delegates at the Annual Meeting. The appointment and/or election of committee members was discussed and recommended for the next Association year. The budget for the year 2014-2015 was discussed and recommended to the Annual Meeting. The next meeting of the Executive Committee and the General Board was set for Monday, October 6, 2014 at 6:30 pm. We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Don Taggart, pastor of the Depriest Chapel Church.

A third meeting of the Executive Committee along with the General Board was held on Monday, October 6, 2014, at Mt. Harmony Church with nine Board members present. Bro. Danny Thompson, Moderator, presided over the meeting. Bro. Thompson gave a short devotion before the meeting began.

The Board recommended that the Committee on Committees be eliminated. This would involve a change in the Association Constitution at Article Seven, Section IV, parts A-D. The change shall read as follows:

Section IV. Committees

A. All committees will be appointed by the Moderator

B. All committees shall consist of three (3) to five (5) members

This change is to be recommended to the delegates at the next annual meeting.

The second recommendation was the for Moderator to appoint all Committees required for the annual meeting of the Vernon Association.

The third item considered were suggestions and guidelines for the Clerk/Treasurer in carrying out the financial matters of the Association. The Clerk/Treasurer has requested specific guidelines for how expenditures are to be paid. It was suggested that the Executive Committee provide the guidelines for this. It is suggested that the Clerk/Treasurer provide the Executive Committee and General Board an itemized expense sheet prior to the annual meeting of the Vernon Association. It is suggested that the Clerk/Treasurer be reimbursed for any personal expenses incurred in the performance of his/her associational duties. It is suggested that the Clerk/Treasurer recommend to the Moderator to call the Executive Committee into session when there is a short-fall of funds. The Executive Committee will determine the process for resolving this need.

The fourth item recommended was that the Moderator would not receive an honorarium this year. His honorarium was given at his request to Bro. Tim York which brought the total honorarium to \$300.00.

With the approval of item five, the 2014-2015 Association Budget and the C.E. Board Budget were recommended to the delegates.

With the approval of item six, the program for the Annual Meeting on October 18, 2014 was recommended to the delegates.

Item seven was the consideration of the Nominating Committee Report. Positions up for appointment and/or election will be brought up at the Annual Meeting.

There was no old or new business to be discussed. The Board therefore adjourned from business session.

**LISTING OF DELEGATES BY CHURCH
2014 MEETINGS**

BEAVERTON - Bro. Billy Sizemore, Sis. Nell L. Sizemore, Sis. Brenda Dubose

BELK - Sis. Lucy Cox, Sis. Ann Reed, Sis. Angie Hill, Sis. Genine Fowler, Sis. Jane Hindman

COOPER - Bro. Zac Kelly

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sis. Mary Wise, Sis. Sheila Irving, Sis. Ruby Easter, Sis. Donna Ling, Sis. Theresa Taggart (alternate)

FAYETTE, FIRST - None listed

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Tim Osberg, Sis. Rebecca Osberg, Sis. Judy Gideon

LIBERTY - Sis. Stephanie Butler, Sis. Frances Butler, Sis. Sandra Nabors, Sis. Joyce Doherty, Sis. Janie Staggs, Sis. Joan Gilliland

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

MT. HARMONY - Bro. Chris Willhite

MT. PLEASANT - No report

MT. WILLING - None listed

NEW CENTER POINT - Sis. Lena Puckett, Sis. Stephanie Stafford, Sis. Shelia Rasberry, Sis. Ruth Vann, Bro. Troy Kelley (alternate), Bro. Doug Puckett (alternate).

PINEY GROVE - Sis. Jackie Atkinson, Sis. Jennifer Crowe, Sis. Regina Shotls, Bro. Steve Shotls.

SPLUNGE - Sis. Linda Ford, Sis. Delores Northington

SPRINGFIELD - Sis. Burma Jordan, Sis. Belva Pennington, Sis. Ginger Peoples

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

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

UNION CHAPEL - Sis. Joyce Hardy, Sis. Cathy Taylor, Sis. Ruby Graham, Bro. Dean Maddox

VERNON FIRST - Bro. Mike McDaniel, Sis. Marsha McDaniel

VICTORY - None listed

GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS BY CHURCH

BEAVERTON - Tommy Bridges, 60349 Sipse-Detroit Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848, 662-315-4901 (c)

BELK - Dale Bozeman; 4496 Co. Road 38, Fayette, Alabama 35555; 205-932-7273

COOPER - Ed Finch; 181 Spruiell Road, Detroit, Alabama 35552; 205-273-4493

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Jim Northington, P. O. Box 193, Gattman, Mississippi 38844; 662-315-9274 (c)

FAYETTE, FIRST - None listed

FREE WILL CHAPEL - David Gunnels; P. O. Box 145, Vernon, Alabama 35592; 205-712-1388 (c)

LIBERTY - Leonard Corbett, 91 Oakes Chapel Drive, Vernon, Alabama 35592; 205-695-9311

LOVE JOY - None listed

MT. HARMONY - Phil Wheeler; 42373 Hwy. 17, Vernon, Alabama 35592; 205-695-9870

MT. PLEASANT - No report

MT. WILLING - Kenneth McDonald, 1663 Guin Road, Guin, Alabama 35563; 205-468-2965

NEW CENTER POINT - Kenny Ford, 60003 Guy Ford Drive, Greenwood Springs, Mississippi 38848 662-256-7267

PINEY GROVE - Tommie Robertson; 2212 Co. Hwy. 39, Guin, Alabama 35563; 205-468-2575.

SPLUNGE - None listed

SPRINGFIELD - Jimmy McDaniel, 645 Buck Run Road, Vernon, Alabama 35592; 205-695-9624

SULLIGENT FIRST - Sammy Merchant, P. O. Box 776, Sulligent, Alabama 35586; 205-712-9046

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Steve Spencer, 315 Sorrells Drive, Beaverton, Alabama 35544; 205-698-0166

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

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.

Beaverton	Free Will Chapel
Belk	Liberty
Cooper	Love Joy
Depriest Chapel	Mt. Harmony
Fayette, First	Mt. Pleasant

COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive Committee 2014-2015

Phil Wheeler (Mt. Harmony)
 Derrell Wheeler (Vernon)
 Jim Northington (Depriest Chapel)
 Sammy Merchant (Sulligent)
 David Gunnells (Freewill Chapel)

Board of Christian Education (C.E.)

Rev. Devin Henry (Cooper) - 2015
 Sis. Stephanie Butler (Liberty) - 2016
 Rev. Michael Nabors (Liberty) - 2017
 Rev. Chris Willhite (Mt. Harmony) - 2018
 To Be appointed - 2019

Credentials Committee

Rev. Wade Peoples (Springfield) - 2015
 Bro. Reedus Wheat (Fayette) - 2016
 Bro. David Fowler (Belk) - 2017
 Rev. Joe Beckon (Vernon) - 2018
 Rev. Bill Smith (Fayette) - 2019

Deceased Members Committee - 2014

Sis. Sandra Nabors (Liberty)
 Sis. Burma Jordan (Springfield)
 Sis. Lucy Cox (Belk)

Nominating Committee 2015

Rev. Devin Henry (Cooper)
 Rev. Lamar Cox (Belk)
 Rev. Don Taggart (Depriest Chapel)

Digest Committee - 2014-2015

Rev. Scott Montgomery (Fayette)
 Bro. Edsel Gideon (Free Will Chapel)
 Bro. Bill Sizemore (Beaverton)

Trinity Youth Camp

Board of Directors

Bro. Lewis Hindman (Belk) - 2015
 Rev. David I. Crowe (Piney Grove) - 2016
 Rev. Ryan Taylor (Sulligent) - 2017

DECEASED MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Deceased Members Committee, would like to report that 39 of our members went to be with the Lord this past church year. Philippians 1:21 says, "for me to live is Chris, to die is gain."

The following deceased members are listed by the church they attended. May we all stand in their memory to remember them with a moment of silence and we ask that Bro. Rick Cash to lead us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee

Sis. Sandra Nabors
 Sis. Lucy Cox
 Sis. Burma Jordan

BEAVERTON - Sis Louise Barnes, Bro. Mickey Hall

BELK - Sis. Helen Hobbs, Bro. Raphael Yerby, Bro. Carson Maddox

COOPER - Sis. Betty Warren, Sis. Rosie Lockhart

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Bro. Billy Wayne Ling, Sis. Virginia Webb

FAYETTE FIRST - Bro. Lewis Rogers

FREE WILL CHAPEL - Bro. Norris Brasfield, Sis. Audine Franks, Bro.

Wallace Harris, Sis. Polly Rye

LIBERTY - Bro. R. C. Motes, Sis. Versa Griffin

LOVE JOY - None listed

MT. HARMONY - Bro. Robert Moore, Bro. Garvin Evans, Sis. Dean

Wallace. Sis. Frances Christian

MT. PLEASANT - No report

MT. WILLING - Sis. Star Scott

NEW CENTER POINT - Bro. Bobby Merchant, Bro. J. C. Scott, Bro.

Stevie Scott

PINEY GROVE - Bro. Elbert Cole, Sis. Rosa Nell Sanderson, Sis.

Frances Isbell, Sis. Jimmie Fievet, Bro. Wylman Barnes

SPLUNGE - None listed

SPRINGFIELD - Sis. Balma Bowen, Bro. Eugene Holmes, Sis. Wanda

Gunnels

SULLIGENT FIRST - Bro. Farrell Northington, Bro. Frank Mixon

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Sis. Faye Young, Bro. Joe Brown

UNION CHAPEL - Sis. Jo Ann Maddox

VERNON FIRST - Bro. Lennie Dubose, Sis. Bernice McDaniel

VICTORY - None listed

DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Digest Committee wishes to make the following report:

Number of Churches reporting (Rural - 14, City/Town - 4)	18
Pastors Full Time	10
Bi-vocational	5
Ordained Ministers	25
Licensed Ministers	10
Ordained Deacons	55
Sunday School/Enrollment	1,049
CTS/Enrollment	107
WNAC/Enrollment	62
Masters Men/Enrollment	22
Daycare	1
Kindergarten	1
Day School	1
Churches Having a Budget	4
Total Tithes/Offerings (8 churches reporting)	\$574,343.00
Churches Having a Parsonage	5
Property Value (4 churches reporting)	\$1,659,100.00
Church Membership	2,397
Members Lost (death, transfer, etc.)	60
Deceased	33
Members Added	95
Total Baptisms	54

Respectfully submitted,
The Digest Committee
Rev. Scott Montgomery, Chairman

**VERNON ASSOCIATION
Christian Education Board
Budget**

Projected Income:

Fees Received from Competition Entries	\$3,000.00
Total Income	\$3,000.00

Projected Expenses

Printing (Letters, Envelopes, Judges Sheets, Schedules) x \$.03	\$ 4.00
Mailing Expenses (postage)	\$ 10.00
Award Certificates	\$ 30.00
Fees to State CE Board	\$2,800.00
Total Expenses	\$2,844.00
Total	\$ 156.00

State CE Board will ONLY receive fees for entries that win at district and move on to State

**VERNON FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Board of Christian Education
Financial Report
09-01-13 through 08-31-14**

Beginning Balance: **\$285.57**

Funds Received:

Competition Fees	\$1,290.00
Total Funds	\$1,575.57

Expenses/Disbursements

Competition Fees to	
Alabama State C.E. Board	\$1,185.00
Competition Supplies	23.98
Refund of Fees	25.00
	\$1,233.98

Ending Balance **\$ 341.59**

**2015 BUDGET OF THE
VERNON ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

PROJECTED INCOME:

Church Fees (\$250.00/\$150.00) @ 20 Churches	\$3,200.00
Offerings (Spring/Fall meeting & Thanksgiving	\$ 750.00
Christian Education Board (Fees for Competition)	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 250.00

TOTAL \$5,700.00

PROJECTED EXPENSES

Alabama State Association Dues (\$135)	\$3,200.00
Postage/Office Supplies	\$ 200.00
Printing Minutes	\$ 650.00
Honorariums	\$ 300.00
Moderator	\$ 50.00
Assistant Moderator	\$ 25.00
Clerk	\$ 75.00
Assistant Clerk	\$ 25.00
State Christian Education Board	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00
Savings	\$ 250.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$6,475.00

BALANCE (-\$ 775.00)

**VERNON ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
FINANCIAL REPORT**

09-01-13 through 08-31-14

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$1,138.15

Funds Received:	
Dues From Churches	\$4,850.00
Thanksgiving Offering	\$ 368.00
Spring Meeting Offering	\$ 229.15
Fall Meeting Offering	\$ 343.00
	<u>\$5,790.15</u>

TOTAL FUNDS: \$6,928.30

EXPENSES:

Salaries for Officers	\$ 175.00
Alabama State Association Dues	\$3,700.00
Postage	\$ 195.48
Printing/Supplies	\$ 671.76
Honorariums paid to speakers	\$ 300.00
Internat'l Missions (Lancaster Acct.)	\$ 250.00
Alabama Executive Office	\$ 750.00
Bank Charges	\$ 36.00
	<u>\$6,078.24</u>

ENDING BALANCE \$ 850.06

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. Arnold Sheets, 5187 Buck Jackson Road, Sulligent, Alabama 35586,

256-460-2540 (C)

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, 5270 Cody Rd., Kennedy, AL 35574

205-712-2273 (C)

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

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

Rev. Bradley Long, 60320 Sipsey Fork Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848

256-436-7328

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 P. O. Box 543, Vernon, AL 35592

205-695-9730

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

662-549-0035

VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

✓ Ministerial Council
mailed out 15

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; ✓

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

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

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: 205-412-6355 E-Mail:
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	Don Taggart P. O. Box 159 Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-9876 CP: 205-712-6158 E-Mail stagbonel@yahoo.com ✕
FAYETTE, FIRST	Scott Montgomery 2112 Shannon Circle NW Fayette, AL 35555	HP: 205-932-2417 CP: 205-335-8840 E-Mail pastor@fayettefwb.org
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Arnold Sheets 5187 Buck Jackson Rd. Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: CP: 256-460-2540 E-Mail: arsheets@@msn.com
LIBERTY		HP: CP: E-Mail:
LOVE JOY	Edward Puckett 61811 Hwy. 17 Sulligent, AL 35586	HP: 205-698-0336 CP: E-Mail:
MT. HARMONY	Danny Thompson 5270 Cody Rd. Kennedy, AL 35574	HP: CP: 205-712-2223 E-Mail: dtrt@frontiernet.net
MT. PLEASANT		HP: CP: E-Mail
MT. WILLING		HP: CP: E-Mail
NEW CENTER POINT	Bradley Long 60320 Sipsey Fork Road Greenwood Springs, MS 38848	HP: 662-257-1111 CP: 256-436-7328 E-Mail bradleylong1@yahoo.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: 205-712-4896 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: 205-412-1877 E-Mail: mpaul76@hotmail.com
UNION CHAPEL	Fred Graham P. O. Box 435 Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-9730 CP: E-Mail
VERNON, FIRST	Joe Beckon 221 6th St. N.E. Vernon, AL 35592	HP: 205-695-9842 CP: 205-712-0571 E-Mail: jabeckon@aol.com
VICTORY	Al Hamm 806 Belmont Dr. Columbus, MS 39702	HP: 662-549-0035 CP: E-Mail alhl@cableone.net

CHURCH	CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	CLERKS HOME PHONE/CELL PHONE/E-MAIL
BEAVERTON <i>B. H.</i>	Nell L. Sizemore 12310 Hwy 278 Beaverton, AL 35544	HP: 205-698-7244 CP: E-Mail:
BELK	Helen Webster 1489 Harmony Rd. Kennedy, AL 35574	HP: 205-932-5853 CP: E-Mail: 988
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	Linda Barnes 610 Markham Rd. Guin, ALK 35563	HP: CP: 205-698-8619 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: <i>X</i>
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	0	2	38	20	-	-	-
Belk	1	2	158	85	-	8	2
Cooper	0	2	142	-	-	-	1
Depriest Chapel	-	2	61	-	-	-	1
Fayette, First	1	1	209	90	-	-	4
Free Will Chapel	6	4	235	43	-	-	1
Liberty	0	3	224	57	42	15	2
Love Joy	3	2	76	-	-	7	1
Mt. Harmony	8	5	308	135	-	-	2
Mt. Pleasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mt. Willing	0	9	24	9	-	-	-
New Center Point	8	5	219	65	-	12	2
Piney Grove	16	21	184	175	-	-	3
Splunge	4	0	69	-	-	-	1
Springfield	2	2	-	-	-	5	1
Sulligent, First	4	2	212	120	-	15	1
Taylor Springs	-	-	-	25	-	-	1
Union Chapel	0	1	35	12	-	-	1
Vernon, First	24	2	128	125	65	-	1
Victory	22	2	110	100	-	-	1
Totals	99	67	2,432	1,061	107	62	26

LIST OF DEACONS BY CHURCH

BEAVERTON - Fred Barnes, Bobby Dykes

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

COOPER - Mike Kelly, Dwight Lamb, Edward Finch, Burley Finch, Bobbie Hayes

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Gene Wise

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

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

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

LOVE JOY - Gary Sorrells, Scotty Tucker, Clayton Barnes

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

MT. PLEASANT - No report

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 - Jessie Barnes, Jr., Willard Lovelady, Ken Kerr, Sammy Merchant, Jr.

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Steve Spencer

UNION CHAPEL - Benny Hardy, Calvin Jones

VERNON - Derrell Wheeler, Aaron Black, Edwin Collins, Mike Freeman, Demus Shelnut, Zadus 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. Markham, 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, Raphael Yerby

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Credentials Committee, make the following report.

We, the committee, at the request of the Sulligent Free Will Baptist church examined Bro. Ryan Taylor for ordination into the ministry. Bro. Taylor has been licensed by the Sulligent Church for a year and is their Youth Minister. He has satisfactorily completed the questionnaire for ministers. We recommend Bro. Ryan Taylor for ordination. Bro. Taylor will plan his ordination as to where and when it will occur.

We have received a letter of good standing for Bro. Bradley Long from the Mississippi - Alabama State Line Association recommending him to the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association. We have received a letter from the New Center Point Free Will Baptist Church requesting membership for Bro. Long into the Vernon Association, therefore we recommend Bro. Long to become a member of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association.

We recommend the acceptance of Bro. Arnold Sheets, pastor of Free Will Chapel Church, into the Vernon Association pending a letter of good standing from the Saline Association of Free Will Baptists of Arkansas.

We recommend that all ministers present at today's meeting be given a card of good standing.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Lamar Cox
Bro. David Fowler
Rev. James Walden
Bro. Reedus Wheat
Rev. Joe Beckon

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Nominating Committee, wish to make the following report. We recommend for moderator, Rev. Don Taggart replacing Rev. Danny Thompson. For assistant moderator, we recommend Rev. Michael Nabors to replace Rev. Stephen Cantrell. For clerk we recommend Bro. Steve Butler to replace Bro. Steve Butler. For assistant clerk we recommend Sis. Sandra Carter to replace Sis. Sandra Carter. On the Credentials Committee, we recommend Rev. Bill Smith to replace Rev. Lamar Cox. On the Board of Christian Education, we recommend Bro. Chris Willhite to replace Bro. Chris Willhite. On the Trinity Camp Board we recommend that Bro. Ryan Taylor replace Rev. Stephen Cantrell.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Wade Peoples, Chairman
Rev. Don Taggart
Bro. Phil Wheeler

**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 (\$250.00) in dues per year, and all churches of the association with less than 100 members shall send the sum of two hundred (\$150.00) 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 - Committees

- A. The moderator shall appoint all Committees required for the Annual Meeting of the Association
- B. All committees are to consist of from three (3) to five (5) members.

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.

APPLICATION FOR MINISTERS**GENERAL**

Briefly tell of your conversion and give reasons for your assurance of salvation.

How long have you been a Free Will Baptist?

Why do you want to be ordained?

Give a short account of your call to preach.

Do you meet the qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7?

Do you have a family? _____ Number of children _____

Have you or your wife ever been divorced?

What is the extent of your education? Elementary grades _____

High School _____ College _____ Other _____.

What is your attitude toward intoxicating beverages, tobacco, drugs, or worldly amusements?

DOCTRINE

Do you believe without reservation that the Bible is the verbally inspired, infallible Word of God and that it is the only rule of faith and practice?

What do you believe about evolution and the Genesis account of Creation?

What is the gospel?

What is salvation?

How would you proceed to explain the way of salvation to a lost soul?

Explain your views on baptism.

What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?

Should feet washing be observed? Explain.

What do you believe about apostasy and the perseverance of the believer?

What is the church?

Who is eligible for membership?

How should the church discipline a member?

How should the work of the church be financed?

What are the duties of a minister?

What is the mission of the church in the light of Matt. 28:19, 20?

GIVE YOUR INTERPRETATION OF THE FOLLOWING DOCTRINES.

God

Atonement

Deity of Christ

Sanctification

The Virgin Birth of Christ

Final Judgement

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Heaven

Repentance

Hell

Faith

Satan

Justification

Second Coming

Regeneration

Resurrection

DENOMINATION

Who is a Free Will Baptist?

What is meant by the term "free moral agent"?

Have you read the Treatise completely and do you subscribe to the doctrines and practices that are outlined in it?

Is there anything in the treatise that you do not believe or would not teach?

If you ever changed your views on any of these doctrines what would you do?

What are the grounds for relinquishing your ordination credentials?

What is the relationship of the local church to the denomination?

Give three character and three credit references.

Do you solemnly pledge to earnestly content for the faith once delivered to the saints and to faithfully uphold the Free Will Baptist doctrines outlined in the Treatise?