

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIFTH
SESSION**

of the

**VERNON FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

held with the

**LIBERTY
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
CROSSVILLE COMMUNITY
VERNON, ALABAMA**

2015 Minutes

OFFICERS FOR 2015
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

MODERATOR REV. DON TAGGART
ASSISTANT MODERATOR REV. SCOTT MONTGOMERY
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 19, 2016. 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 15, 2016. 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 2016

MODERATOR REV. DON TAGGART
P. O. Box 159, Vernon, Alabama 35592
205-712-6158 (c)
E-mail stagbone1@yahoo.com

ASSISTANT MODERATOR REV. DAVID I. CROWE
2527 State Highway 253, Guin, Alabama 35563
205-412-5448 (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 14, 2015

The Spring Meeting of the Vernon Free Will Baptist Association met with the Free Will Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, March 14, 2015. Registration started at 9:30 am with the service beginning at 10:00 am.

A congregational song, "Are You Washed In The Blood," was sung by those present being led by Bro. Daniel Franks of the Free Will Chapel Church. Bro. Arnold Sheets, pastor of Free Will Chapel Church welcomed all present to the meeting and led in prayer following the welcome. Bro. Don Taggart, Moderator, gave the response to the welcome and thanked the church for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

A song of special music followed, being sung by Sis. Rendy Gunnells of the Free Will Chapel Church. Bro. Arnold Sheets gave the Morning Devotion using Psalm 144:15 as his text. Prayer followed by the speaker.

A report of information was received from Bro. Ashley Culp of Trinity Camp and Bro. Danny Williams of the Alabama Children's Home and the State Promotional Office. The Camp is in the process of building a new building on campus that will increase the amount of space needed for summer camp staff. The Acts 1:8 Program raised \$512,000 last year. The mission work in Mobile, Alabama is doing well. Roll Call Sunday will be April 5, 2015. Pastors and Workers Conference will be April 29, 30 and May 1, 2015. State Youth Competition will be May 2 at Florence, Alabama. The Eldridge Toy Run raised \$86,000 with over 1000 people in attendance. The Home is in need of a Director with the resignation of Bro. Mike Corley. World Missions Offering will be on Sunday, April 26, 2015.

A short recess break was observed with refreshments in the fellowship hall. After the break, the worship service continued with the morning offering being received. Following the offering, a congregational song, "Standing On The Promises," was sung by the congregation, being led by Bro. Daniel Franks. A special music selection was sung by Sis. Rendy Gunnells of the Free Will Chapel Church.

Next, the Morning Message was preached by Bro. Wade Peoples, pastor of the Springfield Church. His text was taken from Titus 1:4,5. Bro. Peoples led in prayer following the message. An invitational hymn, "Just As I Am," was sung by the congregation following the message.

A blessing and dismissal prayer was made by Bro. Arnold Sheets. All

were invited to stay and enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by the Free Will Chapel Church. The meeting was adjourned.

There were nine ministers, twenty-five delegates, twelve deacons, and six visitors who registered for the meeting

PROCEEDINGS
VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
FALL MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015

The meeting began with a welcome to all from the host of Liberty Church, Bro. Kevin Sudduth. A congregational prayer was led by Bro. Robert McDonald of the Liberty Church. A response to the welcome was given by Bro. Don Taggart, Moderator. A congregational song, "Victory In Jesus," was next led by Bro. Wayne Sorrells of the Liberty Church. A song of special music was sung by Bro. Wayne Sorrells, Sis. Janice Sorrells, and Sis. Trina Sudduth. The song was entitled, "Roll Away The Stone."

The Morning Devotion was given by Bro. Ben Franklin, pastor of the Beaverton Church. Prayer followed by the speaker.

We were called into business session by the Clerk, Bro. Steve Butler. The clerk called the roll of delegates and made a motion that all the delegates present be seated for business session to begin. The motion carried.

The Moderator, Bro. Don Taggart, appointed members of the Obituary Committee. Those appointed to this committee were, Sis. Jennifer Crowe, Chairperson of the Piney Grove Church, Sis. Donna Ling of Depriest Chapel Church, and Sis. Sandra Sorrells of the Love Joy Church.

A call was made by the Moderator for reports of the Executive Committee and the Digest Committee. These were given respectively by Bro. Steve Butler, Clerk and Bro. Scott Montgomery, Chairman of the Digest Committee. The Moderator appointed members of the Digest Committee for 2016. They were Bro. Sammy Merchant, Jr., Chairman, Bro. Billy Sizemore, and Bro. Zadus Turner, Jr. The Credentials Committee Chairman, Bro. Wade Peoples, gave a partial committee report.

A call by the Moderator for any old business to be considered was made. There being none, the delegates moved on to consider new business. Three recommendations from the General Board regarding changes to the Constitution were made. Copies of the recommendations had been passed out to the delegates earlier by Assistant Clerk, Sis. Sandra Carter. The recommendations were tabled until after the morning break, when they would be acted upon. A committee was appointed by the Moderator to

study and make recommendations concerning the Constitution/By-Laws of the Association. The Committee is to report back to the Association at the Annual Meeting as to any recommendations they so choose to make to the General Board. There was no further new business to be brought up.

Reports from various ministries were heard by ministry representatives. A report from the Trinity Camp was made by Bro. David I. Crowe. A report of the Alabama State Association Promotional Office was given by Bro. Lamar Cox in the absence of Bro. Danny Williams. These reports were located elsewhere in the Minutes. A break from business session was made following prayer led by Bro. Al Hamm of the Victory Church. After the break reports continued with the Children's Home Report by Bro. Howard McNeal and a final report of the Credentials Committee by Bro. Wade Peoples.

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Bro. Lamar Cox. Those nominated were Bro. Don Taggart for Moderator, Bro. David I. Crowe for Assistant Moderator, Bro. Steve Butler for Clerk, Sis. Sandra Carter for Assistant Clerk, Bro. Devin Henry to replace himself on the C. E. Board, Bro. Matthew Paul to fill an empty position on the C. E. Board and Bro. Lewis Hindman to replace himself on the Trinity Camp Board. All nominations were approved by the delegates. Members of the Nominating Committee were next appointed by the Moderator. Members of the Executive Committee were also appointed by the Moderator. A call was made for delegates to the State Association meeting at Forestdale Church in Forestdale, Alabama this year. No delegates were selected but would be appointed at the State meeting. Bro. Wade Peoples was appointed to a position on the Credentials Committee which expires in 2020.

A report of the Obituary Committee was given. All present were asked to stand and sing "What A Day That Will Be" in honor of those who have passed on this past year to be with the Lord. Bro. Bill Smith of the Fayette Church led in prayer.

The delegates were dismissed from business session.

The Morning Worship Service followed. A congregational song, "Are You Washed In The Blood," was led by Bro. Wayne Sorrells. A song of special music was sung by Bro. Dean Maddox and Bro. Nolen Maddox, "If I Should Go Free." The offering was next received. Prayer was by the Moderator. Young men from the Children's Home received the offering.

The Morning Message was preached by Bro. Bradley Long, pastor of the New Center Point Church. His text was taken from Romans 5:8,9. Prayers were by the speaker following the message. An invitation song was

sung, "Amazing Grace," followed the message.

After the message, all were invited to stay and enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the ladies of Liberty Church. The blessing on the meal was given by Bro. Leonard Corbett of the Liberty Church. A very special thanks is extended to the Union Chapel Church for their help in providing the meal.

There were 21 ministers, 44 delegates, 16 deacons, and 18 visitors that registered for the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee of the Vernon Association held its first meeting of the association year on Saturday, March 14, 2015 just prior to the Spring Meeting of the Association. Bro. Don Taggart presided as Moderator. The meeting was held at the Freewill Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Sulligent, Alabama. All committee members were present.

A number of recommendations for committee vacancies was made. Bro. Scott Montgomery of the Fayette Church was recommended to fill the vacancy left by Bro. Mike Nabors for Assistant Moderator. Bro. Edwind Collins of the Vernon Church was recommended to replace Bro. Ryan Taylor on the Trinity Camp Board of Directors. On The Christian Education Board, Bro. Stephen Cantrell of the Sulligent Church was recommended to replace Bro. Mike Nabors whose terms ends in 2017 and Sis. Debbie Yerby of the Belk Church was recommended to fill a position on the Christian Education Board that expires in 2019. A motion, second, and vote by show-of-hands was made to recommend these nominations to the Association.

Speakers for the Annual Meeting in October were selected. Bro. Ben Franklin of the Beaverton Church was selected to preach the Morning Devotion. Bro. Bradley Long of the New Center Point Church was chosen to preach the Morning Message. Bro. David I. Crowe of the Piney Grove Church was selected to be the alternative speaker for either of the services. A site for the Annual Meeting has not been made as yet. The Thanksgiving Service will meet at the Fayette Church in November.

A suggestion was made concerning increasing the interest and participation in the Spring Meeting. Possibly having the service on a Sunday afternoon or Sunday night was discussed. All present were

asked to think about the suggestion with further action to be taken at the Annual Meeting.

With no more business to discuss, the committee was dismissed with prayer by Bro. Phil Wheeler of the Mt. Harmony Church.

A second meeting of the General Board, Executive Committee, and Nominating Committee was held on Monday, September 21, 2015 to discuss any business that might need to be brought up at the Annual Meeting. There were seven committee members and board members present. This was held at the Vernon Church.

Moderator, Bro. Don Taggart, opened the meeting with prayer. The committee reviewed the speakers for the Annual Meeting coming up on October 17, 2015.

Various recommendations were made by the General Board to be considered by the Association. There was discussion by the board concerning the lack of attendance at the March meeting. A suggestion was made to have maybe a Sunday afternoon service for the youth and a Sunday night service for the adults. No recommendation was made. We were dismissed with prayer led by Bro. Derrell Wheeler of the Vernon Church.

LISTING OF DELEGATES BY CHURCH 2015 MEETINGS

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

BELK - Sis. Lucy Cox, Sis. Angie Hill, Sis. Genine Fowler, Sis. Helen Webster, Sis. Magdalane Merritt, Sis. Brittanie Drapo, alternate

COOPER - None listed

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

FAYETTE, FIRST - Sis. Dot Sanford, Sis. Thelma House

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

LIBERTY - Sis. Janie Staggs, Sis. Joyce Doherty, Sis. Joan Gillihan, Sis. Haley Hardin, Sis. Georgene McDonald, Sis. Frances Butler, Sis. Stephanie Butler

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. Kacie Long, Bro. Douglas Puckett, Sis. Lena Puckett, Sis. Lenetta Puckett, Sis. Shelia Rasberry, Sis. Stephanie Stafford

PINEY GROVE - Sis. Jackie Atkinson, Sis. Jennifer Crowe, Bro. Dick Williams, Sis. Barbara Williams, Bro. Howard McNeal, Sis. Kelli McNeal

SPLUNGE - No report

SPRINGFIELD - Sis. Burma Jordan, Sis. Joyce Gibson

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

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

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

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; 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 - Scott Montgomery, 2112 Shannon Circle, Fayette, AL 35555, 205-932-7354

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 - None listed

NEW CENTER POINT -None listed

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

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 - None listed

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.

Mt. Willing
New Center Point
Piney Grove
Splunge
Springfield

Sulligent
Taylor Springs
Union Chapel
Vernon
Victory

COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Executive Committee 2015-2016

Leonard Corbett (Liberty)
 Jimmy McDaniel (Springfield)
 Kenny Ford (New Center Point)
 Dale Bozeman (Belk)
 Tommy Bridges (Beaverton)

Board of Christian Education (C.E.)

Sis. Stephanie Butler (Liberty) - 2016
 Devin Henry (Cooper) - 2017
 Rev. Chris Willhite (Mt. Harmony) - 2018
 Sis. Debbie Yerby (Belk) - 2019
 Rev. Matthew Paul (Sulligent) - 2020

Credentials Committee

Bro. Reedus Wheat (Fayette) - 2016
 Bro. David Fowler (Belk) - 2017
 Rev. Joe Beckon (Vernon) - 2018
 Rev. Bill Smith (Fayette) - 2019
 Rev. Wade Peoples (Springfield) - 2020

Deceased Members Committee - 2015

Sis. Jennifer Crowe
 Sis. Donna Ling
 Sis. Sandra Sorrells

Nominating Committee 2016

Rev. David I. Crowe (Piney Grove)
 Rev. Matthew Paul (Sulligent)
 Rev. Joe Beckon (Vernon)

Digest Committee - 2015-2016

Bro. Sammie Merchant, Jr. (Sulligent)
 Bro. Billy Sizemore (Beaverton)
 Bro. Zadus Turner, Jr. (Vernon)

Trinity Youth Camp

Board of Directors

Rev. David I. Crowe (Piney Grove) - 2016
 Bro. Edwin Collins (Vernon) - 2017
 Bro. Lewis Hindman (Belk) - 2018

By-Law and Constitution Review Committee

Bro. Douglas Puckett, Chairman
 Sis. Sandra Carter
 Bro. Steve Butler
 Bro. Dean Maddox
 Sis. Lucy Cox
 Bro. Willard Pless

OBITUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Obituary Committee, would like to report that twenty-five (25) members went to be with the Lord this past church 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. In honor of our deceased members, we would like for you to join us in singing, "What A Day That Will Be."

Respectfully submitted by the Committee

Sis. Jennifer Crowe
 Sis. Donna Ling
 Sis. Sandra Sorrells

BEAVERTON - None
BELK - Sis. Betty Reynolds Jones, Sis. Michelle Morrison
COOPER - Sis. Flora Warren
DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Sis. Virginia Wise, Sis. Virginia Webb
FAYETTE FIRST - Sis. Patricia Wheat, Bro. Rayford Williams
FREE WILL CHAPEL - Sis. Shelby Brasfield
LIBERTY - None
LOVE JOY - None
MT. HARMONY - Sis. Ruby Watkins, Sis. Betty Hulsey, Sis. Sandra Curry, Sis. Ann Harrison
MT. PLEASANT - No report
MT. WILLING - Sis. Kathleen Garrison
NEW CENTER POINT - Sis. Una Kelly, Bro. Wayne Puckett
PINEY GROVE - Bro. Randy Wright, Sis. Dean McGowan, Sis. Bernice Morris, Bro. Stanley Vaughn
SPLUNGE - No report
SPRINGFIELD - Sis. Jean Hester
SULLIGENT FIRST - Sis. Tommie Lee Foster, Bro. Luke Spruiell, Sis. Hattie Harrison
TAYLOR SPRINGS - None
UNION CHAPEL - None
VERNON FIRST - Sis. Ann Patrick, Sis. Bernice McDaniel
VICTORY - Bro. Louis Newman, Sis. Annie Smith, Sis. Gloria Templeton

DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Digest Committee wishes to make the following report:

Number of Churches reporting	18
Churches Rural	14
Churches (City/Town)	4
 Pastors Full Time	10
Bi-vocational	7
 Ordained Ministers	24
Licensed Ministers	9
Ordained Deacons	55
 Sunday School/Enrollment	928
CTS/Enrollment	102
WNAC/Enrollment	50
Masters Men/Enrollment	31
Churches with:	
Daycare	1
Kindergarten	1
Day School	1
 Churches Having a Budget	3
Tithes and Offerings (9 of 18 churches reporting)	\$654,561
 Churches Having a Parsonage	4
Property Value (4 churches reporting)	\$1,668,100
 Membership	1947
Members Added	57
Members Lost (death, transfer, etc.)	28
Members Deceased	25
Total Baptisms	57

Respectfully submitted,
The Digest Committee
Rev. Scott Montgomery, Chairman
Bro. Edsel Gideon
Bro. Bill Sizemore

VERNON ASSOCIATION
Board of Christian Education
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

09-01-14 through 08-31-15

Beginning Balance:	\$341.59
Funds Received:	.00
Total Funds	\$341.59

Expenses/Disbursements	
Expenses	.00

Ending Balance **\$ 341.59**

**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**

09-01-14 through 08-31-15

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$850.06

Funds Received:	
Dues From Churches	\$4,000.00
Thanksgiving Offering	\$ 287.00
Spring Meeting Offering	\$ 169.00
Fall Meeting Offering	\$ 227.00
	\$4,683.00

TOTAL FUNDS: \$5,533.06

EXPENSES:

Salaries for Officers	\$ 150.00
Alabama State Association Dues	\$3,515.00
Postage	\$ 206.46
Printing/Supplies	\$ 701.93
Bank Charges	\$ 36.00
	\$4609.39

ENDING BALANCE \$ 923.67

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRESENT MINISTERS

- Rev. Ben Franklin, 3091 Co. Rd. 89, Vina, AL 35593
256-460-2000 (C)
- 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. Edward Puckett, 61811 Hwy 17, Sulligent, AL 35586
205-698-0336 (H)
- Rev. Danny Thompson, 5270 Cody Rd., Kennedy, AL 35574
205-712-2223 (C)
- Rev. Bradley Long, 60320 Sipsev Fork Road, Greenwood Springs, MS 38848
256-436-7328
- Rev. David I. Crowe, 2527 State Hwy. 253, Guin, AL 35563
205-412-5448
- Rev. Wade Peoples, P. O. Box 207, Vernon, AL 35592
205-712-4525 (C)
- Rev. Matthew Paul, 5201 Hwy 278, Sulligent, AL 35586
205-698-8177 (H)
- Rev. Fred Graham, P. O. Box 435, Vernon, AL 35592
205-695-9631
- Rev. Willard Pless, 4281 Hwy 18, Vernon, AL 35592
205-801-1944
- Rev. Joe Beckon, 221 6th Street NE, Vernon, AL 35592
205-695-9730
- Rev. Al Hamm, 806 Belmont Dr., Columbus, MS 39702
662-549-0035
- Rev. John Reed, P. O. Box 153, Belk, Alabama 35545
- Rev. Bill R. Smith, P. O. Box 631, Fayette, Alabama 35555
- Rev. M. H. Hollis, 2215 6th Ave., NW, Fayette, AL 35555
- Rev. Albert Staggs, 161 Sunset Road, Vernon, Alabama 35592

Rev. James Walden, 5215 Cody Road, Kennedy, AL 35574

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

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

LICENSED MINISTERS

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

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

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

Bro. Adam Taggart, P. O. Box 159, Vernon, AL 35592

Bro. Luke Blaylock, 50218 Splunge Rd., Greenwood Springs, MS 38848

Bro. Jonathan Miller, P. O. Box 4, Guin, AL 35563

LIST OF DEACONS BY CHURCH

BEAVERTON - Fred Barnes, Bobby Dykes

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

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

DEPRIEST CHAPEL - Gene Wise

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

FREEWILL CHAPEL - Edsel Gideon, Daniel Franks, Billy Jo Turner, Johnny Quinn, Glen Hopper

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

LOVE JOY - Clayton Barnes, Gary Sorrells, Scotty Tucker

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, Keith Blair, Donald Puckett

PINEY GROVE - Danny Atkinson, Tommie Robertson

SPLUNGE - No report

SPRINGFIELD - Tommie Rushing, Jimmy McDaniel, Chris Jones

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

TAYLOR SPRINGS - Steve Spencer

UNION CHAPEL - Benny Hardy, Calvin Jones

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

VICTORY - Jim 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, Rev. Randy Wright

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, Joghnnny Williams, Johnny Collins, Dewitt Williams, J. G. Adair, Cullen Collins, John D. Moore, Sr., R. D. Franks, Hoytt Chaffin, Dempsey Langley, S. L. Cash, C. V. Hollis, M. E. Hollis, Raymond Gray, Arnold Hester, H. E. McDonald, Henry Harrison, Henry Perkins, Roy Gilreath, Jack McDonald, Belton Nelson, Clarence Birmingham, Carlos Bradford, Charlie Elliott, Emmit Shelnut, Junie Harper, Lloyd Turner, Johnny 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

CHURCH	PASTOR'S NAME	PASTOR'S ADDRESS	PASTOR'S TELEPHONE EMAIL ADDRESS
BEAVERTON	Ben Franklin	3091 Co. Rd. 89 Vina, AL 35593	256-460-2000 callmebenjamin@yahoo.com
BELK	Lamar Cox	P. O. Box 446 Fayette, AL 35555	205-270-8970 lcox@WATVC.com
COOPER	Devin Henry	150 Cooper Church Road Detroit, AL 35552	205-412-6355
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	Don Taggart	P. O. Box 159 Vernon, AL 35592	205-712-6158 stagbonel@yahoo.com
FAYETTE, FIRST			
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Arnold Sheets	5187 Buck Jackson Rd. Sulligent, AL 35586	256-460-2540
LIBERTY	Kevin Sudduth	291 Crossville Loop Sulligent, AL 35586	205-712-2945 KSudduth@tuscaloosa.com
LOVE JOY	Edward Puckett	61811 Hwy. 17 Sulligent, AL 35586	205-698-0336
MT. HARMONY	Danny Thompson	5270 Cody Rd. Kennedy, AL 35574	205-712-2223
MT. PLEASANT			
MT. WILLING			
NEW CENTER POINT	Bradley Long	60320 Sipsey Fork Road Greenwood Springs, MS 38848	256-436-7328 662-257-1111 bradleylong1@yahoo.com
PINEY GROVE	David I. Crowe	2527 State Hwy 253 Guin, AL 35563	205-412-5448 bronco198@yahoo.com
SPLUNGE			
SPRINGFIELD	Wade Peoples	P. O. Box 207 Vernon, AL 35592	205-712-4525 wadepeoples@ymail.com
SULLIGENT, FIRST	Matthew Paul	5201 Hwy 278 Sulligent, AL 35586	205-698-8177 mpaul76@hotmail.com
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Edwin Brewer	10912 Co. Hwy. 13 Vina, AL 35593	205-921-2967
UNION CHAPEL	Fred Graham	P. O. Box 435 Vernon, AL 35592	205-695-9631
VERNON, FIRST	Joe Beckon	221 6th St. N.E. Vernon, AL 35592	205-695-9730
VICTORY	Al Hamm	806 Belmont Dr. Columbus, MS 39702	662-549-0035

CHURCH	CLERK	ADDRESS	CLERK'S TELEPHONE EMAIL ADDRESS
BEAVERTON	Nell L. Sizemore	12310 Hwy 278 Beaverton, AL 35544	205-698-7244 billysizemore@centurytel.net
BELK	Helen Webster	1489 Harmony Rd. Kennedy, AL 35574	205-596-4050
COOPER	Becky Nichols	4746 County Highway 26 Detroit, AL 35552	205-431-6115
DEPRIEST CHAPEL	Gene Wise	P. O. Box 132 Gattman, MS 38844	662-640-8461 (C)
FAYETTE	Jennifer Sanford Fayette, AL 35555	4863 Hwy 18 E E-Mail	205-904-9019
FREE WILL CHAPEL	Lenora Hopper	1522 County Lake Road Sulligent, AL 35586	205-695-1897
LIBERTY	Steve Butler	100 Bethabara Cutoff Fayette, AL 35555	205-932-8496
LOVE JOY	Linda Barnes	610 Markham Rd. Guin, AL 35563	205-698-8619
MT. HARMONY	David Harrison	P. O. Box 532 Vernon, AL 35592	205-695-9355
MT. PLEASANT			
MT. WILLING	Carol McDonald	1663 Guin Road Guin, AL 35563	205-468-2965
NEW CENTER POINT	Ruth Vann	187 Water Works Road Sulligent, AL 35586	205-698-9991
PINEY GROVE	Jackie Atkinson	6809 County Rd. 36 Guin, AL 35563	205-487-2172
SPLUNGE			
SPRINGFIELD	Peggy Wright	91 J Drive Vernon, AL 35592	205-695-6213
SULLIGENT, FIRST	Christy Merchant	P. O. Box 776 Sulligent, AL 35586	205-712-9046
TAYLOR SPRINGS	Mitchell Puckett	58840 Hwy. 17 Sulligent, AL 35586	205-698-9160
UNION CHAPEL	Dean Maddox	4330 County Road 38 West Fayette, AL 35555	205-270-9370
VERNON, FIRST	Amanda Freeman	P. O. Box 543 Vernon, AL 35592	
VICTORY	Johnnie Mae Newman	85 Weathers Road Columbus, MS 39702	

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	4	0	40	20	-	-	1
Belk	-	2	155	85	-	8	2
Cooper	2	1	120	-	-	-	1
Depriest Chapel	0	2	46	-	-	-	1
Fayette	0	2	207	-	-	-	3
Free Will Chapel	7	1		61	-	-	1
Liberty	0	0	224	65	37	18	2
Love Joy	1	0	74	-	-	7	1
Mt. Harmony	6	4	310	135	-	-	2
Mt. Pleasant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mt. Willing	0	0	19	10	-	-	-
New Center Point	20	2	213	70	-	-	2
Piney Grove	7	3	188	170	-	-	2
Splunge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Springfield	2	1	-	-	-	2	1
Sulligent	4	1	211	120	-	15	1
Taylor Springs	-	-	-	25	-	-	1
Union Chapel	0	0	35	12	-	-	1
Vernon	4	2	130	125	65	-	1
Victory	0	0	105	100	-	-	1
Totals	57	21	2,077	998	102	50	24

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Credentials Committee, make the following report.

We, the committee, have received a letter requesting that the new pastor at the Liberty Church, Bro. Kevin Sudduth, be given membership in the Vernon Association. After completion of the minister questionnaire by Bro. Sudduth, the committee will examine it and report back to the Association. The committee is recommending Bro. Ben Franklin, pastor of the Beaverton Church, be accepted into membership in the Vernon Association upon the Beaverton Church submitting a letter of request.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Wade Peoples, Chairman
Bro. Reedus Wheat
Rev. David Fowler
Rev. Joe Beckon
Rev. Bill Smith

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

We recommend Rev. Don Taggart to replace himself; for Assistant Moderator, we recommend Rev. David I. Crowe to replace Rev. Scott Montgomery; for Clerk, we recommend Bro. Steve Butler replace himself; for Assistant Clerk, we recommend Sis. Sandra Carter to replace herself. For the Board of Christian Education we recommend Rev. Devin Henry replace himself and that Rev. Matthew Paul fill the 2020 position on the Board. For the Trinity Camp Board we recommend Bro. Lewis Hindman replace himself.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Lamar Cox
Rev. Devin Henry
Bro. Kenny Ford

TRINITY CAMP BOARD REPORT

I bring you greetings from the Trinity Camp, on behalf of our director Bro. Ashley Culp, who apologizes for not being able to be here today. Thank you again for your faithful support to this ministry. This past summer we saw 43 salvation decisions, 4 young men felt God's call to preach, 3 campers felt God's direction to missions, as well as countless personal decisions and commitments. We were able to complete the Layman's Lodge before summer and were able to retire the debt before summer ended. The total cost was \$21,000 and we borrowed \$12,000. We are looking forward to Tim Loyd, Blake Nance, Jon Forrest, and David Osborne speaking for us this summer. If I can be of assistance to you please contact me. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Report submitted and given as information by Bro. David I. Crowe.

**ALABAMA FREE WILL BAPTIST
EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT
OCTOBER 2015**

Alabama Executive Office: The Alabama Free Will Baptist Executive Committee has selected Bro. Danny Williams as our new Executive Director of State Ministries. He has been doing double duty with the Children's Home for the past few weeks to make the transitions as smooth as possible. As of this week he is full time with the Executive Office. Please pray for God to provide all Bro. Danny needs as he serves in this important role.

Acts 1:8

Financially: Our 2015 Acts budget is \$505,000. This requires \$42,083 each month. As of the end of September 23 have received \$386,667.20.

Partnerships: Our partnerships with Russia and Mexico are still ongoing with the support of eight church planters and two Bible institutes. Five church plants in Mexico have been dedicated since 2011. There are two more church plants scheduled to be completed and dedicated in Mexico in 2015 due to funding from Alabama FWB.

International Missions

Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster have returned to Uruguay after several months in the US dealing with Tammy's health issues. She is much improved but still needs our prayers for strength and complete restoration of her health. They have requested prayer for God to raise up national pastors. There are only 2 ordained pastors and 5 churches.

Matt and Brooke Turnbough have recently returned from Spain for stateside assignment. They are scheduling services to share what God is doing in their ministry and raising financial support. They will be participating in the January Missions Conference.

Alabama Home Missions

Dothan: Pray for the Alabama Mission board and the Eastside FWB Church as they are involved in a revitalization project. Bro. Billy Bevan is serving as the missionary pastor in this project. They have already been a high day of 87 in Sunday am attendance. They are averaging in the 50s on Sunday am and 40 on Sunday pm. There is an excitement among the people.

Mobile: The Bay City Church continues to work toward becoming a self supporting church. They are averaging in the mid 70s in Sunday morning worship attendance and near 60 on Wednesday nights. On a recent "Family Sunday" they had 114 in attendance. This year they have baptized 13. Plans are in the works for converting the Family Life Center into a worship center and paving the parking lot.

Upcoming Events

Minister's Retreat: October 19-21 at Lake Guntersville. The cost is only \$100. It is a great time of fellowship and relaxation. There is the possibility of an opening. If you are interested contact Bro. Danny at 205-412-0296.

State Association: November 4-6 at Forestdale FWB. Jeff Manning and Keith Burden will be our guest speakers. Plans are to honor Bro. Rick Cash for his years of ministry leading Alabama. You are encouraged to send a financial gift, cards, letters, etc. to the State Office for a combined presentation at the State Association.

Report given and submitted as information by Bro. Lamar Cox.

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

All churches in the Vernon Association will not be allowed representation at the Alabama State Association meeting if they do not or have not paid their dues and therefore will not be listed in the National Association Directory.

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.
- P. No minister, whether licensed or ordained, of any church in the Vernon Association shall officiate or otherwise participate in any same-sex union or wedding ceremony.

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 the proposed amendment be presented in writing to the body and shall lie on the table after having been introduced to the body before the morning break in session and shall be removed from the table after the morning break in session for consideration by the body present.

BY-LAWS

- I. This association shall be called to order and presided over by the officers elected at the last session.
- II. All ministers must register at the annual association meeting and their names will be printed in the minutes.
- III. The moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in the case of a tie and then he shall cast the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question, after others have spoken, provided he shall appoint someone to the chair while he is speaking.
- IV. Rules of Decorum:
 - A. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the moderator and after recognition by the moderator shall proceed.
 - B. No person shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.

- C. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without permission of the moderator nor more than five minutes.
- D. No person shall laugh or talk during discussion.
- E. No delegate shall absent himself from the association without permission from the moderator.
- V. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of this association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Bible.** The Scripture of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice. 1 Cor. 1:21; Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 1:16.

2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe and in the Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey. 1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh' in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified and is our present Savior and Lord. 1 Tim. 2:5-6, Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16.

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

5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided, for all the highest welfare of men. Mark 16:5; Luke 24:47; 1 Tim. 2:4.

6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God. Gen. 2:17; Gen. 3:19.

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

8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the domination of sin, and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death. Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:10.

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

10. **Freedom of Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish. Titus 2nd. Chapter; Rev. 2:10-15

11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely. Gal. 1:13-14; Rev. 22:17.

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

13. **Gospel Ordinances.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water and the Lord's supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing is an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true believers. Acts 8th Chapter; 1 Tim. 5:10; Luke 22:49.

14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." I. Cor. 16:2.

15. **The Lord's Day.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities and for personal communion with God. Deut. 5:12-14; Heb. 4:4.

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

BY-LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

1. **NAME:** The name of this Board shall be "Christian Board of Education of the Vernon 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 FORM 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

Deity of Christ

The Virgin Birth of Christ

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Repentance

Faith

Justification

Regeneration

Atonement

Sanctification

Final Judgement

Heaven

Hell

Satan

Second Coming

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?