

MINUTES of
The **NINTH ANNUAL SESSION**
of the

Water Valley Free Baptist.
Association.

Convened With Stetson Chapel Church,
September 7th, 8th and 9th, 1905.

OFFICERS:

Elder J. H. Norwcod,	Moderator
Elder L. Prescott,	Clerk
Brother J. H. Hamilton,	Treasurer

Next Meeting at Pine Valley Church, Thursday
Night Before the Second Sunday in November, 1906.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be known as the Water Valley Free Baptist Association of Mississippi, and shall be composed of delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates and their ministers and deacons.

2. This body shall be an advisory council, but having no authority over the churches.

3. Each church in this Association shall be an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs.

4. The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, a clerk and a treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority of votes.

5. This Association shall meet annually at the time and place agreed upon by a previous annual session.

6. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt the articles of faith and this Constitution and conform to its usages.

7. We agree, as churches of this Free Baptist Association, to use our best influence to promote the Cause of Christ.

8. The Minutes of this Association shall be its order of business.

9. The Moderator of this Association at each annual session shall read the Articles of Faith in these Minutes to this Association when convened.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

THE BIBLE: The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

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 Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all

intelligent creatures are supremely to love; adore and obey.

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 ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter Guide and Sanctifier of Men.

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 of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

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.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST:** The Son of God, by his incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection, effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION:** The conditions of salvation are repentance, or sincere sorrow for sin, and hearty renunciation of it. Faith, or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior 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 dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God, continuing in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION:** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation; hence by faith in Christ men become his elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE 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.

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.

12. **PERSEVERANCE:** All believers in Christ who, through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of salvation.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES:** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel of universal obligation and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH:** 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.

15. **RESURRECTION 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 ill unto the resurrection of judgment. The wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

MINUTES.

The ninth annual session of the Water Valley Free Baptist Association convened with Stetson Chapel church. Lafayette county, Mississippi, September 7, 8 and 9, 1905.

Ministers and delegates presented credentials from their churches, which were read by Elder C. Stetson, and this body was organized by electing Elder J. H. Norwood, moderator; Elder L. Prescott, clerk; J. P. Hamilton, treas. The moderator appointed committees as follows:

Committee on Preaching—Melton Fondren, J. P. Hamilton and J. H. Reed.

Committee on Denominational Literature—Elder J. W.

Wells, John Starns and George Hughes.

Committee on Obituaries—Elder T. J. Deckard, Fielder Bevel and Charley Hughes.

Committee on Sunday Schools—E. L. Thweatt, E. M. Daniels and M. C. Bowles.

Committee on Finance—John Cofer, L. Dalton and W. M. Fondren.

Committee on Education—George Lee, J. W. Tallant and J. W. Turner.

Committee on Temperance—Miss Mary Wells, Miss D. Thweatt and Mrs. Fannie Box.

Associational Committee—C. Stetson, J. P. Hamilton, J. W. Starns, J. W. Wells, J. T. Sims, W. M. Fondren, A. D. Castleberry.

Annual Report of Pine Valley church to the Association:

We have appointed George Huges, Charley Hughes and Eli Hughes as delegates to represent us in your body. Elder L. Prescott is our pastor, A. D. Castleberry is our clerk. Time of meeting, the 3rd Sunday in each month; total members, 46. We send \$2.00 for minutes. In our body there are five ordained ministers, Elder L. Prescott, Elder G. W. Powell, Elder J. M. Castleberry, Elder A. D. Castleberry. This church reports the death of Sister Elizabeth Hughes. Our postoffice is Pine Valley, Miss.

Annual Report of Springdale church.

We have appointed J. W. Starns, Sister Jane Jackson and Sister Barna Jackson delegates to represent our church in your body. Elder J. H. Norwood is our pastor, J. W. Starnes our clerk; time of meeting the 4th Sunday in each month. We send for minutes, \$1.40; \$1.00 for clerk fees. In our body there is one ordained minister, M. J. Kisner, one licensed minister, H. Starnes; total members, 92. We report the death of Brother Hugh Elliott, Sister Ellen Jackson, Sister Vela Moore and Brother E. A. Grisham.

Annual Report of Antioch church.

We have appointed Henry Coleman, E. M. Daniels, and James Morgan as delegates to represent us in your body. J. H. Norwood is our pastor. W. F. Bevel is our clerk. Our time of meeting is the 3rd Sunday in each month; total members, 58. We send \$1.65 for minutes. In our body there are two ordained ministers, Elder J. W. Turner, J. H. Norwood; one licentiate, Fielder Bevil. We send 50 cents for clerk's fees. Our postoffice is Toccopola, Miss.

Annual Report of Gauley Church to the Association.

We have appointed Y. C. Lee, Milton Fondren and Sister Fannie Box, as delegates to represent us in your body. Elder J. H. Norwood is our pastor, Bro. G. C. Lee is our clerk; our time of meeting is the 2nd Sunday in each month; total members, 62. We send for minutes, \$2.00; clerk's fees, \$1.00. In our body there is one ordained minister, W. F. Parker. Our postoffice is Ellen, Mississippi.

At the request of Gauley church, Elders L. Prescott, T. J. Deckard and J. W. Turner ordained Milton Fondren deacon of Gauley Church, September 8th, 1905.

Annual Report of Union Hill church to the Association.

We have appointed Brother E. L. Thweatt, Sister Mary Wells and Sister Dee Thweatt delegates to represent us in your body. Elder L. Prescott is our pastor and W. E. Wells is our clerk. Our time of meeting is the first Sunday in each month. Total members, 52. We send for Minutes, \$1.90, and \$1.00 clerk fees, \$10.65 Stetson fees, and \$1.00 that Elder Kiser paid on Stetson fees. In our body there are two ordained ministers, T. J. Deckard and S. P. Upchurch, and one licensed minister, J. W. Wells. Our postoffice is Paris, Mississippi.

Annual Report of Stetson Chapel Church to the Association.

We have appointed Brother W. M. Henry, Floyd Crowson and Sister Pearl Sims as delegates to represent us in your body. Elder J. H. Norwood is our pastor and Hamp Sims our

clerk. Our time of meeting is the first Sunday in each month. Total members, 32. We send \$1.50 for Minutes and \$1.50 for clerk fees. In our body there is one ordained minister, M. L. Respass, and one licensed minister, J. W. Cofer. Our postoffice is Bland, Mississippi.

Annual Report of Elder L. Prescott to the Water Valley Free Baptist Association.

I have pastored the Pine Valley Free Baptist church this year. My postoffice address is Pine Valley, Mississippi.

Annual Report of Elder J. H. Norwood to the Water Valley Free Baptist Association.

I have traveled 2,467 miles, preached 108 sermons, had 33 converts, 35 joined the church, baptized 10, preached 2 funerals, married 6 couples, ordained one preacher, licensed one preacher, ordained one deacon, sold 18 treatise. My postoffice address is Toccopola, Mississippi.

Annual Report of Elder A. D. Castleberry to the Water Valley Free Baptist Association.

I have traveled 231 miles, preached 12 sermons, conducted four prayer meetings, served as President of the Pine Valley singing class. My postoffice address is Water Valley Mississippi.

Annual Report of Elder J. W. Wells to the Water Valley Free Baptist Association.

I have travelled 50 miles since I was licensed to preach and preached one sermon. My postoffice address is Paris, Mississippi.

Annual Report of Elder T. J. Deckard to the Water Valley Free Baptist association.

I have traveled 224 miles, preached 13 sermons. My postoffice address is Pine Valley, Miss.

Annual Report of J. W. Turner.

I have just moved into this Association. My postoffice address is Toccopola, Mississippi.

Annual Report of Elder M. L. Respass to the Water Valley
Free Baptist Association.

I have just joined the Association. My postoffice address
is Pine Valley, Mississippi

Annual Report of Elder W. F. Parker to the Water Valley
Free Baptist Association.

I am sound in Free Will Baptist Faith. My postoffice is
Ellen, Mississippi.

Annual Report of Elder G. W. Powell.

I am preaching in Arkansas. My postoffice address is
Agnes, Arkansas.

On motion the next meeting of this Association will con-
vene with Pine Valley church, Yalobusha county, Miss, Thurs-
day night before the 2nd Sunday in November, 1906; intro-
ductory sermon by Elder J. H. Norwood; Elder J. W. Tur-
ner, alternate.

It was moved and seconded that we send Elders L Pres-
cot, T. J. Deckard and J. H. Norwood as corresponding mes-
sengers to the Tupelo Baptist Association.

A motion prevailed that any member of this Association
is a corresponding messenger to any Free Baptist meeting
they may visit.

Elder C. Stetson was seated with us as corresponding
messenger from the Indian Territory, irrespective of denom-
inational or church affiliations. Dr. Stetson is highly es-
teemed both as a man and a minister of the gospel by the
churches of the Water Valley Free Baptist Association.

Your committee on preaching report that Dr. C. Stetson
will preach Thursday night and Elder L. Prescott preach at
11 o'clock Friday, and Dr. C. Stetson Friday night and Elder
L. Prescott Saturday at 11 o'clock, and Elder T. J. Deckard at
night and J. H. Norwood Sunday at 11 o'clock,

Melton Fondran,

J. P. Hamilton.

J. H. Read.

Committee.

Your Committee on Denominational Literature report that we recommend the prayerful study of the Holy Bible as it is the only unerring guide to life and salvation. For our denominational literature we recommend the Morning Star and the Free Baptist Visitor, and urge our brethren to give them a liberal support. Respectfully Submitted.

J. W. Wells,
John Starnes,
George Hughes.

Committee.

Your Committee on Obituary report the death of Sister Lizzie Hughes, of the Pine Valley church, and Brother Hugh Elliott, Sister Ellen Jackson, Sister Vela Moore and Brother E. A. Grisham, of the Springdale church. These all died in the triumph of a living faith and may each member of the Water Valley Free Baptist Association so live that they may meet the sainted ones in heaven.

Elder T. J. Deckard,
Elder Fielder Bevil,
Charley Hughes.

Your committee on Sunday Schools report that we find our churches and ministers asleep on Sunday School work. Sunday School is one of the works of the church of God. We ask ministers and parents to have Sunday School in all of our churches.

E. L. Thweatt,
E. M. Daniels,
M. C. Bowles.

Your Committee on Missions report that we find in the treasury \$10.45 from the churches this year and 37½ cents that went over from last year, making \$10.82½ minute money and \$6.00 clerk fees, and \$10.65 Stetson fees from Union Hill church. Your committee requests the churches of this Association next year to send five cents for each member of the church, and in that way we will have enough to print the

Minutes and pay the clerk's fees. Respectfully submitted.
Elder John Cofer,
Louis Dalton,
J. W. Read.

Your Committee on Education beg to report: The public schools of America are the bulwark of Free Baptist Liberty because they are non-sectarian in education. The public school is open and free to every Free Baptist child and all should attend them. They should be strictly non-sectarian and if priest or preacher desires to enforce his peculiar doctrine, he should be outside of the public school enclosure. Thus alone will Free Baptists have free thought, free press, free church and freedom for the citizen to worship God in the manner of his own choosing, be maintained for future generations. The Free Baptist church is the only Baptist church in America that preaches free thought, free press and freedom. Thus Free Baptists endorse free public schools. We also heartily endorse Hilldale College, Hilldale, Michigan, Parker College, Winnebago City, Minnesota.

Elder J. W. Turner,
George Lee,
J. W. Tallant.

Your Committee on Intemperance beg to report that we believe it is the duty of every true christian to fight the liquor traffic by all the honorable means in our power, disclaiming fellowship with all so-called church members who are addicted to its use, and to preach and pray for its final extermination from our land.

Mrs. Mary Wells,
Miss D. Thweatt,
Mrs. Fannie Box.

Your Associational Committee report that we find all the ministers of this Association in good standing in their churches. We find that W. B. Tramble came before the church at Antioch on September 2, 1905 and applied for membership, claiming to be a member in good standing of Union

Hill church, that he was excluded from the church at Union Hill years ago, and inasmuch as he misrepresented the facts in the case to the church at Antioch, your Committee requests that said church rescind its action in receiving W. B. Tramble into the fellowship of said church. We find that W. B. Tramble was excluded from Union Hill church for scriptural reasons after scripturally complying with scriptural prerequisites. We request Brother Tramble to make scriptural acknowledgment to said church. We further find that Brother J. H. Norwood did introduce a proposition and present it to Union Hill church advising said church to drop all trouble that existed between said church and W. B. Tramble. We believe such action to be unscriptural, and request Bro. J. H. Norwood to make scriptural acknowledgment to this Association and to Union Hill church for such action. It is reported that the church at Union Hill did agree to restore W. B. Tramble without any acknowledgment. Such action is unscriptural. See James 5-16. We request the church at Union Hill to rescind said action, and make acknowledgments to this Association.


Elder C. Stetson,
J. W. Starnes,
J. T. Simes,
J. P. Hamilton,
J. W. Wells,
W. M. Fondren,
A. D. Castleberry,

By motion a resolution was adopted that our thanks are due and are hereby most heartily tendered to Stetson Chapel church and the citizens of that community for the kindness and hospitality shown the Association during its session.


By motion the Association adjourned to meet at Pine Valley Thursday night before the 2nd Sunday in November, 1906.

ELDER J. H. NORWOOD, Moderator.

ELDER L. PRESCOT, Clerk.



Be it resolved that we adopt the Resolution of the General Conference of 1831 concerning feet washing. That any member of this Association shall have the right to wash feet or shall have the right not to wash feet as he can best answer his conscience to God.



ITEMIZER PRINT Water Valley Miss