

Elder:
ESTER HOPKINS

~~MINUTES~~ MINUTES ~~MINUTES~~

OF THE
FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF
SARDIS ASSOCIATION
OF REGULAR BAPTISTS

Mount Pleasant Church,
Pike County, Kentucky.

On October 9, and 10, 1896.

~~MINUTES~~

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church to pay for printing the minutes of the association:

12, There shall be a record book kept wherein the proceedings of each association shall be regularly recorded by a secretary appointed for that purpose.

13, The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the association rises.

14, Amendments to this plan or form may be made at any time by a majority of the union when they may deem necessary.

15, All matters coming before the association shall be decided by the will of the majority.

16, The association shall have power: To provide for the general union of the churches, to preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the churches, to give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty, to inquire into the cause why the churches fail at any time to represent themselves in the association, to appoint any member or members by and with their consent to transact any business which they may think necessary, to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of this association or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion, to admit any orderly minister of our order to a seat with us in an association, to adjourn to any future time and place most convenient to the church or union. No minister shall be ordained unless forwarded by a church and it shall require two or more ordained ministers to compose a presbytery for that purpose

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

We, the churches of Jesus Christ, of Regular Baptists, are constituted on the following faith, viz: 1, We believe in one only true and living God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein contained. 2, We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who is Head and King of His church. 3, We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Sealer and Applier of the redemption purchased by Christ. 4, We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Ghost and these three are one. 5 We believe in the scriptures of the old and new testaments to be the infallible word of God, and take it for our only rule of faith and practice and nothing is to be added to it or taken from it. 6. we believe in the free attonement of Jesus Christ, and that He tasted death

CONSTITUTION.

From a long series of experience, we the churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon our profession of faith in Jesus Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches, in order to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and preserve, maintain and keep the rules and orders of an association, according to the following plan or form of government:

Art. 1. The association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches, and duly sent to represent in the association, who shall be members whom they shall think best qualified for that purpose, and producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment shall be entitled to a seat.

2, In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, their baptized, received by letter restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead since the last association.

3, The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any clerical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe on the internal rights of any church in the union.

4, The association when convened shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

5, The association shall have a Moderator and Clerk who shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

6, New churches shall be admitted into our union who shall petition by letter and delegate, and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the association and manifested by the moderator giving the hand of fellowship:

7 Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the association.

8, Every query presented by any church to the association being first debated in their own church, shall be taken up by the association.

9, Every motion made and seconded shall be taken up by the association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it

10, The association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the association.

11, The churches shall send money by the delegates of each

pointed to bear same as follows: Zion; W. W. Fields, John Keesee, J. W. Smith, G. W. and Jordan Maynard, J. C. Pinson, W. C. Hensley and Thos Smith, convenes with Rockcastle church, in Eden, Ky., on Friday before the 2nd Saturday in September 1897; New Salem, W. W. Fields, John Keesee, Thos. Smith, W. H. Bowling, J. W. Bevins and J. C. Pinson, convenes on the 4th Saturday in September; Pinoville; G. W. Maynard, Wm. Hensley, Hiram Maynard and A. L. Dempsey; convenes with Elk Lick church, Wyoming county, W. Va., on Friday before the 4th Saturday in September 1897.

12, Ordered that the following churches have Union meetings and elders following attend same: Big Branch, 3rd Saturday in September. Hiram Maynard, J. W. Smith, G. W. Maynard and Wm. Hensley; Bethlehem, 3rd Saturday in July, Wm. Fields, Hiram Maynard Joseph Smith and George Maynard; Little Dove, 1. Saturday in September, R. F. Farley, Wm. Fields, John Keesee, and w. H. Balding.

13, On motion, John Pinson and Thos. Smith were appointed final committee and reported \$11.20 for printing minutes. Report accepted and committee discharged.

14, Ordered that elder John Keesee superintend the printing and distribute the minutes, and that he have 600 printed.

15, Ordered that we elect the moderator, clerk and introductory preacher by a vote of the members present at each association.

16, Ordered that we do not have stand preaching at our associations hereafter.

17, Ordered that our next association be held with Sardis church, Mingo county, w. Va., beginning Friday before the 2nd Saturday in October 1897.

18, Ordered that elder John Keesee preach the introductory sermon at our next association, elder Joseph Smith alternate.

19, Our thanks are tendered the brethren and friends of Mt. Pleasant church for kind entertainment.

20, Ordered that the association now adjourn to time and place above mentioned.

W. W. FIELDS, Moderator,
JOHN KEESEE, Clerk.

The Introductory sermon was delivered by elder J. W. Smith from Gen. 14, chap. 31, v. "And he said, come ye blessed of the Lord." and the delegates then retired to the house and after prayer by elder Jason Rains proceeded to business.

1, Letters from the several churches called for, read and approved and their messengers' names enrolled in the foregoing table.

2, The association then organized by choosing elder W. W. Fields Moderator and elder John Keesee Clerk.

3, Letters from newly organized churches called for and two received: Bent Branch at the hands of Thomas Bevins, John C. Pinson, Mont Williamson and J. W. Bevins Little Dove, at the hands of A. L. Eempsey, Henry Dempsey and H. M. Runion which were read and accepted and messengers invited to seats with us, manifested by the moderator giving the hand of fellowship to them.

4, Letters from sister associations called for and the following received: Zion, at the hands of elders E. Stepp and R. F. Farley, Pineville, at the hands of elder Jason Rains and brethren J. H. Coleman and Curtis Coleman, all of whom were invited to seats; Manifested by the moderator giving them the hand of fellowship.

5, The following transient ministers were invited to seats with us: G. W. Maynard, Wm. Hensley and J. W. Smith.

6, Ordered that we correspond with Zion, New Salem and Pineville associations and that Moses Maynard write a letter of correspondence to Zion; Hiram Maynard to Pineville; John Keesee to New Salem.

7, On motion, a committee consisting of one member from each church was appointed to select ministers for the stand who selected Hiram Maynard, Jason Rains and E. Stepp for Saturday and John Keesee, G. W. Maynard and Joseph Smith for Sunday.

8, Brethren G. W. Maynard, John Pinson, J. W. Smith, the moderator and clerk were appointed as committee on arrangement to report at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

9, Adjourned till 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY.

10, Met pursuant to adjournment at 9 o'clock A. M., and the committee on arrangements reported and were discharged.

11, Letters to sister associations called for and delegates ap-

for every man and that salvation is offered to all men and women upon the terms of the gospel. 7. We believe that repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are necessary previous to baptism and that by immersion is the only right way of administering the ordinance. 8. We believe that Christ has but one true gospel church and that it will finally persevere through grace and glory. 9. We believe in the communion of the Lord's Supper, that is the taking of the bread and wine by the church of Jesus Christ in commemoration of the death and suffering of the Son of God until His second coming. 10. We believe that feet-washing is an ordinance of Jesus Christ and ought to be observed and kept up by His church until His second coming. 11. We believe that Jesus Christ is the first resurrection from the dead and that He lives forever. 12. We believe in the resurrection of the just and unjust. 13. We believe in the final punishment of the wicked and in the eternal happiness of the righteous.

SUNDAY

A large and well ordered congregation met at the stand on Sunday, and listened to eloquent and impressive discourses by elders Geo. Maynard, (Gen. 24, ch., 4, v.) John Keesee, (Isaah, 53 ch., 1, v.) Jason Rains, (Isaah 7, ch., 25, v.) Joseph Smith, (Romans 6, ch., 22, v.) after which the congregation was dismissed.

