

MINUTES

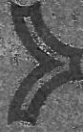
OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL
SESSION

OF THE

SARDIS ASSOCIATION

OF REGULAR BAPTISTS



HELD WITH THE

DICKS FORK CHURCH

FIKE COUNTY, KY., SEPT. 17, 18, 1915.

ELDER J. W. SMITH, MODERATOR
BRO. J. M. HENSLEY, CLERK

WILKINSON DAILY NEWS PRINT

87

MINUTES

FRIDAY'S SESSION, SEPT. 17, 1915.

The Sardis Association of churches of Jesus Christ, of Regular Baptists, met with the Dick's Fork church, at the stand prepared.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Eld. J. B. Weddington. Text, 1st Cor. 14th chap. and 8th verse: If the trumpet give an uncertain sound and etc.

The delegates then retired to the school house for doing business.

Opening remarks by Eld. J. H. Simpson.

Song: Brethren We Have Met Again.

Prayer by Eld. A. G. Blankenship.

Letters from the different churches called for, read and received, and delegates seated as shown in the statistical table.

The association then organized by reelecting Eld. J. W. Smith Moderator, and Eld. Hi Maynard Assistant Moderator, and Brother J. M. Hensley Clerk and Bro. A. H. Varney Assistant Clerk.

Newly organized churches were called for and four responded: Mount Hareb, at the hands of Eld. R. H. Hall, Joe McCoy and A. G. Blankenship; Poplar Creek, at the hands of Eld. J. H. Simpson, D. B. Nealy and Wade Dotson; Pilgrim Home, at the hands of Bro. Lafe Burris and Hi Robenet; Salem, at the hands of Eld. J. B. Weddington, Ester Hopkins and A. H. Varney.

Ordered that the Moderator make all temporary appointments.

First. Committee on Ministry for Saturday made their report: Ist, L. T. Preston, 2nd, Charley Frederic, 3rd, A. G. Blankenship, 4th, Hi Maynard.

Second. Committee on Finance: Brothers Jonah Bevins and Randolph Crigger.

Third. Committee on Business Arrangements: Elds. Hi Maynard, J. B. Weddington, L. T. Preston and Bro. A. H. Varney with the Moderator and Clerk.

Letters from the sister associations called for, and none responded.

Transient ministers called for and Eld. Mont Williamson came forward and received the right hand of fellowship.

Ordered that we correspond with New Salem and Bethlehem Associations.

The following brethren were appointed to write letters to sister associations: Brother A. H. Varney write one to New Salem; Eld. Hi Maynard write one to Bethlehem.

On motion the association adjourned until tomorrow, Saturday, at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY'S SESSION

1. Song and prayer led by Eld. J. B. Weddington.
2. Roll call—delegates all present.
3. Committee on arrangements made their report. Report received and committee discharged.
4. The Finance Committee made their report, which showed a total contribution of \$24.65. Report received and committee discharged.
5. Report of Treasurer.
6. Ordered that we retain the old Treasurer.
7. Appointees in union meetings and associations made their report. Report received and failures excused.
8. Letters to associations called for, read and received and delegates appointed as follows:
Bethlehem—Elders Hi Maynard, J. B. Weddington, Brothers A. H. Varney and Mel Romans attend.
New Salem—Elders Hi Maynard and Ester Hopkins and Brothers Marion Preece and Jonah Bevins attend.
9. Report of Committee on Ministry for Sunday. Report received and committee discharged. Ist, J. B. Weddington, 2nd, L. T. Preston, 3rd, J. H. Simpson, 4th, R. H. Hall.
10. Ordered that the following churches have union meetings:

Mt. Pleasant—Friday before the second Saturday in July, 1916, Elds. Hi Maynard, J. H. Simpson, J. W. Smith, and L. T. Preston attend.

Bent Branch—Friday before the third Saturday in June, 1916, Elds. Hi Maynard, J. B. Weddington and J. W. Smith attend.

Friendship—Friday before the fourth Saturday in July, 1916, Elds. J. H. Simpson, R. H. Hall and J. B. Weddington attend.

Rebecca—Friday before the second Saturday in August, 1916, Elds. L. T. Preston, J. W. Smith, J. B. Weddington and Hi Maynard attend.

Big Branch—Friday before the third Saturday in August,

1916, Elds. Hi Maynard, Mont Williamson, J. B. Weddington and J. W. Smith attend.

Dicks Fork—First Saturday in August, 1916, Elds. Mont Williamson, R. H. Hall and J. H. Simpson attend.

Mount Hareb—Second Saturday in June, 1916, Elds. Hi Maynard, J. W. Smith and J. B. Weddington attend.

Poplar Creek—Friday before the third Saturday in June, 1916, Elds. Hi Maynard and J. B. Weddington attend.

Salem—Friday before the first Saturday in August, 1916, Elds. Hi Maynard and L. T. Preston attend.

Pilgrims Home—Friday before the fourth Saturday in August, 1916, Elds. W. J. Fields and Charley Frederick attend.

11. Ordered that we have eight hundred minutes printed.

12. Ordered that Elders Hi Maynard, J. W. Smith and Brothers Jonah Bevins, A. H. Varney and J. M. Hensley are appointed to meet the brethren that went off from us, to try to bring about a union among us at Williamson, W. Va. on the first day of October, 1915.

13. It appearing to this association that Elder John Kee-see is not in order with this association by having two living women and is living in violation of the fifteenth article of last year's minutes, therefore we warn the churches of this union that he is not in fellowship with this association and advise the churches not to recognize him as an ordained minister.

14. Ordered that our next association be held with the Mount Hareb Church, Pike County, Ky., beginning Friday before the third Saturday in September, 1916.

15. Ordered that Elder Hi Maynard preach the introductory sermon and Elder L. T. Preston be his alternate.

16. Ordered that the Clerk superintend the printing of minutes and distribution of same.

17. Resolved that we advise the churches of this union not to allow or permit any man to the ministry who has more than one living wife, according to the admonishment of the Apostle Paul to Timothy.

18. On motion we extend our thanks to the brethren and friends of the Dicks Fork Church.

19. On motion we adjourn to the time and place above mentioned.

20. Closing remarks by Elder J. H. Simpson by order of the association.

ELDER J. W. SMITH, Moderator,
BROTHER J. M. HENSLEY, Clerk.

SUNDAY'S SERVICES.

On Sunday a large and well ordered audience assembled at the stand and after the introduction of services by Eld. Will Thornberry, Elder L. T. Preston preached, text, Mathew 4 chap. 4 verse, Man shall not live by bread alone. Then Eld. J. H. Simpson, Mathew 9 chap. and 18 verse, My daughter is even now dead.

BRO. J. M. HENSLEY, Clerk.

We, the undersigned committee appointed to meet the other faction of Sardis Association at Williamson, W. Va., on Oct. 1, 1915, beg to make the following report. 1st. We are informed that the other faction of Sardis refused or failed to appoint any committee to meet with us here or elsewhere. 2nd. That several of those brethren said they would meet us but no one was present. 3rd. That we as a committee are standing ready and willing to meet with them and endeavor to bring about a union of the two factions of Sardis Association and would have been glad that those brethren would have designated a time and place to arbitrate and arrange our difficulties.

J. M. HENSLEY,
HI MAYNARD,
Committee.

OBITUARY.

It has become my sad duty to record the history of our beloved brother in Christ, Thomas Johnson, who was born in Buchanan county, Virginia, May 15, 1849 and who died July 27, 1914, age 65 years, 2 months and 12 days. He was married to Nancy Varney October 5, 1872 and to this union were born 16 children, 10 of whom are living. Brother Johnson had belonged to the Baptist Church about 23 years and proved to be a strict member and faithful to his duty. Brother Johnson was well beloved by all that knew him but God loved him and called him out of our number and I trust he is basking in the sunlight of glory while we are left to mourn his loss. Now may God bring us one and all to inherit life eternal through Christ our blessed redeemer.

—Written by Floyd West.

CONSTITUTION.

From a long series of experience, we, the church 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:

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

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

Art. 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 any of the internal rights of any church in the union.

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

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

Art. 6. New churches may be admitted into the union who shall petition by letter and messenger, (and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly) shall be received by the association, and manifest by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

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

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

Art. 9. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the association, except it shall be withdrawn by the member who made it.

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

Art. 11. The churches shall send money by the delegates of each church to pay for printing the minutes of the association.

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

Art. 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.

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

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

Art. 16. The association shall have power: (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the churches. (3) To give the churches necessary advice in matters of church difficulty. (4) To inquire into the cause why the churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the association. (5) To appoint any member or members, by and with their consent, to transact any business which they think necessary. (6) The association shall have power to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of this association or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion. (7) To admit any orderly minister of our order to a seat with us in the association. (8) The association shall have the power to adjourn themselves to any future time or place they may think most convenient to the churches in the union. (9) That 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.

We, the churches of Jesus Christ, of Regular Baptists, are constituted on the following faith, viz:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Creator of Heaven and earth, and all things that are therein contained.

Art. 2. We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who is head and king of His Church.

Art. 3. We believe in the Holy Ghost, the sealer and applier of the redemption purchased by Christ.

Art. 4. We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are One.

Art. 5. We believe the Old and New Testament scripture to be the infallible word of God, and take it for our only rule of

faith and practice, and nothing is to be taken from or added to it.

Art. 6. We believe in the free atonement of Jesus Christ; that He tasted death for every man, and that salvation is to all men and women on the terms of the gospel.

Art. 7. We believe that repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are necessary previous to baptism, and that immersion is the only way of administering the ordinance.

Art. 8. We believe that Christ has but one true gospel church and that will finally persevere through grace to glory.

Art. 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 sufferings of the Son of God until His second coming.

Art. 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.

Art. 11. We believe that Jesus Christ is the first resurrected from the dead and that He lives forever.

Art. 12. We believe in the resurrection of the just and unjust.

Art. 13. We believe in the final punishment of the wicked and the eternal happiness of the righteous.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

Art. 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 3. Only one member shall speak at the same time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to make his speech.

Art. 4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech, except by the Moderator, till he is done speaking, and shall strictly adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before or make remarks on his slips or failures and imperfections, but shall verily state the case and matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his light or idea.

Art. 5. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without liberty obtained from the association.

Art. 6. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the association without liberty obtained from it.

Art. 7. No member of the association shall have the liber-

ty of laughing during the sittings of the same, nor whispering in time of public speech.

Art. 8. No member of the association shall address another by any other title or appellation than that of Brother.

Art. 9. The Moderator shall not interrupt a member until he gives his own idea upon the subject, except he break the rules of decorum.

Art. 10. The names of the members of the association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the association requires.

Art. 11. The Moderator shall have the same privilege of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled, but shall have no vote unless the association shall be equally divided.

Art. 12. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly break any of the rules shall be reproved by the association as they think proper

Art. 13. But three members shall take a seat in the association from each church.

Art. 14. No person shall speak more than five minutes at the same time without liberty obtained from the association.

Art. 15. These rules of decorum shall be read by the Clerk at the commencement of every association.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

1. Mont Williamson.....Varney, W. Va.
2. J. E. Taylor.....Jard, Ky.
3. J. W. Smith.....Canada, Ky.
4. H. M. Runyon.....Oppy, Ky.
5. Hi Maynard.....Myrtle, W. Va.
6. Epp Ward.....Inez, Ky.
7. J. L. Dotson.....Jamboree, Ky.
8. Isom Sloane.....Delorme, W. Va.
9. Evans Sluss.....Pilgrim, Ky.
10. Floyd Kirk.....Pilgrim, Ky.
11. Moses Howard.....Catlettsburg Ky.
12. L. T. Preston.....Matewan, W. Va.
13. Ruben Hall.....Canada, Ky.
14. Will Thornberry.....Williamson, W. Va.
15. J. B. Weddington.....Majestic, Ky.
16. J. H. Stimpson.....Majestic, Ky.
17. A. G. Blankenship.....Edgerton, W. Va.
18. Joe McCoy.....Thacker, W. Va.
19. Charley Bailey.....Holden, W. Va.
20. David White.....Canterbury, W. Va.
21. W. H. May.....Canterbury, W. Va.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF LICENSED MINISTERS.

1. Ester Hopkins.....Williamson, W. Va.
2. Ransom Smith.....Canada, Ky.
3. Floyd West.....Catlettsburg, Ky.
4. Jeff Stanley.....Catlettsburg, Ky.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER.

..... P. O. County.

We, the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, called
 church, now in session,
 sendeth greeting to the Ministers and Messengers that may com-
 pose the Sardis Association when convened with the

..... church, county, on Friday before
 the third Saturday in September, 19.....

Our dear Brethren, we are in peace with each other and our
 present condition is as follows: Since our last association we
 have received by Baptism; Letter; Re-
 stored; Recommendation; Dismissed
; Excluded; Died Our to-
 tal number is; out of whom we have chosen our be-
 loved, to-wit:

and
 to bear this let-
 ter and to represent us in the association.

By order of the church.

..... Moderator.
 Clerk.
 Clerk's address P. O.
 County, State.

TABLE OF CHURCHES

NAMES OF CHURCHES	NAMES OF MESSENGERS	Received			Dismissed			Total
		By Baptism	By Letter	By Restoration	By Recommendation	By Letter	By Exclusion	
Mt. Pleasant	Albert Smith, J. Bevins, H. Bevins.....	16			10		2	37
Mary Elizabeth	Mell Romans.....	1						25
Big Branch	J. E. Taylor, H. McCoy, T. McCoy.....				1			62
Brushy Fork	W. M. Lowe, Will Nickles.....				2			60
Dicks Fork	S. Brown, R. Crigger, J. Morris.....	4					2	9
Mount Hareb	R. H. Hall, A. G. Blankenship, Joe McCoy.....	19		2	3	1		20
Wolf Creek	Chas. Frederic, E. Maynard.....	2						15
Rebecca	Hi Maynard, A. J. Maynard, M. Preece.....	2		2	2	3	2	58
Bent Branch	J. Bevins, J. Williamson, Mat Bevins.....				24			42
Pilgrams Home	L. Burris, Hi Robenet, J. France.....				4			28
Friendship	Albert Johnson.....						2	17
Poplar Creek	J. H. Simpson, W. Dotson, D. B. Nealey.....	3	2	10				42
Salem	J. B. Weddington, E. Hopkins, A. H. Varney.....							10
Pleasant Home	Not represented.....							43
		47	2	18	42	4	8	458