

MINUTES
OF THE
Twenty-Sixth Annual
Session
OF THE
Sardis Association
Of Regular Baptists
HELD WITH THE
MARY ELIZABETH
CHURCH
PIKE COUNTY, KY.

September 20, 21, 1918

ELDER H. MAYNARD, Moderator.
BROTHER J. M. HENSLEY, Clerk.

MINUTES

FRIDAY SESSION, SEPTEMBER
20, 1918.

The Sardis Association of Churches of Jesus Christ, of Regular Baptists, met with the Mary Elizabeth Church, Pike County, Ky., at the School House.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Hi. Maynard, text, 1st Peter, 5th ch. and 2nd verse: Feed the flock of God which is among you, etc.

Opening remarks, by Elder Ester Hopkins.

Song: "A Twelve Months More Has Rolled Around."

Prayer—By Elder Jonah Bevins.

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

Newly organized churches called for and Beech Grove church was received at the hands of Elder W. H. May.

The Association was then organized by re-electing Elder Hi. Maynard Moderator and Elder J. B. Weddington his assistant; and Brother J. M. Hensley, Clerk, and Elder Jonah Bevins, assistant Clerk.

Constitution read:

Ordered that the Moderator make all temporary appointments.

Committee on Ministry for Saturday:

First Charlie Judge; Second J. H. Isaacs; Third C. Cole; Fourth J. B. Weddington; Fifth, W. J. Fields.

Committee on Finance:

Elders J. B. Weddington and Ester Hopkins.

Committee on Arrangement:

Elders Jonah Bevins, J. B. Weddington, L. T. Preston, Charlie Jude, and W. H. May, with the Moderator and Clerk.

Letters from sister Associations called for and received. One from Bethlehem at the hands of Elder W. G. Sparks, Albert Dyer and J. H. Pack; and one from New Salem at the hands of Elder J. H. Isaacs.

Transient Ministers called for and J. B. Weddington, Charlie Jude, Jonah Bevins, W. J. Fields, and C. Cole came forward and received the right hand of fellowship.

Ordered: That we correspond with Bethlehem and New Salem Associations and that Bro. J. M. Hensley write a letter to Bethlehem and Elder Jonah Bevins write one to New Salem.

Ordered: That we notify the officers to remove the horse jockeys to the limit of the law.

Ordered: That we adjourn till tomorrow at 9 o'clock, a. m.

J. M. HENSLEY, Clerk.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK,

SEPTEMBER 21, 1918.

Article 1st: Opening remarks by L. T. Preston, and prayer by Elder Jonah Bevins.

Article 2nd: Roll call and a proper decorum present.

Article 3rd: Committee on Finance made their report and reported \$46.60. Report received and Committee discharged.

Article 4th: Ordered that we retain the old Treasurer.

5th: Report of appointees in Union meetings and associations, reports received and failures excused.

6th: Letters from sister associations called for, read and received.

7th: Delegates to New Salem Association appointed as follows: J. B. Weddington, Hi. Maynard, T. J. Muncy and Jonah Bevins, attend. Letter in hand of J. B. Weddington.

Bethlehem: Elders L. T. Preston, Brother Mel Romans, Elder J. B. Weddington, Jonah Bevins, T. J. Muncy and A. J. Maynard, attend. Letter in hand of L. T. Preston.

8th: Report on Ministry for Sunday: 1st Elder Henry May; 2nd L. T. Preston; 3rd C. Cole; 4th Hi. Maynard.

9th: Ordered that the following churches have union meetings:

Mt. Pleasant; Second Saturday in July, 1919. Elders L. T. Preston, Hi.

Maynard, W. J. Fields, and Ester Hopkins, with the Moderator, attend.

Sidney: Fourth Saturday in July, 1919. Elders Jonah Bevins, Charley Jude, C. Cole, Ester Hopkins, J. H. Isaacs and J. B. Weddington, attend.

Friendship: Fourth Saturday in August, 1919. Elders W. H. May, Jonah Bevins, and Ester Hopkins, attend.

Mary-Elizabeth: Third Saturday in July, 1919. Elders L. T. Preston, Hi. Maynard, W. J. Fields and C. Cole, attend.

Beech Grove: Fourth Saturday in July, 1919. Elders L. T. Preston, J. B. Weddington, Hi. Maynard and Jonah Bevins, attend.

Rebecca: Second Saturday in August, 1919. Elders Ester Hopkins, Jonah Bevins, L. T. Preston and J. B. Weddington, attend.

Mt. Carmel: First Saturday in July, 1919. Elders Jonah Bevins, A. J. Maynard and J. B. Weddington, attend.

Bent Branch: Third Saturday in August, 1919. Elders J. B. Weddington, L. T. Preston, Ester Hopkins, Jonah Bevins and Hi. Maynard, attend.

Salem: First Saturday in August, 1919. Elders Hi. Maynard, L. T. Preston and W. J. Fields, attend.

Wolf Creek: Second Saturday in September, 1919. Elders Hi. Maynard, J. B. Weddington, L. T. Pres-

ton and Floyd Kirk, attend.

Big Branch: Third Saturday in September, 1919. Elders L. T. Preston, J. B. Weddington, W. J. Fields and Jonah Bevins, attend.

Pilgrim Home: Fourth Saturday in August, 1919. Elders Ester Hopkins, Jonah Bevins and Hi. Maynard, attend.

Bushy Fork: First Saturday in September, 1919. Elders Henson Maynard, J. B. Weddington and Marion Preece, attend.

Dix Fork: First Saturday in July, 1919. Elders Hi. Maynard, Jonah Bevins and Ester Hopkins, attend.

10th: Ordered, That we have 800 minutes printed, and the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of same.

11th: Ordered, that the Clerk write an obituary of Elder J. W. Smith and print in the minutes.

12th: Ordered, That we advise the churches of this union not to receive or retain any one into their fellowship, who belongs to any secret order.

13th: Any minister advocating doctrine conflicting with the 6th article of our Abstract of Principles, as contained in our minutes, is guilty of heresy and should be dealt with by the church to which he belongs as a heretic.

14th: Resolved: That we do advise the churches of this union to

be careful not to receive into their fellowship those who are living in adultery.

15th: 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 admonition of the Apostle Paul to Timothy.

16th: Ordered, That we advise the Dix Fork church, by way of committee, consisting of Elders J. B. Wedington, H. Maynard, T. J. Muncy, L. T. Preston and Mel Romans, on the first Saturday in November, 1918.

17th: Ordered, That we amend the 9th section of the 16th article of our Constitution.

18th: Ordered, That we appoint Elders J. B. Wedington, H. Maynard, W. J. Fields, F. M. Preece and A. J. Maynard, Jr., to investigate the standing of the Beech Grove church.

19th: Ordered, That we advise our churches not to allow their ministers to preach with any minister who has two living women.

20th: Ordered, That we advise our churches, not to receive any excluded members, from sister Associations.

21st: Ordered, That we advise our churches, in calling for a Presbytery to ordain ministers, that we have the consent of the church to which they belong.

2nd: Ordered, That our next Association be held with the Rebecca church, Mingo county, W. Va., beginning Friday before the Third Saturday in September, 1919. Those desiring to come by rail can get off at Lenore, W. Va.

23rd: Ordered, That Elder J. B. Wedington preach the introductory next year, and Elder L. T. Preston be his alternate.

24th: Ordered, That we extend our thanks to the brethren and friends of the Mary Elizabeth church, who opened their doors to the brethren.

25th: Ordered, That we adjourn, unto the time and place above mentioned.

ELDER HI. MAYNARD,
Moderator.

BROTHER J. M. HENSLEY,
Clerk.

SUNDAY'S SERVICES.

A large and attentive audience was present when Elder W. H. May introduced the worship by a short address and song, "Brethren We Have Met to Worship." Then Elder L. T. Preston delivered a wonderful address, text _____ 24, 14th verse. This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached, etc.

Elder C. Cole followed with text Rev. 12th ch. 1st verse. There appeared a great wonder in heaven, etc.

Then Elder H. Maynard delivered a short address on the subject. Rev. 2nd ch. 10th v. Tears of joy and grasping farewell hands and rejoicing were manifested in the close of the service. Showers of blessings were poured in our midst.

OBITUARY

OF ELDER J. W. SMITH.

By the request of the Association, it becomes my sad duty to write a short sketch of old Brother Joseph Smith. In making the feeble attempt I desire to say to the aged mother and bereaved children and friends, that I feel almost too unworthy to sktech the life of such a noble husband, father, and friend. He was born in Pike Cóunty, Ky., April the 16th, 1850, and deceased March the 31st, 1918, being 68 years old.

He was married to Mary Canada, about the year of 1870, and to them were born 7 children, 3 boys and 4 girls, all of whom are living yet, except one daughter who we believe has gone home with him, where they will ever be together. Brother Smith joined the Old Regular Baptist church about the year of 1878, and was soon after ordained to the ministry. After which he seemed to live

a devoted Christian life, scattering the sunshine of peace and love; setting good examples before his children and neighbors children. At all times meeting his brethren and sisters with a heart expressive of gratitude and love, extending to each and every person a friendly greeting and a welcome to his home. I'm persuaded that such love and hospitality could come only from a heart wrought upon by the mighty love of God. His whole Christian life is a crown of virtue which can never fade, nor perish from our memories. They are worthy to be remembered by his children and his companions and friends. It was almost heartrending to see him struggling with the last enemy, death. But he met it with the courage of a warrior, and we believe through Christ Jesus, our Lord, conquered and is now praising God in the sunny climes of immortal glory. Yes, bathing in the pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, which John saw proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb—Rev. 22-1.

J. M. HENSLEY.

September 23, 1918.

CONSTITUTION.

From a long series of experiences we, the church of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon our pro-

fession 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 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 second, 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 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 as-

sociation rises.

Art. 14. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the union, when they 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 the 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 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 the church, to which he belongs, and it

shall require two or more ordained ministers to compose a presbytery for that purpose.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

We the church of Jesus Christ, of Regular Baptist, are constituted on the following faith, viz:

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. 5. We believe the Old and New Testament scripture to be the infallible word of God, and take it for our rule of faith and practice, and nothing is to be taken from it 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

it will finally preserve 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 resurrection from the dead and that He lives forever.

Art. 12. We believe in the resurrection of the just and the 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 liberty 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 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 reprov'd 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. Wont Williamson, Varney, Ky.
2. J. E. Taylor, Jarad, Ky.
3. Hi Maynard, Myrtle, W. Va.
4. Evans Sluss, Pilgrim, Ky.
5. Floyd Kirk, Pilgrim, Ky.
6. Moses Howard, Pilgrim, Ky.
7. L. T. Preston, Catlettsburg, Ky.
8. W. J. Fields, Pilgrim, Ky.
9. E. F. Fields, Pilgrim, Ky.
10. Jonah Bevins, Sidney, Ky.
11. Henan Maynard, Jared, Ky.
12. Will Thornberry, Canada, Ky.
13. J. B. Wedington, Williamson, W. Va.

14. David White, Holden, W. Va.
15. W. H. May, Canterbury, W. Va.
16. Ester Hopkins, Williamson, W. Va.
17. Ransom Smith, Rural, Ky.
18. H. H. White, Catlettsburg, Ky.
19. Jeff Stanley, Catlettsburg, Ky.
20. Charley Jude, Laura, Ky.
21. T. J. Muncey, Laura, Ky.
22. J. S. Muncey, Sprigg, W. Va.
23. F. M. Preece, Myrtle, W. Va.
24. Andrew Maynard, Jr., Myrtle W. Va.
25. W. B. Estep, Jr., Myrtle, W. Va.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF LICENCED MINISTERS.

1. Floyd West, Catlettsburg, Ky.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

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

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

Our dear Brethern, we are in peace with each other and our present condition is as follows: Since our last association we have received by Baptism.....; Letter.....; Restored.....; Excluded.....; Died.....; Our total number is; out of whom we have chosen our beloved, to wit:

..... and, to bear this letter and to represent us in the association.

By order of the church.

..... Moderator.

..... Clerk.

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

NAMES OF

CHURCHES.

TABLE OF CHURCHES.

Names of Messengers.

CHURCHES.	Names of Messengers.	Church days	Rec. by Bap.	By Letter.	By Restor	By recom.	Dis. by letter.	Dis. by exclu.	Deceased	Totals
Mt. Pleasant.....	J. M. Hensley, A. Smith, H. Bevins	3	2						1	39
Mary Eliz.....	Mel. Romans, J. Gillman	3	7	2					2	37
Sidney.....	P. Deal, Nathan Jude, R. Maynard	4	2						54	37
Brushy Fork.....	James C. Lowe	1							1	31
Rebecca.....	A. J. Maynard, Sr. A. J. Maynard, Jr	2	116		3	1			56	44
Bent Branch.....	J. S. Muncy, E. Hopkins, A. H. Varney	1	111			2			4	23
Wolf Creek.....	Elbert Bevins, A. P. Bevins	3	2						2	23
Dix Fork.....	Elias Maynard	2	1						17	17
Big Branch.....	N. S. Brown, George Stanley	1					1		1	17
Pilgrim Home.....	Harrison McCoy, Thomas McCoy	3							3	61
Friendship.....	Late Burris, H. Robinet	4							4	20
Mt. Carmel.....	W. A. Johnson	4							4	20
Beech Grove.....	L. T. Preston	1							3	8
	W. H. May	4	1						1	23
	TOTALS	40	2	3	3	8	4	2	6	450