

1919

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Seventh
Annual Session

OF THE

Sardis Association

of Regular Baptists

HELD WITH THE

Rebecca Church

MINGO COUNTY, WEST
VIRGINIA



ELDER H. I. MAYNARD, MODERATOR
BROTHER J. M. HENSLEY, CLERK

PRINTER'S FEE, \$30.

MINUTES

FRIDAY SESSION, SEPTEMBER
19th, 1919.

The Sardis Association of Churches of Jesus Christ of Regular Baptists met with the Rebecca Church, Mingo County, West Virginia, at the church house.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder J. B. Weddington. Text St. John, Chapter 10th, 1st verse: Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, etc.

Then the delegates retired to the school house for business.

Opening remarks and prayer by Elder C. Cole.

Song, We have met to worship.

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

Newly organized churches called for and Narrows Branch Church was received at the hands of Bros. Lewis Smith and Lee Murphh; and Leah Church at the hands of Bro. Pete Diles.

The association then organized by re-electing Elder H. Maynard Moderator, and Elder J. B. Weddington his assistant. Bro. J. M. Hensley, Clerk and Elder J. B. Beyins, Assistant clerk.

Rules of Decorum read.

Ordered that the Moderator make all temporary appointments.

Ordered that Bro. William Ooten and Lee Dempsey be appointed to keep good order around the stand.

Committee on ministry for Saturday, one delegate from each church, with the whole delegation of the Rebecca church, reported; 1st, W. C. Hay; 2nd, I. H. Hammer; 3rd Harvey Spencer; 4th, N. T. Hopkins.

Committee on arrangements, Elder J. B. Weddington, Isaac Hanner, M. B. Romans, Ester Hopkins and L. T. Preston, with the Moderator and Clerk and visiting brethren from sister associations.

Letters from sister associations called for and received. New Salem at the hands of Elder N. T. Hopkins.

Bethlehem at the hands of Elder C. Cole, J. H. Pack and Harvey Spence who came forward and received the right hand of fellowship, and were seated with us.

Transient ministers called for and Elders J. B. Weddington, J. S. Muncy, William Hay, A. J. Maynard, Finley Shepherd, J. B. Bevins, L. F. Preston David White, Pete Dyle and J. H. Mullins came forward and received the right hand of fellowship.

Ordered, that we correspond with the New Salem and Bethlehem Associations and that Elder J. B. Bevins write a letter to New Salem and Ma-

tion Preece write one to Bethlehem. Committee on Finance. Elders Marion Preece and W. H. May appointed.

Ordered that we adjourn till tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

**SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK,
SEPT. 20, 1919.**

1st. Opening remarks by Elder Isaac Hanner. Prayer by Elder C. Cole.

2nd. Roll call and a proper decorum present.

3rd. Committee made their report. Report received and committee discharged.

4th. Committee on Finance made their report and reported \$52.52. Report received and committee discharged.

5th. Treasurer made his report and reported \$16.50 on hand and report received.

6th. Old treasurer retained.

7th. Report of appointees in Union meetings and associations, reports received and failures excused.

8th. Letters from sister associations called for, read and received, and delegates appointed as follows:

New Salem. Elders Hi. Maynard, and W. H. May attend. Letter in hand of Elder Hi. Maynard.

Bethlehem. Elders L. T. Preston, A. J. Maynard, Jr., W. H. May, Finley Shepherd, J. B. Weddington, J.

B. Bevins and H. Maynard, attend. Letter in hand of J. B. Weddington.

9th. Report on Ministry for Sunday: 1st, W. H. May; 2nd, C. Cole; 3rd N. T. Hopkins; 4th H. Maynard. Committee discharge.

10th. Ordered that we recognize the Leanah church with its delegate, Pete Dyles.

11th. Ordered that we have 800 minutes printed, and that the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of same.

12th. Ordered that the following churches have union meetings:

Mt. Pleasant: 2nd Saturday in July, 1920. Elders H. Maynard, W. H. May, L. T. Preston, Ester Hopkins, J. B. Bevins and J. B. Weddington attend.

Mary Elizabeth: 3rd Saturday in July, 1920. Elders L. T. Preston, H. Maynard, J. B. Bevins and F. M. Preece, attend.

Bent Branch: 3rd Saturday in August, 1920. Elders Ester Hopkins, J. B. Weddington, J. B. Bevins and C. Cole attend.

Beech Grove: 4th Saturday in July, 1920. Elders J. B. Weddington, H. Maynard and J. B. Bevins attend.

Narrows Branch: 4th Saturday in August, 1920. Elders Ester Hopkins, J. S. Muncy and J. B. Weddington attend.

Rebecca: 2nd Saturday in August, 1920. Elders L. T. Preston, J. B.

Weddington, C. Cole and J. B. Bevins attend.

Pilgrim's Home: 4th Saturday in June, 1920. Elders J. B. Bevins, Ester Hopkins, J. B. Weddington, H. Maynard and J. E. Taylor attend.

Dix Fork: 1st Saturday in August, 1920. Elder J. B. Bevins, Ester Hopkins and L. T. Preston attend.

Mt. Carmel: 1st Saturday in July, 1920. Elders W. H. May, J. B. Bevins, A. J. Maynard and C. Cole, with Moderator, attend.

13th. Ordered that we advise the churches of this union not to receive or retain any one who belongs to any secret order.

14th. Ordered that the Sardis Association advise the Sidney church to comply with the 15th article of these minutes.

15th. 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.

16th. Resolved that we do advise the churches of this union to be careful not to receive anyone into their fellowship who is living in an adultery.

17th. Resolved that we advise the churches of this union not to allow or permit any man to the minis-

try who has more than one living wife, according to the admonition of the Apostle Paul to Timothy.

18th. Ordered that we advise our churches not to allow their ministers to preach with any minister who has two living women.

19th. Ordered that we advise our churches not to receive any excluded members from sister associations.

20th. Ordered that we advise our churches in calling for a presbytery to ordain ministers that we have the consent of the churches to which they belong.

21st. Ordered that our next association be held with the Salem church, Pike County, Ky., on Friday, before the 3rd Saturday in September, 1920, and that Elder J. B. Bevins preach the introductory sermon and that L. T. Preston be his alternate.

22nd. Those desiring to come by rail, may come to Williamson, W. Va., and just across the river is the place.

23rd. Ordered that we extend our thanks to the brethren and friends of the Rebecca church for the hospitality they have shown the brethren.

24th. Ordered that Marion Preece write an obituary of W. B. Estep, Jr., and that Elder J. B. Bevins write one of Elder Mont Williamson.

25th. Ordered that we adjourn

unto the time and place above mentioned.

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

SUNDAY MORNING,

Sunday morning a well ordered congregation met at the stand, and the services were introduced by Elder W. H. May. Prayer by Elder Harvey Spence. Then Elder C. Cole preached from St. John, 18th chapter and 36th verse, "My kingdom is not of this world," etc. Then N. T. Hopkins, Text, 2nd Timothy, 2nd chapter and 19th verse, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth," etc. Then J. B. Weddington closed by way of a warm exhortation. It was clearly demonstrated that the spirit of God was with the brethren. May God bless and save according to His will.

J. M. HENSLEY, Clerk.

OBITUARY OF W. B. ESTEP, JR.

It is with sadness that I attempt to write a short sketch of the life and death of a dear beloved brother W. B. Estep, Jr., who was born in Mingo County West Va.

Brother Estep joined and was baptised the 3rd Sunday in August, 1917, and lived a true Christian life and was one among the best workers for the up-building of the Kingdom of Christ. Earnestly contend-

ing for the faith once delivered the saints. Brother Estep was ordained to preach the Gospel on the first Saturday in Sept. 1918, and like Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, ever ready to defend his cause. The writer was with him most every day of his life as a minister, and he loved to talk of the goodness of God. Would spend the night in talk. On some occasions I have known him to sing and pray all night long without sleep. And well do I remember the morning Bro. Estep turned to me when we were going to our work and said, "Bro. Preece, I am in my right mind and good health. I want to make my own request. I want you and Bro. H. Maynard to preach my funeral. And have Bro. Andy Maynard, Jr., open the service and lead prayer. He was impressed that he would not live long.

About two weeks later he was taken sick and during his sickness he said he did not want the doctor's medicine, but the prayers of his good brethren. And on October 22nd, 1918, and resting on his burden for a pillow he fell into the dreamless sleep to wake when the last trumpet sounds. Bro. Estep left a wife and two sons to mourn his loss, but when the sleeping dead come forth Bro. Estep will there meet all the redeemed of the Lord, and forever

sing God's praise around the throne of God.

MARION PREECE.

CONSTITUTION.

From a long series of experiences 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 territory, 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 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 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 communion 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. . 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 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 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 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. J. E. Taylor, Jarad, Ky.
2. Hi Maynard, Myrtle, W. Va.
3. Floyd Kirk, Pilgrim, Ky.
4. Moses Howard, Pilgrim, Ky.
5. L. T. Preston, Catlettsburg, Ky.
6. W. J. Fields, Pilgrim, Ky.
7. E. F. Fields, Pilgrim, Ky.
8. Jonah Bevins, Sidney, Ky.

NAMES OF
CHURCHES.

TABLE OF CHURCHES.

Names of Messengers.

		Church days. Rec. by Bap.	By Letter.	By Restora.	By Recon.	Dis. by letter.	Dis by exclu.	Deceased.	Totals.	Contribution.
Mt. Pleasant.....	J. M. Hensley, H. Bevins, A. Smith.....	2	1	6		2		1	45	\$ 6.07
Mary Elizabeth.....	M. B. Romans, W. Jackson	3						1	36	4.10
Sidney.....	Not represented	4							54	
Brushy Fork.....	No delegate	1					1		31	3.30
Rebecca.....	M. Preece, F. Shepherd, D. White.....	2	6	5	1		1	2	64	6.00
Salem.....	J. E. Taylor	1	15	1		16		3	36	10.00
Bent Branch.....	E. Hopkins, J. Gooslin, L. Smith.....	3	3						25	5.00
Wolf Creek.....	Elbert Bevins	3				9		1	51	2.05
Big Branch.....	No delegate	1	1				2		14	4.05
Dix Fork.....	Geo. Stanley, G. H. Amburgy.....	4	13						44	1.75
Pilgrim's Home.....	L. Burris, H. Robinet, C. Williams.....	2							17	1.50
Friendship.....	Not represented	4							20	
Mt. Carmel.....	William Howard	1	5		2		1		14	2.50
Beech Grove.....	W. H. May, I. H. Hammer	4	1				3	1	23	1.50
Narrows Branch.....	Lewis Smith, L. Murphy	4							16	4.70
Leonah.....	Pete Dyles	2							14	
Total		44	1	11	3	27	8	9	514	\$52.52