

MINUTES  
OF THE  
TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF  
SARDIS ASSOCIATION  
OF  
REGULAR BAPTISTS  
HELD WITH THE  
LITTLE DOVE CHURCH,  
MINGO COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA—  
SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21, 1912.

ELD. J. W. SMITH, Moderator.  
ELD. HI MAYNARD, Clerk.

PAW PAW PRINTING CO., JOB PRINTERS  
CATLETTSBURG, KY.

## FRIDAY SESSION, SEPT. 20, 1912

The Sardis Association of Churches of Jesus Christ of Regular Baptists met with the Little Dove Church at the stand prepared.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Eld. Hi Maynard, text, Isaiah 9 chap., 6 verse: "The Government shall be upon his shoulder."

The delegation then assembled at the house and the song "Brethren we have met to worship" was sung. Prayer by Eld. W. H. Hensley.

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

Eld. John Kezee was not accepted with the letter from the Brushy Fork church as he was not in order with Association.

The Association organized by electing Eld. J. W. Smith Moderator and Eld. W. B. Estep Assistant and Eld. Hi Maynard Clerk and Eld. W. B. Estep Assistant.

Newly organized churches called for and none responded.

Ordered that Moderator appoint the committees to-day as follows:

1st. Committee on Ministry, one delegate from each church.

2nd. Committee on Finance, Eld. W. J. Fields and Bro. F. M. Preece.

3rd. Committee on business arrangement for tomorrow, Eld. A. L. Dempsey, G. W. Maynard Bro. Albert Smith with Moderator and Clerk.

Letters from Associations called for and received as follows:

ZION—No letter but received Eld. Wm. Crum, A. W. Meade and Wm. H. Hensley to a seat.

BETHLEHEM—Letter at hands of Eld. Lindsey Smith and Jesse Nelson who were seated with us.

NEW ZION—Letter at the hands of Eld. A. J. Perry, M. Williamson and G. W. Hannah who were seated with us.

Transient Ministers called for and Eld. Joseph May, T. J. Muncey, W. A. Hurley, A. L. Dempsey and Mordecia Maynard came forward and received the right hand of fellowship.

Ordered that we correspond with Zion, New Zion, Bethlehem and Pineville District Associations.

The following brethren appointed to write corresponding letters:

Eld. A. L. Dempsey write one to Zion.

Eld. W. A. Hurley write one to New Zion.

Bro. F. M. Preece write one to Bethlehem.

Eld. Hi Maynard write one to Pineville Dist.

Committee on ministry reported for tomorrow: 1st, Jesse Nelson; 2nd, A. J. Perry; 3rd, Wm. Crum; 4th, W. H. Hensley.

On motion the Association adjourn till tomorrow.

Closing remarks by Eld. A. J. Perry. Prayer by Eld. G. W. Maynard.

### SATURDAY'S SESSION

1 Song and prayer.

2 Roll call. Rules of decorum read.

3 Committee on arrangements made their report. Report received and committee discharged.

4 Finance committee made their report, which showed total contribution \$26 10 Report received and committee discharged.

5 Treasurer made his report. Report accepted and treasurer retained.

6 Appointees in Union meetings and Associations last year made their report. Reports accepted and failures excused.

7 Letters to Associations called for and read and received and delegates appointed to bear the same as follows:

ZION—Elds. Hi Maynard, W. B. Estep, H. M. Runyon and Bro. F. M. Preece.

NEW ZION—Elds. W. J. Fields, Charles Jude, W. H. May and Bro. Henry Dempsey.

BETHLEHEM—Elds. J. W. Smith, Hi Maynard and W. J. Fields.

PINEVILLE DIST.—Elds. Hi Maynard and W. B. Estep.

8 Ordered that the following churches have Union Meetings:

WOLF CREEK—Second Saturday in July, 1913. Elds. W. A. Hurley, J. W. Smith, W. B. Estep and Floyd Kirk attend.

DICK'S FORK—First Saturday in August, 1913. Elds. H. M. Runyon, J. W. Smith and W. J. Fields attend.

**REBECCA CHURCH**—Second Saturday in Aug. 1913, Elds. Moses Williamson, J. M. Marcum, Floyd Kirk, Hi Maynard and W. B. Estep attend.

**MT. PLEASANT**—Second Saturday in July, 1913, Elds. Mose Williamson, W. J. Fields, J. W. Smith, L. T. Preston and Henry Hensley attend.

**BRUSHY FORK**—First Saturday in August, 1913, Elds. A. L. Dempsey, J. W. Smith, W. A. Hurley, Chas. Frederick, Floyd Kirk and H. M. Runyon attend.

**PLEASANT HOME**—Fourth Saturday in Aug., 1913, Elds. Hi Maynard, H. M. Runyon, W. B. Estep, Lindsey Smith and A. L. Dempsey attend.

**SIDNEY CHURCH**—Fourth Saturday in Aug., 1913, Elds. J. W. Smith, Floyd Kirk, Mose Williamson, Lindsey Smith and W. B. Estep attend.

**MARY ELIZABETH**—Fourth Saturday in July, 1913, Elds. W. J. Fields, E. F. Fields, Chas. Frederick and Hi Maynard attend.

**ELK FORK**—Third Saturday in August, 1913, Elds. W. H. Hensley, W. A. Hurley, W. B. Estep and Hi Maynard attend.

**BETHLEHEM**—Third Saturday in August, 1913, Elds. W. A. Hurley, A. L. Dempsey, Hi Maynard and G. W. Maynard attend.

**LITTLE DOVE**—First Saturday in September, 1913, Elds. Mordecia Maynard, H. M. Runyon, W. B. Estep and Hi Maynard attend.

**BENT BRANCH**—Third Saturday in August, 1913, Elds. A. L. Dempsey, W. J. Fields, Mont Williamson and J. W. Smith attend.

**SARDIS**—Fourth Saturday in August, 1913, Elds. A. L. Dempsey, W. B. Estep, Hi Maynard and G. W. Maynard attend.

**FRIENDSHIP**—Fourth Saturday in July, 1913, Elds. H. M. Runyon, Joshua West, A. L. Dempsey and William Crum attend.

**ENON**—First Saturday in August, 1913, Elds. William Whitlock, Hi Maynard and G. W. Maynard attend.

**BULAH**—Second Saturday in August, 1913, Elds. William Whitlock, Hi Maynard, Rueben Hall and G. W. Maynard attend.

9 The following presbyters were selected to ordain ministers: Elds Wm. Whitlock, Hi Maynard and G. W. Maynard to ordain Bro. Ruben Hall.

10 Elds. J. W. Smith, Joshua West and Hi Maynard to ordain Bro. L. T. Preston.

11 Elds. Hi Maynard, J. W. Smith and G. W. Maynard to ordain T. J. Muncey.

12 Committee on ministry reported for tomorrow "The Lord's day"—1st, J. W. Smith, 2nd, Mose Williamson, 3rd, A. J. Perry.

13 Query from Elk Fork church, "Has a church the right to receive by baptism a member who has been excluded from a sister church?" Answer "Yes."

14 Ordered that Eld. Hi Maynard superintend printing and distribution of minutes.

15 Ordered that our next Association be held with the Big Branch Church, Pike county, Ky., on Friday before third Saturday in Sept., 1913.

16 Ordered that Eld. W. B. Estep preach the introductory sermon and A. L. Dempsey be his alternate.

17 Moved that we tender our thanks to the members of the Little Dove Church and vicinity in general for the kind hospitality during our Association.

18 On motion the Association adjourn to the time and place mentioned.

19 Closing remarks and prayer by Eld. A. L. Dempsey.

By order of the Association.

ELD. J. W. SMITH, MODERATOR.

ELD. HI MAYNARD, CLERK.

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### SUNDAY'S SERVICES.

On Sunday a large and well behaved audience assembled at the stand and after the introduction of services, Elds. J. W. Smith, Mose Williamson and A. J. Perry preached for the people.

Their theme was Salvation through Jesus Christ. The meeting closed with that manifestation of God's Spirit in the midst. Now unto the King Eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God be honor, power and glory forever. Amen.

HI MAYNARD, CLERK.

### 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:

ARTICLE 1 The association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches, and only sent to represent in the association who shall be members whom they shall think 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, their baptized, 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 the eternal 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 and assistant, a Clerk and assistant, who shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

ART. 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.

ART. 7 Every church in the union shall be entitled to 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 be taken up by the association, except it 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 each association shall be regularly recorded by the Secretary appointed 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 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 all necessary advice in matters of difficulty. 4—To inquire into the cause why the churches fail at any time to represent themselves 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 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.

ART. 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 right 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 suffering 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 in the eternal happiness of the righteous.

### RULES OF DECORUM

ART. 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 cause 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 sitting of 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 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 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.

ORDAINED  
MINISTERS.

POST  
OFFICE.

1	Mont Williamson.....	Varney, Ky.
2	J. E. Taylor.....	Jarad, Ky.
3	J. W. Smith.....	Canada, Ky.
4	Joshua West.....	Canada, Ky.
5	W. J. Fields.....	McClure, Ky.
6	E. F. Fields.....	McClure, Ky.
7	Jonathan Estep.....	Merrimac, W. Va.
8	G. W. Maynard.....	Burch, W. Va.
9	Henry Hensley.....	Burch, W. Va.
10	A. L. Dempsey.....	Eugene, W. Va.
11	W. A. Hurley.....	Maher, W. Va.
12	H. M. Runyon.....	Oppy, Ky.
13	Hi Maynard.....	Myrtle, W. Va.
14	W. B. Estep.....	Myrtle, W. Va.
15	Epp Ward.....	Inez, Ky.
16	Moses Maynard.....	Gulnare, Ky.
17	J. L. Dotson.....	Jamboree, Ky.
18	Wm. Whitlock.....	Sprigg, W. Va.
19	Isom Sloane.....	Delorme, W. Va.
20	Evans Sluss.....	Pilgrim, Ky.
21	P. H. S. Curry.....	Bias, W. Va.
22	Mordecia Maynard.....	Burch, W. Va.
23	Silas Marcum.....	Myrtle, W. Va.
24	Floyd Kirk.....	Pilgrim, Ky.
25	Moses Howard.....	Pilgrim, Ky.
26	L. T. Preston.....	Catlettsburg, Ky.
27	Ruben Hall.....	Matewan, W. Va.



## FORM OF CHURCH LETTER.

.....P. O. ....Co.

We, the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, called .....church, now in session, sendeth greeting to the Ministers and Messengers that may compose the Sardis Association when convened with the .....church, ..... Co., on Friday before the third Saturday in Sept., 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....., Restored....., Recommendation....., Dismissal....., Excluded....., Died.....

Our total number is....., out of whom we have chosen our beloved, to-wit: ....., and....., to bear this our letter and to represent us in the association.

By order of the church.

.....Moderator

.....Clerk

Clerk's address.....P. O.

.....Co.

## TABLE OF CHURCHES

Churches	Received					Lost					Total
	By Baptism	By Letters	By Restored	Recommendations	By Letter	By Excluded	By Death				
Sardis	3			0		1	22	117			
Brushy Fork	6					8		77			
Big Branch	4					7	1	36			
Rebecca	2	1				4		27			
Enon	2					1		21			
Bethlehem								24			
Bent Branch								43			
Little Dove	1					6	2	28			
Eik Fork	13	6	2		1	1		61			
Pleasant Home	1							24			
Marysville, b th.	1	1						0			
Beulah								9			
Wolf Creek								2			
Sidney								16			
Friendship	1			1		2	2	11			
Dick's Fork	1							13			
Lenore								82			
Mt. Pleasant								1			
Albert Smith								15			
	35	10	4	10		84		780			
	Total										

Churches

Messengers Names

G. W. Maynard, P. A. Farley, Sisan, Vernattia  
 E. P. Fields, Jas. C. Lowe  
 Thos. McCoy, Harrison McCoy  
 F. M. Proctor, A. J. Maynard, W. B. Estep  
 Rubeon Hall  
 John Hensley, W. H. Pennington  
 W. H. May, John Hall, Henry Dempsey  
 L. A. Farley, Comfort White, Joe Curry  
 H. M. Runyon, Wm. Runyon  
 Jerry Smith  
 Hiram Justice, Henry Hensley, T. J. Farley  
 Mose Howard, Floyd Kirk, Peter Clipse  
 Chas. Jude, Sherman Jude, W. J. Fields  
 L. T. Preston  
 George Blackburn  
 Albert Smith