

# MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Fifth Annual Session

OF THE

Sardis Association

of Regular Baptists



HELD WITH THE

Big Branch Church

Pike County, Ky.

September 14, 15, 1917

ELDER H. I. MAYNARD, Moderator.

BROTHER J. M. HENSLEY, Clerk.

## MINUTES.

### FRIDAY SESSION, SEPTEMBER 14, 1917.

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

The introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder J. H. Simpson; Text: 1st Timothy, 1st Chapter and 15th verse: This is a faithful and true saying and worthy of all acceptance.

Opening remarks by Elder J. W. Smith.

Song: Awake, My Soul, etc.

Prayer by Brother L. B. West.

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

Newly organized churches called for and Mt. Carmel was received at the hands of L. T. Preston and Charlie Elkins.

The Association then organized by electing Elder Hi. Maynard Moderator and Elder J. W. Smith his Assistant, and Brother J. M. Hensley, Clerk, with Elder Jonah Bevins, Assistant.

Constitution and Rules of Decorum read.

Ordered that the Moderator make all temporary appointments.

Committee on Ministry for Saturday made their report: 1st. J. W. Smith, and 2nd W. J. Fields.

Committee on Finance appointed: Elders Ester Hopkins and Jonah Bevins.

Committee on Business Arrangements: Elders L. T. Preston, J. W. Smith, W. J. Fields, Ester Hopkins, and R. H. Hall, with the Moderator and Clerk and visiting Brethren.

Letters from sister Associations called for and none responded.

Transient ministers called for and J. W. Smith, W. J. Fields and E. F. Fields came forward and received the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator.

Ordered: That we endeavor to raise a correspondence with the New Salem Association. Brother Harrison Bevins to write a letter to same.

Moved to adjourn until Saturday at 9 o'clock.

### SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, SEPT. 15, 1917.

1st. Opening remarks by Elder L. T. Preston.

Prayer by Elder Jonah Bevins.

- 2nd. Roll call and proper Decorum present.
- 3rd. Committee on Arrangements made their report. Report received and Committee discharged.
- 4th. Committee on Finance made their report, and reported \$39.85. Committee discharged.
- 5th. Ordered: That we retain the Old Treasurer.
- 6th. Report of appointees in Union Meetings and Associations. Report received and failures excused.
- 7th. Letters to sister Associations called for, read and received.
- 8th. Delegates to New Salem Association appointed as follows: Elders Hi. Maynard, Jonah Bevins and J. B. Weddington.
- 9th. Report on Ministry for Sunday: 1st, Elder L. B. West; 2nd, Hi. Maynard; 3rd, W. J. Fields. Closing remarks by L. T. Preston.
- 10th. Ordered. That the following churches have Union Meetings:
- Mt. Pleasant:** 2nd Saturday in July, 1918. Elders Hi. Maynard, W. J. Fields, L. T. Preston, J. W. Smith and J. B. Weddington, attend.
- Big Branch:** 3rd Saturday in August, 1918. Elders Hi. Maynard, Mont Williamson, W. J. Fields and J. E. Taylor, attend.
- Pilgrim's Home:** 4th Saturday in August, 1918. J. W. Smith, J. B. Weddington, Ester Hopkins and Jonah Bevins, attend.
- Mary Elizabeth:** 3rd Saturday in July, 1919. Elders L. T. Preston, Hi. Maynard and W. J. Fields, attend.
- Bent Branch:** 3rd Saturday in August, 1918. Elders L. T. Preston, J. W. Smith, Ester Hopkins and J. B. Weddington, attend.
- Dix Fork:** 1st Saturday in July, 1918. Brothers L. T. Preston, Mont Williamson, W. J. Fields and Jonah Bevins, attend.
- Salem:** 1st Saturday in August, 1918. Elders Hi. Maynard, J. W. Smith, and Jonah Bevins, attend.
- Sidney:** 4th Saturday in August, 1918. Elders Martin Preece, James Muncy, Henan Maynard, Mont Williamson and L. B. West, attend.
- Mt. Carmel:** 1st Saturday in July, 1918. Elders J. W. Smith, Hi. Maynard, Ester Hopkins, J. C. Smith and Jonah Bevins, attend.
- Friendship:** 4th Saturday in July, 1918. Elders R. H. Hall, Hi. Maynard and L. T. Preston, attend.
- Brushy Fork:** 1st Saturday in Sept. 1918. Elders Hi. Maynard, J. B. Weddington, J. W. Smith and Char-

ley Jude, attend.

**Long Fork:** 4th Saturday in July, 1918. Elders J. B. Weddington, Jonah Bevins and Ester Hopkins, attend.

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

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

13. Ordered: That we publish the cause of the division of the Sardis Association.

14th. Any minister who advocates the 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.

15th. 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.

16th. 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 admonition of the Apostle Paul to Timothy.

17th. Ordered: That our next Association be held with the Mary Elizabeth church, Pike County, Ky., beginning Friday before the 3rd Saturday in Sept., 1918. Those desiring to attend the Association, traveling by rail may get off at Nolan, W. Va., and go up Big Creek about 5 miles.

18th. Ordered: That Elder Hi. Maynard preach the introductory sermon next year, and Elder L. T. Preston be his alternate.

19th. Ordered: That we extend our thanks to the brethren and friends of the Big Branch church.

20th. Ordered: That the Association adjourn to the time and place above mentioned.

ELDER HI. MAYNARD,  
Moderator.

J. M. HENSLEY, Clerk.

---

### SUNDAY SERVICE.

On Sunday a large and well ordered audience assembled at the School House. Opening remarks by Brother L. B. West. Then Elder Hi. Maynard preached, text Gal. 4th Chapter and 4-5 verses: But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His son, etc. Then Elder L. T. Preston preached, text St. John

3rd Chapter and 25th verse, Then there arose a question between some of the Disciples and the Jews about purifying.

Then the meeting closed by singing and tidings of great joy by the brethren and friends taking an old time hand-shake in token of love, fellowship and friendship. May God bless and save, according to His will.

J. M. HENSLEY, Clerk.

### A TRUE HISTORY OF THE DIVISION OF SARDIS ASSOCIATION.

The trouble which brought about the division of the Sardis Association, in fact and nothing more, was as follows:

When the old Rebecca Church met together on the 2nd Saturday in Feb. 1909, with Elder W. B. Estep, Moderator, sisters Jane Runyon, and Sarah Hall refused to fellowship those belonging to secret orders, whereupon Brother W. B. Estep, who belongs to an order, refused to quit, and the two named sisters were dropped from the fellowship of the church, and at the next meeting, (March, 1909) sister Columbia Runyon was dropped from fellowship for the same reason, (Record of church P. 54.) and the members, several in number, left the church just because Brother Estep refused to give up his order.

At the May meeting (1909) Elder H. Maynard refused to sit in harmony with those who belonged to worldly orders, from the fact that he believed that the welfare of the church should be first and above all other institutions, and on the following meeting, during the absence of Elder H. Maynard, an order was made rejecting the record of the May meeting, (1909.)

This condition brought discord and coldness in the church, till 1913, on the second Saturday in August, the following query was decided by the Association (1913) as follows: Yes, it is right.

Although this action was against Elder H. Maynard's feeling, yet he nor none of the members who did not believe in the Orders left the church nor the Association, but the question was almost daily discussed by the members of the church till the second Saturday in January, 1914, when Elder W. A. Hurley, who then was a member of the church, said that the question of secret orders must be settled or he would leave the church, and all members of the church were notified to be present at the next meeting in order to dispose of the question. Whereupon, at the regular meeting in March, 1914, the church voted on the question: Is it right for our brethren to belong to secret orders and the result was "No." Whereupon Brothers W. A. Hurley and Sam Gilman declared non-fellowship with the church. But before the vote was taken by the church, all parties agreed to abide by the decision of the church, but instead of doing so, Elders

W. A. Hurley and W. B. Estep went to work and got all the names they could get on a book or piece of paper and later had a meeting on the 4th Saturday in the month, instead of meeting with the church on the regular time on the 2nd Saturday.

Upon that foundation they claimed to be the Rebecca Church, and wrote a letter and appointed delegates to the Association, which was held with the Bent Branch Church, Sept. 1914. There was, of course, two letters from the same church, and one must be rejected by the Association. And after some explanation by Elders W. A. Hurley, W. B. Estep and Hi. Maynard, relative to the action of both sides, the Association voted to receive the letter borne by Hi. Maynard. Then Elder A. L. Dempsey, who was declared Moderator of the Association, ordered the Association dismissed in the midst of confusion and discord, the majority side of the Association did not try to proceed with anything further until in October, when they met and transacted the business of the Association.

The other faction also met once with the Sardis church and tried to re-organize and failed, and later when Elder G. W. Maynard patched up his troubles with Elder W. B. Estep, they managed to get enough of the delegates together at the Sardis church in March, 1915, to hold what they called the Sardis Association.

The Resolutions contained in the Minutes of the last named body were drawn up by Elder Hi. Maynard at the request of Elder W. B. Estep, and were presented to both sides and were referred to a joint committee for arbitration, which committee met near Naugatuck in Sept. 1916, with Elder J. B. Weddington, Bros. J. M. Hensley and A. H. Varney from the majority side and Elder W. B. Estep and Brother Sam Crum and Harvey Curry (the man who was once a minister of high standing, but put away his wife and took another woman and married her, and who was refused fellowship in his church (Sardis) any more, but was received into the Elk Fork Church, and is still liberated to preach) and Bro. Sam Crum, an avowed Order man, representing the minority side.

The committee agreed to arbitrate matters, and Elders Hi. Maynard and W. B. Estep were to harmonize the two minutes, but the majority side of the Association were dissatisfied with the matters as there was the same division and discord as before; therefore they decided that it would be better to remain separate and in peace, than to be together and in perpetual discord and confusion.

Therefore, with all good will and prayers for these brethren, we are not prejudiced nor in hatred, but prayerful that we all may, in the near future, see things in the same way and speak the same doctrine and practice it.

## 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 full fellowship, those 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 some 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 .....	Jarad, Ky.
3.	J. W. Smith .....	Rural, Ky.
4.	Hi Maynard .....	Myrtle, W. Va.
5.	J. L. Dotson .....	Jamboree, Ky.
6.	Isom Sloane .....	Delorme, W. Va.
7.	Evans Sluss .....	Pilgrim, Ky.
8.	Floyd Kirk .....	Pilgrim, Ky.
9.	Moses Howard .....	Pilgrim, Ky.
10.	L. T. Preston .....	Catlettsburg, Ky.
11.	Reuben Hall .....	Matewan, W. Va.
12.	W. J. Fields .....	Pilgrim, Ky.
13.	E. F. Fields .....	Pilgrim, Ky.
14.	Jonah Bevins .....	Sidney, Ky.
15.	Henan Maynard .....	Jared, Ky.
16.	Will Thornberry .....	Canada, Ky.
17.	J. B. Weddington .....	Williamson, W. Va.
18.	J. H. Simpson .....	Majestic, Ky.
19.	Joe McCoy .....	Edgerton, W. Va.
20.	David White .....	Holden, W. Va.
21.	W. H. May .....	Canterbury, W. Va.
22.	Ester Hopkins .....	Williamson, W. Va.
23.	Ransom Smith .....	Chattaroy, W. Va.
24.	H. H. White .....	Catlettsburg, Ky.
25.	Daniel Wilcox .....	Edgerton, W. Va.

---

#### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF LICENSED MINISTERS

1.	Floyd West .....	Catlettsburg, Ky.
2.	Jeff Stanley .....	Catlettsburg, Ky.
3.	Bev. West .....	Canada, Ky.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

We, the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, called ..... church, now in session, sendetn greeting to the Ministers 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 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.....; Dismissed.....; Excluded.....; Died.....; Our total number is .....; out of whom we have chosen our beloved, towit: .....

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.

# TABLE OF CHURCHES

11

NAMES OF CHURCHES	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	Rec'd by Baptism	Rec'd by Letter	Rec'd by Restoration	Rec'd by Recom.	Dis. by Letter	Dis. by Exclusion	Deceased	TOTAL.
Mt. Pleasant.....	J. M. Hensley, J. Bevins, H. Bevins .....	2				1		1	39
Mary Elizabeth...	Melvin Romans, J. C. Smith .....	9						2	52
Sidney.....	R. W. Maynard, Sherman Jude .....	2	10	12	12	2			54
Brushy Fork.....	J. C. Lowe, W. Nickles, H. Maynard .....	2					2	2	33
Rebecca.....	Hi. Maynard, Paul Runyon .....	7					2	1	45
Salem.....	Ester Hopkins, Joe Gooslin .....	4		1					31
Bent Branch.....	P. Blackburn, A. P. Bevins, E. Bevins .....								22
Wolf Creek.....	Charley Jude, Elias Maynard .....k.....								16
Mt. Horeb.....	R. H. Hall, Joe McCoy, J. I. Wolford .....	15			3	1	2	1	35
Dix Fork.....	L. B. West, R. Crigger, Geo. Stanley .....	9							20
Big Branch.....	H. McCoy, T. McCoy, J. E. Taylor .....	1				1		1	62
Pilgrim Home.....	M. Williamson, L. Burris, H. Robnet .....	6		3			2	1	31
Friendship.....	W. A. Johnson, A. Johnson .....	4							20
Poplar Creek.....	J. H. Simpson, P. Thorps .....						3	1	34
Long Fork.....	No delegate present.....				1				7
Mt. Carmel.....	L. T. Preston, C. Elkins .....								7
Totals .....		61	10	20	15	11	10		508