Minutes

OF THE

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Sardis Association

OF

REGULAR BAPTISTS

Q

Held With
THE REBECCA CHURCH
Myrtle, Mingo County, W. Va.
Septembre 9, 10 and 11, 1927

MINUTES

Met at the school house and after singing and prayer by Elder Ester Hopkins, the in-Jonah Bevins from Hebrews 10th chapter and 23rd verse. "Let us hold fast the profession of our Faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised."

After a short recess, the Association pro-

ceeding in the following manner:

1st:—The delegates from the churches met, and opening remarks were made by Elder C. Cole. Sang "A Twelve Months More Has Rolled Around" and EL der F. A. Hopkins led the delegation in prayer.

2nd:—The letters from the several churches were handed in, read and received.

and the delegates seated.

3rd:-The Association then organized by electing Elder Ester Hopkins Moderator, Elder Jonah Bevins, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk, and Elder F. M. Precce, Assistant ant Clerk.

4th:-By motion the reading of the Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum and the Constitution were omitted.

5th:-Called for n e w l y constituted churches. None received.

6th:—Called for letters from sister Associations, and received the following:

New Salem-By the hands of F. A. Hopkins and J. M. Sheppard. Letter read, received and delegates seated by the Moderator, giving them the right hand of fellowship.

Kyova-By the hands of Elder C. Cole and Joshua Pack. Letter received and delegates seated by the Moderator, giving them the right hand of fellowship.

7th:—Called for transient ministers, and received Elders Willis Blackburn and Hi

Maynard.

8th-Resolved that the Moderator make

all temporary appointments.

9th:-Appointed a committee to arrange for preaching Saturday, consisting of one member from each church, together with the future delegation from the Rebecca church, who reported as follows:

> 1st:—Elder Willis Blackburn, 2nd:—Elder L. T. Preston, 3rd:—Elder F. A. Hopkins, 4th:—Elder C. Cole.

10th:—Appointed clerks to write correcponding letters to New Salem and Kyova Associations.

11th:—Appointed a committee on arrangement consisting of one delegate from each church, with the Moderator, Clerk and Corresponding Ministers and Members invited.

12th:—On motion of the clerk, the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

Saturday Morning, September 10, 1927

1st:—Met pursuant to adjournment. Called to order by Moderator, and Elder F. A. Hopkins further introduced the services by exhortation and song "Brethren We Have Met Again," and the delegation was led in prayer by the clerk.

2nd:—The roll was called and absentees

noted.

3rd:—Report of committee on arrangement read and received and committee discharged.

4th:—Appointed committee on finance, consisting of Bros. B. H. Bevins and A. J. Case who reported as follows:

Case who reported as follows.	
Mt. Pleasant Church	8.35
Mary Elizabeth Church	2.00
Apple Orchard Church	5.00
Rebecca Church	5.00
Bent Branch Church	5.40
Big Branch Church	0.00
Dix Fork Church	5.10
Pilgrim Home Church	
Bethany Church	3.55
Lenah Church	3.00
Sidney Church	0.00
Narrows Branch Church	4.20
Wolf Creek Church	0.00

Salem Church	_ 7.25
Total	\$62.10
5th:-Called on treasurer for repor	rt who
reported as follows. Report of Bro.	WE
Blackburn:	***
Total on hand for last year	e 7/ 95
Paid out for minutes	b 14.00
Balance in hands of Bro. W. E.	. 95.00
Plackburn	01.05
Blackburn	_ 21.85
This amount was turned over to	
the treasurer elect.	
Bro. J. M. Hensley forme: measurer	
for 1926	54.85
Total in the hands of treasurer	
for 1927	151.55
6th:—By motion and second Elder	Willis
Blackburn was elected trueasurer	
7th:-Resolve that the clerk be a	llowed
\$15.00 for his services for preparing	or the
manuscript and recording same on I	Record
Book of the Sardis Association.	
8th:-Appointed the same commit-	too 90
of yesterday to arrange the ministry	fon
Candor The	101

Sunday. They reported as follows:

1st:—F. M. Preece.
2nd:—C. Cole.
3rd:—Hi Maynard.
4th:—F. A. Hopkins.

9th:—Letters to the sister Associations read, received, and delegates appointed as Follows: New Salem Association, to be held with the Philadelphia Church, Floyd County, Kentucky, commencing on the Friday before the fourth Saturday in September, 1927. Elder Hi Maynard, Bros. Lee Murphy, Louis Smith and Harvey Young messengers. Letter in the hands of Elder Hi Maynard.

Kyova association to be held with the Red River Church, Lincoln County, W. Va. Commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1928. Elders Jonah Bevins Ester Hopkins and Bros. Lee Murphy, C. Williamson and R. B. Preston messengers. Letter in the hands of Elder Ester Hopkins.

10th:-Resolved to take correspondence

with the Philadelphia and Mud River Associations. Letters prepared, read and delegates appointed as follows: Philadelphia Association to be held with the new Mt. Olive Church, Greenup county, Ky., commencing Friday before the third Saturday in September, 1927. Elder Jonah Bevins and Bro. Lee Murphy messengers. Letter in the hands of Elder Jonah Bevins.

Mud River Association to be held with the Providence Church, Kanawha County, W. Va., commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1928. Messengers Elders Ester Hopkins, Hi Maynard and Jonah Bevins, and Bros. C. Williamson ond Harvey Young. Letter in hands of Elder

Ester Hopkins.

11th:-Called on Brethren appointed to attend Union Meetings, and sister Associations to report. They reported satisfactorily. Some who failed to attend were excused.

12th:-Called on committee to report, as of resolution No. 9 in previous minutes, who reported by reading a copy of the minutes of the first meeting and organization which will be made a part of the record of the Association.

13th:-On motion it was ordered that any who desires obituaries of deceased Brothers and Sisters printed in the minutes, that they prepare them and hand them to the clerk of the Association.

14th:-Resolved that we advise ministers of our Association not to marry people into adultery, where either man or woman has more than one living wife or husband.

15th:-Shall we receive into our fellowship men having more than one wife, or a woman having more than one husband?

Answer: We advise the Churches not to receive into their fellowship any such, except those who have put away their companions for the cause of fornication, and such sases to have gospel or church evidence of the fact.

16th:-Appointed Union meetings with the following churches: Mt. Pleasant, second Saturday and Sunday in July, 1928. Elders J. H. Brown, Hi Maynard, Jonah Bevins, F. A. Hopkins and Ester Hopkins to attend.

Salem Church the first Saturday and Sunday in August, 1928. Elders W. C. Hay, F. A. Hopkins, Hi Maynard and Wallace Jack-

son attend.

Pilgrim Home Church the fourth Saturday and Sunday in August, 1928. Elders Finas Adkins, W. C. Hay, Hi Maynard and Jonah Bevins attend.

Mary Elizabeth Church the third Friday, Saturday and Sunday in July, 1928. Elders Hi Maynard, C. Cole, Jonah Bevins and Es-

ter Hopkins attend.

Apple Orchard Church the first Saturday and Sunday in June 1928. Elders W. Blackburn, Hi Maynard, Ester Hopkins and Jonah Bevins attend.

Leanah Church, the second Saturday and Sunday in June, 1928. Elders W. J. Jackson, F. M. Preece, Hi Maynard, Jonah Bevins, Ester Hopkins and C. Cole attend.

Bethany Church, the fourth Saturday and Sunday in July, 1928. Elders A. A. Sheppard, F. A. Canterbury and F. M. Preece attend.

Rebecca Church, the second Saturday and Sunday in August, 1928. Elders Ester Hopkins, Willis Blackburn, Jonah Bevins and Hi Maynard attend.

Bent Branch Church, the third Saturday and Sunday in August, 1928. Elders Ester Hopkins, Hays Maynard, Willis Blackburn and Jonah Bevins attend.

Narrow Branch Church, the fourth Saturday and Sunday in July, 1928. Elders Ernest Runyon, W. J. Jackson, Willis Blackburn, W. C. Hay and Ester Hopkins attend.

Dix Fork Church, the first Saturday and Sunday in July, 1928. Elders Willis Blackburn, Jonah Bevins and W. C. Hay attend.

17th:-Resolved that we have the Articles of Faith, the Rules of Decorum and the Constitution printed in the minutes.

18th:-Resolved that we have 1000 copies

of the minutes printed, and the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the same.

19th:-Resolved that our next Association be held with the Salem Church, Goody, Pike County, Kentucky, beginning on Friday before the second Saturday in September, 1928, and that Elder Hi Maynard preach the introductory sermon, and that Elder Ester Hopkins be his alternate.

20th:-On motion the request of Mt. Carmel Church was granted a letter of dismission to take fellowship with the Philadel-

phia Association.

21st:-Resolved that we extend to the people of this community our sincere and heartfelt thanks for their kindness and hospitality throughout the Association. May the Divine Prince of Peace be with the brethren and sisters of Rebecca Church, and with each home in this community, and may they find rest in Him who is the giver of all good.

22nd:-Resolved that the minutes be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk. The Association then adjourned to the time and place above mentioned. Done and signed by the order of the Association.

ELDER ESTER HOPKINS, Moderator ELDER JONAH BEVINS, Clerk.

Sunday Morning, September 11th, 1927 The brethren appointed to preach on the stand Sunday morning, met a well ordered congregation, and proceeded in accordance with the arrangements, except Bro. F. A. Hopkins who was excused by the Association, as it was necessary for him to return home Saturday, and Brother Ester Hopkins filled his place.

Now dear brethren and sisters of the Sardis Association, the pen of your unworthy Clerk will spread upon the record the acts of your thirty-fourtn annual session as

an Association.

You have faced successfully the perils of tyrannical persecutions launched out upon the deep, and began the search for that which God had preserved for you—the land of the free-and prompted by the everlasting zeal to keep the raith, Next your trail was seen upon the snores of a new world, and your Unristian ideals prought fruit among the masses that populated the continent of America. Each of you clothed with the righteousness of Christ-a rope which the Kevalator said you had washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.

Let us say some of the wasning was done by your ancestors, whom we last saw tossed by the wave of time, pursued by the powers or carkness in the form of a beast, who had two norns like a lamb, which monster dear brethren no accort has been hounding Gods children from Jorgan to America. Now the battle is waged, and the greater the battle, the greater the victory. Some of our army may become stackers, some fail by the wayside, and others even turn to piliars of sait, but I can see in the glorious work of this grand and everlasting tamily, the old blood. stained banner of gospel truth, and nevertailing Christianity.

The major commandments as laid down by the Lord were baptized in His own blood on Calvary, and brethren and sisters never forget to look back over the pages of time and the bloody trail that was left and created by those of the household of Faith who never feared, but marched onward.

May God ever help us to continue to abide in the Faith and contend for the same, regardless of whatever combatant or opposing force may suggest or do. Thereby we will be made able I hope to dip ourselves daily in the fountain that was opened to the house of David for sin and uncleanness.

Your unworthy Clerk JONAH BEVINS.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experience, we, the churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon our confession of faith in Jesus Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches in order to perpetuate a union and c o m-munion among us and preserve, maintain and keep the rules and orders of an association according to the following 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 this Associotion who shall be members who members who members shall think best qualified for the purpose and producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment shall be entitled to a seat.

Art. 2.—In letters from the different churches shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, their baptized, received by letters, restored, dismissed, ex-communicated and dead since their 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 internal rights of any church in the Union.

Art. 4.—The association when convened shall be governed and ruled 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 our union that 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 right hand of fellowship.

Art. 7.—Every church in the union shall be entitled to a representative 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 its minutes.

Art. 11.—The church shall send money by the delegate of each church for printing the minutes of the association.

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 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 deem necessary.

Art. 15.—All matters coming efore 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 the association or deviate from the orthodox principles ef 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.

RULES OF DECORUM

Article 1.—The association to be opened and closed by prayer.

Art. 2.—A moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members pre-

Art. 3.—Only one member shall speak at a time and he shall rise from his seat and address the moderator when he is about to make a 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 mis-haps, failures or imperfections, but shall fairly state the case and matter, as nearly as he can, so as to convey his light and idea.

Art. 5.—No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without the consent of 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 this association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sittings nor whispering in time of public speech.

Art. 8.—No member of this association shall address arother by any other term or appellation but the title of Brother.

Art. 9.—The moderator shall not interrupt a member or prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light upon the subject, except when he breaks the rules of decorum.

Art. 10.—The names of the several members of the association shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over as often as the moderator requires.

Art. 11.—The moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges 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 reproved by the association as they think proper.

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

Art. 14.—These rules of decorum shall be read by the clerk at the commencement of every association.

Art. 15.—No person shall speak more than five minutes at the same time without liberty obtained from the Association.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article 1.—We, the churches of Jesus Christ, called the United Baptists, are comstituted on the following faith, viz:

Art. 2.—We believe in only one true and living God, the creator of heaven and earth and all things that are therein contained.

Art. 3.—We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who is Head and King of His Church.

Art. 4.—We believe in the Holy Ghost and sealer and applier of the redemption purchased by Christ.

Art. 5.—We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

Art. 6.—We believe the Old and New Testament scripture to be the infallible word of God and take the New Testament for our only rule of faith and practice, and nothing is to be taken from or added to it.

Art. 7.—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. 8.—We believe that Christ has but one true Gospel Church, and that will finally perservere through grace and glory.

Art. 9.—We believe in the communion of the Lord's Supper, that is, 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 until His second com-

Art. 11.-We believe that Jesus Christ is the first resurrection from the dead 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.

Names and Addresses of Ordained

Ministers Jonah Bevins, Goody, Ky. Ransom Smith, Hardy, Ky. E. F. Fields, McClure, Ky. Wayne Cline, Piso, Ky. F. M. Preece, Holden, W. Va. A. J. Maynard, Williamson, W. Va. A. A. Sheppard, Holden, W. Va. Ester Hopkins, Williamson, W. Va. Hose Bolling, Piso, Ky. J. E. Taylor, Jarad, Ky. J. H. Brown, Crigger, Ky. W. Blackburn, Goody, Ky. Simeon Johnson, Canterbury, W. Va. F. A. Canterberry, Canterberry, W. Va. James Jude, Laura, Ky. J. S. Muncy, Sprigg, W. Va. Charley Jude, Laura, Ky. Joe Cline, Portsmouth, O. Wallace Jackson, Couder, Ky. Hi Maynard, Williamson, W. Va. Heenan Maynard, Williamson, W. Va. Ernest Runyons, Canada, Ky. M. L. Varney, Varney, Ky.

Obituaries Lafayette Burris, son of James and Isabel Burris, born June 27th 1852, was struck by an automobile in South Williamson August 20th 1927. Taken to Pikeville Hospital, where he was given ex-ray examination,

and found three of his ribs broken, and a punctured lung, with also a broken leg. A special nurse was called, and was put over him, and he lived till Tuesday evening about 7:30 P. M. August 23rd 1927. The Death Angel then visited the Hospital, and took that which God had given, in the morn of June 1852. And the hearts of his children and one brother and two sisters and grand children with a host of relatives with the whole Church was made to mourn and weep. He was brought to his home on Rock House Fork of Big Creek where many of his friends and relatives with his companion and children mourned with him till Friday August 26th when he was laid to rest in the cemetery near his home. There to a-wait the trump of the Lord. The funeral was attended to by Elders Willis Blackburn, Hosea Bolling and James Jude, after Elder Jonah Bevins read the obituary with a short exhortation and prayer. He was baptized into the fellowship of the Regular Baptist Church, by Elder Jeff Fields, on the second Sunday in June 1913, and took fellowship with the Bent Branch Church, and was one of the charter members of Pilgrim Home Church of Regular Baptists, and was ordained a deacon in that body when organized, which office he faithfully filled until death, and was ever faithful to fill his seat in the Church.

The writer was chosen Moderator by the Pilgrim Home Church in 1917, and has served the Church as such to the present time, and I only remember one time when Bro. Burris was not present, and I found him at all times interested and ready to do anything for the upbuilding of the Church. He was first married to Maraget Smith and to them was born eight children of which two preceded him in death with the mother. The other six children are yet living. He was afterward married to Belle Smith which widow is left with the children to mourn the loss of a pious husband and

father.

Now to the widow and children let me ask you to not let the work of father fall with him but take his seat in the old Church, and live for Jesus as I believe father did, and share with him that crown which is laid up for all who love the appearing of the Son of man, of whose appearing Uncle Lafe, as I always call him, will get up again quickened by the power of God, and stand with us all before the judgment seat of Christ, and receive a just reward for our deeds, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

So lift up your heads for the day of our

redemption draweth nigh.

May Gods grace be showered upon you all, is the prayer of the writer.

JONAH BEVINS Who says I am devoid of Faith? A fairy tale. Who but me knows? Fools all are they. As well assail, The beauty of the fragrant rose.

To know that many years agone, On Calvary One hung and died; Must I needs thrust a doubting hand, In the wound in His bleeding side?

To prove that Christ once on Earth lived, Must I have seen His burial place Or heard the music of His voice? Or seen the beauty of His face?

"Faith is the substance of our hope, The evidence of things not seen" Could I His miracles disprove, Or all His witnesses demean?

Shall I forget Gethsemane? The lowly manger or the Cross? What have I left to take its place? For me is none. All else is dross.

If Earth has not the power to hold, Bursting buds within their season; How could a small sepulchre hold, His power? There is no reason. On Wednesday June 22nd just as the Sun was shutting out the glories of the day, the portals of Heaven opened to give joyous welcome to the soul of Bro. Elbert Bevins of Meta, Ky.

of Meta, Ky.

Besides the grief-stricken mother and eight children—four sons and four daughters—and sisters and brothers with grandchildren and brethren and sisters in

Christ, mourn his loss.

He surrendered his life to the Savior about thirty years ago, and served Him faithfully to the end. As a husband and father he was devoted, unselfish and untiring, and long will he live in the lives of his splendidly trained and consecrated children, who rise up and call him blessed.

As a neighbor and friend, he was kind, loving and thoughtful for the comfort and pleasure of others, Hosts of devoted friends have seen the life of Jesus manifested in him, and feel that Heaven is nearer and

dearer because he is there.

Bro. Bevins was born March 6th 1865, died June 22nd 1927. Baptized by Elder George Pinson. Taken fellowship with the Bent Branch Church, and was ordained as one of the deacons. In the death of our loved and honored brother who has for many years filled the office of deacon with the great fidelity and usefulness to the Church, and whose life has fully exemplified the true principles of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and who has left us the richest possible legacy, and to his children, and to his brethren a matured Christian character eminently worthy to be treasured in all our hearts, and exemplified in our lives.

The Bent Branch Church has been bereft of one of its most useful members, his family, children and grand-children, of a loving, kind and Christian father, and the entire community of a most worthy citizen.

Your unworthy Clerk, JONAH BEVINS.

"Oh for that flame of living fire, Which shone so bright in Saints of old; Which bade their souls to Heaven aspire, Calm in distress, in danger bold.

Where is the Spirit Lord, which dwelt, In Abrams breast and sealed him Thine; Which made Pauls heart with sorrow melt, And glow with energy Divine.

The Spirit which from age to age, Proclaimed thy love and taught thy ways; Brightened Isaiahs vivid page, And breathed in Davids hallowed lays.

Is not thy grace as mighty now, As when Elijah felt its power? When glory beamed from Moses brow, Or Job endured the trying hour?

Remember Lord the ancient days, Renew thy work, thy grace restore; And while to Thee our hearts we raise, On us thy holy Spirit pour."

THE CLERK.

Contributions	8.35	2.00	7.25	5.10	3.55	4.20	3.00	000	,	23 439[62.10
Total members			35						33	39
		_				_		_	_	4
Deceased		10		10	0	0	0 60	0		0
Dis. by exclu'n	00	00	0	000	0	0	00	0	_	3 10
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Recommendation	00	00	00	00	0	0	0 6	0	_	CVI
Rec. by restor'n	00	0	00	00	0	0	0	0		0
Rec. by letter	00	00	00	0	0	0	0	0	_	H
Rec. by Bap.	00	0	0 0	1	0	0	10	0		12
Church days	27 =	100 1	100	14	4	40	N 67	1		PL
TABLE OF CHURCHES	Apple Orchard Church, John Taylor, E. Runyons.	Mary Elizabeth Church, M. B. Romans, W. J. Jackson, J. Allen Salem Church, H. B. Bevins, S. Swanson, R. R. Preston	Bent Branch Church, R. Bevins, John Bevins, Dix Rork Church G. W. Granlow B. Chinesen J. H. T.	Pilgrim Home Church, A. J. Case H. Young, C. Williamson	Narrows Branch Lee Murnhy Lowie Conith	Lenah Church, T. McCox, S. Robinson P. Dial	Rebecca Church, A. Evans, F. M. Preece, L. White	Sidney Church, No delegates	Wolf Creek, No delegates	TOTALS