

MINUTES
OF THE
SARDIS
ASSOCIATION
OF
OLD REGULAR BAPTIST
OF JESUS CHRIST



THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
held with the
NARROWS BRANCH
CHURCH

Pike County, Kentucky
SEPTEMBER 13, 14 and 15, 1929

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MINUTES

The Sardis Association of Old Regular Baptist of Jesus Christ, met with the Narrows Branch Church, Hardy, Pike County, Kentucky, on Friday morning, September 13th, 1929, and after singing and prayer by Elder Willis Blackburn, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder Hi Maynard from Revelation 22nd chapter and the 14th verse; "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of Life and may enter in through the gates into the City."

Then after a short intermission the delegates assembled at the home of Ugen Boger on account of rain, and the school house had to be used for preaching.

After singing and prayer by Elder Ester Hopkins, the Moderator, the Association proceeded to business in the following order:

(1) Called for the letters from the several churches, which were handed in, read, received and the delegates seated, as shown in the table of Statistics; and the queries and requests of the churches referred to the committee of arrangements.

(2) The Association then organized by electing Elder Ester Hopkins, Moderator, and Elder Hi Maynard, Assistant Moderator, Bro. R. A. Damron, Clerk and Elder Jonah Bevins, Assistant Clerk.

(3) Called for newly constituted churches and none responded.

(4) By motion, the rules of decorum were read by the clerk.

(5) Called for corresponding letters from sister Associations and received one from NEW SALEM ASSOCIATION by Elder Grady Adkins and Jay Hopkins. Letter in the hands of Elder Grady Adkins.

KYOVA ASSOCIATION, by the hand of M. Dyer, W. M. Spence, J. H. Pack, and Sam Hall. Letter in the hands of J. H. Pack.

PHILADELPHIA, by the hands of Elder I. R. Gilliam, L. V. Murry, and Finess Adkins. Letter in the hands of Finess Adkins.

MUD RIVER ASSOCIATION by the hand of Elder L. Oxley. Letter in the hands of Elder L. Oxley.

UNION ASSOCIATION by the hands of Elder W. S. Mullins, Elder H. M. Mullins, John A. Damron, and Harrison Stanley Letter in the hands of Elder H. M. Mullins

(6) Called for transient ministers and members and received Elders, Willie Hay, Harvey Spence, Ira Mullins, L. T. Preston, James Jude, and A. B. Potter.

(7) On motion it was agreed that the moderator make all temporary appointments during the entire session of this Association.

(8) Appointed a committee on ministry consisting of one delegate from each church with the entire delegation of the Narrows Branch Church, to arrange the ministry for Saturday who reported as follows: First on the stand---Harvey G. Spence---Second, Harrison Stanley,---Third, I. R. Gilliam and---Forth, Grady Adkins.

(9) Appointed Clerk and Assistant Clerk to write corresponding letters to sister Associations.

(10) Appointed a committee of arrangements consisting of one delegate from each church with moderators, Clerks, Corresponding Delegates, Transients, invited to ar-

range the business for to-morrow.

(11) Appointed a committee consisting of Bros. Lee Murphey and Lewis Smith to see that peace prevailed at the stand and to claim the statute limitations on the horse swappers.

(12) Adjourned until nine o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

(1) Called the roll and marked the absentees.

(2) Called on the committee of arrangements to report. The committee reported, the report received and the committee discharged.

(3) Appointed Elder Willis Blackburn and Brother Harrison Bevins as committee on finance who reported from the several churches the sum of \$68.16 received. The committee was then discharged.

(4) Called on the Secretary and Treasurer to report who reported the expenses of the Association met and the sum of \$145.25 on hands.

BALANCE ON HAND FROM LAST YEAR	\$145.25
RECEIVED FROM THE CHURCHES	68.16

TOTAL ON HANDS	\$213.41
DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1928:	
W. E. Blackburn, Printing Minutes	\$32.06
Lee Murphey, Printing Minutes of Asso.	\$35.00

Clerk's Fee	\$15.00
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TOTAL PAID OUT	\$82.06
BALANCE ON HANDS	\$131.35

(5) On motion, Elder Willis Blackburn was retained as treasurer.

(6) On motion, it was ordered that the

Clerk be allowed \$15.00

(7) Called on those appointed last year to attend Union Meetings and associations to report who reported generally that they had attended to the work assigned them but some failures were noted and those failing to attend were excused.

(8-9) The letters to the sister associations were read, received and delegates appointed to attend as follows:

NEW SALEM, Elders, Jonah Bevins, Willis Blackburn and Hi Maynard and Bros. Harve Young, James Blackburn, and J. M. Hensley and Elder John Brown. To be held with the Buringg Springs Church, Pike County, Kentucky, beginning on Friday before the Fourth Saturday in September, 1929. Letter in the hands of Elder Jonah Bevins.

KYOVA, Bros. Harve Young, Sidney Stratton and Elders Hi Maynard, Jonah Bevins and Ester Hopkins. Letter in the hands of Elder Ester Hopkins. To be held with the Cove Creek Church, Kiahsville, Wayne County, West Virginia, beginning on Friday before the First Sunday in September 1930.

PHILADELPHIA, Elders Jonah Bevins, Willis Blackburn and Bros. Harve Young, Lee Murphey and Lewis Smith. Letter in the hands of Elder Jonah Bevins. To be held with the Little Rosy Church, Greenup, Greenup County, Kentucky, beginning on Friday before the Third Saturday in September 1929.

MUD RIVER, Elders Hi Maynard, Ester Hopkins, A. J. Case and Bros. Lee Murphey J. G. Thornbury and Eld. Ransom Smith. To be held with the Little Laurel Church, Lincoln County, West Virginia, beginning on Friday, before the Fourth Sun-

day in August 1930.

UNION, Bros. James Blackburn, J. G. Thornbury and R. A. Damron and Elders John Brown and Hi Maynard. Letter in the hands of Elder Hi Maynard. To be held with the Bethel Church, Jenkins, Letcher County, Kentucky, beginning on Friday before the Third Saturday in September 1929.

(10) Appointed union meetings with the following churches:

J-U-N-E

LENAH

The Union meeting with the Lenah Church to be held on Second Saturday and Sunday in June. Elders Willis Blackburn, L. T. Preston, Ester Hopkins and Hi Maynard to attend.

APPLE ORCHARD.

The Union meeting with the Apple Orchard Church to be held on the 1st Saturday and Sunday in June. Elders Ester Hopkins, Wallace Jackson and Willis Blackburn with the Moderator to attend.

J-U-L-Y

MARY ELIZABETH

The Union meeting with Mary Elizabeth Church to be held on the 3rd Saturday and Sunday in July. Elders Jonah Bevins, Ester Hopkins and Hi Maynard to attend.

DIX FORK,

The Union meeting with the Dix Fork Church to be held on the 1st Saturday and Sunday in July. Elders Hi Maynard, Wallace Jackson, Jonah Bevins and Willis Blackburn to attend.

NARROWS BRANCH

The Union meeting with the Narrows Branch to be held on the Fourth Saturday and Sunday in July. Elders, J. S. Muncey, Wallace Jackson, Jonah Bevins and Willis Blackburn to attend.

BIG BRANCH

The Union meeting with the Big Branch Church to be held on the 3rd Saturday and Sunday in July. Elders, Ester Hopkins, Willis Blackburn, Wallace Jackson and Ransom Smith with the moderator to attend.

MT. PLEASANT

The Union meeting with the Mt. Pleasant Church to be held on the 2nd Saturday and Sunday in July. Elders, Willie Hay, Ester Hopkins, and Hi Maynard with the Moderator to attend.

A-U-G-U-S-T

REBECCA

The Union meeting with the Rebecca Church to be held on the 2nd Saturday and Sunday in August. Elders, Jonah Bevins, C. Cole, Hayse Maynard, Hi Maynard and Willis Blackburn to attend.

PILGRIM HOME

The Union meeting with the Pilgrim Home Church to be held on the 4th Saturday and Sunday in August. Elders, Heenan Maynard, Earnest Runyon, Hayse Maynard, Hatler Mullins and L. T. Preston with the moderator to attend.

SALEM

The Union meeting with the Salem Church to be held on the 1st Saturday and Sunday in August. Elders, Ira Mullins, Hi Maynard Wallace Jackson and Jonah Bevins with the moderator to attend.

BENT BRANCH

The Union meeting with the Bent Branch Church to be held on the 3rd Saturday and Sunday in August. Elders Jonah Bevins, Willis Blackburn, Ester Hopkins and Hi Maynard to attend.

(11) Called on committee to report on the records of the Association who reported that seven minutes were still lacking to

complete the records and it was ordered to allow them another year in which to complete the records.

(12) On motion, it was ordered to remove article 12 from the minutes and put it on the record book of the Association.

(13) On motion, it was ordered that any one desiring obituaries of deceased brethren and sisters printed in our minutes, hand them to the Clerk at the Association.

(14) Resolved that we advise the ministers of our churches not to marry any one having a living husband or wife unless they bring Scriptural evidence for putting their husband or wife away.

(15) On motion it was ordered that the 15th article be kept in our minutes. (15th. Article----Shall we receive into our fellowship men having more than one wife or women 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 cases to have gospel or church evidence of such fact.)

(16) Called for a report of the committee appointed to visit the Wolf Creek Church and they reported that the Wolf Creek Church had lettered up with the Old Zion Association. On motion it was ordered to drop the Wolf Creek Church from this Association.

(17) On motion a committee was appointed to visit the Sidney Church and find out why they have not lettered up with the Association. Committee: Elders Hi Maynard, A. J. Case, James Jude, Wallace Jackson and Jonah Bevins.

(18) Resolved that we have the articles of faith, rules of decorum and the constitu-

tion printed in our minutes.

(19) On motion, it was ordered to have 1000 copies of the minutes printed and that the clerk supervise the printing and distribution of the same.

(20) On motion it was ordered that the names of the following ordained ministers be stricken from the records of the Association: Simeon Johnson, Charlie Jude, Joe Cline, Wayne Cline and Andy Runyon.

(21) Resolved that our next Association be held with the Dix Fork Church, Crigger, Pike County, Kentucky, beginning on Friday before the Second Saturday in September, 1930, and that Elder Jonah Bevins preach the introductory sermon and that Elder Hi Maynard be his alternate.

(22) Resolved that we thank the brethren and sisters of the Narrows Branch Church and the friends in this community for the kindness and hospitality shown us during this Association.

(23) 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 ORDER OF
THE ASSOCIATION.**

ESTER HOPKINS..Moderator.

R. A. DAMRON Clerk.

SUNDAY MORNING

September 15th., 1929

The brethren of the Narrows Branch Church built the stand on the hill behind the school house, and the brethren appointed to preach on Sunday, met a large and well ordered congregation, and proceeded in accordance with arrangements.

(1) Introduction and prayer by Elder Leonard Oxley.

(2) Elder H. M. Mullins came to the stand

and preached from the scriptures found in the first chapter and the eighteenth verse of Revelation---"I am He that liveth and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of Hell and of death." Also the fifteenth chapter and the nineteenth verse of first Corinthians---"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." Also the fourteenth chapter and the seventh verse of Job's writing,---"For there is hope of a tree if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease."

(3) Elder Finess Adkins came to the stand next and preached from E.ekiel the thirty-seventh chapter and the third verse---"And he said unto me, son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God thou knowest".

(4) Elder Ira Mullins came to the stand and preached from the fifth chapter and the twenty-fourth and twenty-eighth verses of St. John; the twenty-fourth verse---"Verily, Verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but it passed from death unto life." The twenty-eighth verse---"Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice."

The Association closed by singing songs of Zion and praising Him who is our head and King, and who so many times in the past, wrought his blessings upon his believing children.

R. A. DAMRON Clerk.

O. B. M. Lowe, Elizabeth Lowe, and Tandy B. Lowe

O. B. M. Lowe was born September 24,

1839, was married to Elizabeth Runyon September 2, 1855. To this union was born eleven children. Elizabeth Lowe was born July 1, 1841. O. B. M. Lowe deceased this life November 25, 1911, leaving a widow and eight children. four boys, Orison Jr., Mont, Hayse and Tandy, four girls, Jane Harris, Sarah Ann Slater, Octavia Williamson, and Vivia Stepp. In the year of our Lord, Feb. 1, 1928, God called this faithful mother to join her husband in death, in which seven of the children were living still to mourn the loss of both father and mother. On February, 1918, God called from this union Tandy B. Lowe, who was born in this family April 7, 1884, and he sleeps with them in death. Also Raymond Lowe, son of Tandy B. and Ettie Lowe, which son was born to that union May 6, 1916, deceased September 17, 1916, about two years before his father, and we, his children, grand children, and great grand children come today in commemoration and in thanks to God for their lives, and through them and by God we live and have our being. The father and mother joined Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ several years before death in the year 1893. O. B. M. Lowe was a delegate to the Brushy Fork Church when that church with other churches met and organized the Sardis Association. Some time after that he and his wife were charter members that compose the organization of the Mary Elizabeth church, in whose honor the church was partly named. To which church they remained faithful members until death. Now to the children who are left. Will you not take up the Cross with Christ and his Church and fight for the faith once delivered to the Saints, which faith will unite the family circle where it will never again

be broken and Christ will be the Life and Light of that family.

Written by your humble servant, Jonah Bevins.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experiences we, the Church 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 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.

Article 2. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed by their number in full membership, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead since the last Association.

Article 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 upon any of the internal rights of any church in the Union.

Article 4. The Association when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

Article 5. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall

be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Article 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.

Article 7. Every church in the Union shall be entitled to a representative in the Association.

Article 8. Every query presented by any church to the Association, being first debated in their own church, shall be taken up by the Association.

Article 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.

Article 10. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the Association.

Article 11. The churches shall send money by the delegates of each church to pay for printing the minutes of the Association.

Article 12. There shall be a record book kept wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by the Secretary for that purpose.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 15. All matters coming before the Association shall be decided by the will of the majority.

Article 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 difficulties.
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 violate the rules of this Association or deviate from the principles of the orthodox 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 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.

Article 2. We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who is Head and King of His Church.

Article 3. We believe in the Holy Ghost,

the sealer and applier of the redemption purchased by Christ.

Article 4. We believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost and these three are one.

Article 5. We believe in 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.

Article 6. We believe in the free atonement of Jesus Christ; that He tasted death for every man, that salvation is to all men and women on the terms of the Gospel.

Article 7. We believe that repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus are necessary previous to baptism, and that immersion is the only way of administering the ordinance.

Article 8. We believe that Christ has but one true Gospel Church and that it will finally persevere through grace to glory.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 11. We believe that Jesus Christ is the first resurrection from the dead, and that He lives for ever.

Article 12. We believe in the resurrection of the just and the unjust.

Article 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.

Article 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Article 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.

Article 4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech, except by Moderator, until 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 as nearly as he can so as to convey his light or idea.

Article 5. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without the liberty obtained from the Association.

Article 6. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained from it.

Article 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.

Article 8. No member of the Association shall address another by any other title or appellation than that of brother.

Article 9. The moderator shall not interrupt a member until he gives his own idea upon the subject, except he breaks the rules of decorum.

Article 10. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the Association requires.

Article 11. The Moderator shall have the same privilege of speech as any other member, providing the chaid be filled, but shall

have no vote unless the Association shall be equally divided.

Article 12. Any member who shall wilfully and knowingly break any of the rules shall be reproved by the Association as they think proper.

Article 13. But three members shall take a seat in the Association from each church.

Article 14. No person shall speak more than five minutes at the same time without liberty obtained from the Association.

Article 15. These rules of decorum shall be read by the clerk at the commencement of every Association.

Names and addresses of ordained ministers:

Jonah Bevins, Goody, Kentucky.
Ransom Smith, Hardy, Kentucky.
E. F. Fields, McClure, Kentucky
F. M. Preece, Holden West Va.
A. J. Maynard, Williamson, West Va
A. A. Sheppard, Holden West Va.
Ester Hopkins, Williamson W. Va.
Hose Bolling, Piso, Kentucky.
J. E. Taylor, Jarad, Kentucky.
J. H. Brown, Crigger, Kentucky.
W. Blackburn, Varney, Kentucky.
F. A. Canterbury, Canterbury,
W. Va.
James Jude, Laura Kentucky.
J. S. Muncey, Sprigg, West Va.
Wallace Jackson, Couder Ky.
Hi Maynard, Williamson, West Va.
H. C. Ethers, Thacker, West Va.
Ernest Runyon, Canada, Ky.
M. L. Varney, Varney, Kentucky.
Heenan Maynard, Jarad, Kentucky.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	DELEGATES	Rec by	Ex-Bap.	Restored	Rec by	Letter	Rec by	Appli'n	Dis by	Letter	Excluded	Total	Meeting	Church	contribution	Deceased
		2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	2			0
Mt. Pleasant	J. M. Hensley, A. Smith, F. H. Varney	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	2			0
Big Creek	J. E. Taylor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	3			2
Apple Orchard	E. Runyon, S. Maynard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	1			0
Mary Elizabeth	M. Romans, W. Jackson, R. Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	3			1
Salem	R. A. Damron, H. Bevins, J. Blackburn	15	1	7	0	1	3	48	1	13.08	2					
Bent Branch	W. Lowe, B. Curry, R. Bevins	3	0	0	0	0	0	29	3	7.66	2					
Dix Fork	M. Stanley, J. G. Thornbury, R. J. Crigger	3	0	2	0	1	0	26	1		1					1
Narrows Branch	L. Smith, J. Scott, R. L. Murphey	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	4		1					1
Pilgrim Home	A. J. Case, P. Francisco, A. Stanley	2	0	0	0	2	0	88	4	11.26	0					0
Rebecca	Amos Evans, W. M. Mullins	3	3	0	0	0	3	46	2		1					1
Lenah	Sam Robinson, Tom McCoy	2	0	0	0	0	0	19	2		0					0
Sidney	No letter or delegate															
Total		32	4	10	0	4	6	391		68.16	10					