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Baptists. Maine. Bowdoinham Association, 1802.

Minutes . . . in Bowdoin, August . . . 1802.

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MINUTES

OF THE

BOWDOINHAM ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

Baptist Meeting-House

IN

BOWDOIN,

August 25th and 26th,

1802.



PORTLAND:

PRINTED BY DANIEL GEORGE.

[1802]

MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25.

A SERMON at 10 o'clock, A. M. by Elder Levi Chadbourn, from ad Cor. 5th chap. 20th verse.

1. At 2 o'clock, P. M. Elder Eliza Williams preached the Introductory Sermon from Isaiah 40th chap. 3d, 4th, 5th verses

2. Chose Elder Thomas Green, Moderator, and Brother Eliza Williams, Clerk.

3. Read letters from the several Churches, and took the following account of the Members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the last year; also the present number in each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained Ministers are in small capitals; licensed Preachers in *Itali*; those members with this mark * were not present; vacant Churches distinguished by a dash.

Churches.	Ministers & Messengers.	Added.	Dismissed.	Exclu. *	Died.	Total.
Bowdoinham.	JOB MACOMBER, James Baker, Alvin Dinick.	1				23
Harpwell.	SAMUEL WOODWARD, Samuel Marviner, Reuben Higgins.	3	3	1		46
Thomaston.	ELIZA SNOW.	2		1	2	87
Bowdoin.	JAMES POTTER, Ebenezer Temple, Samuel Smith.	3	1		1	104
Vassalborough.	Coker Marble, David Webb.	26	4			46
Ballston.	JOSEPH BAILEY, John Ring, Abraham Choat, Isaac Hilton.	10	1	2	1	46
Sydney.	ASA WILBUR.	1		2		51
Litchfield.	WILLIAM TINGON, John Brown, John Perry.		1	3	2	107
Hebron.	JOHN TRIPP, William Barrows, Holmes Thomas, James Dunham, Daniel Bartlett.	5	3			43
Buckfield.	NATHANIEL CHACE, William Berry, Job Packard, Jonas Cobourn.	15	1		1	48
Paris.	JAMES HOPPER, William Parsons, Benjamin Hammond.	2	3		2	41
Lewiston.	BENJAMIN COLE, Josiah Mitchell, Abner Harris, James Jocelyn.	6				57

Churches.

Ministers & Messengers.

Churches.	Ministers & Messengers.	Adm.	Dis.	Exch.	Did.	Total.
Readfield.	ISAAC CASE, William Briggs, Thomas Allen, Joseph Rice, Lemuel Capen.	1	1	1	1	53
Payette.	OLIVER WILLINGS, ELIPHALET MITCHELL, William Hall, J. French Richards.	6	1			66
Miscoungus Island.	Ephraim Carter.	1		1		26
Cushing.	EPHRAIM HALL.	6		2	1	69
Nobleborough.	Burhabas Chandler.	1			1	16
Livermore.	SYLVANUS B. ARDMAN, Randolph Norton, Peter E. Ellis.	29	2	6		86
Green.	John Moor, John Daggett, Amos Reed, John Larrabee.			3		87
Wayne.	Isaac Dexter, Joseph Fairbanks, John H. Billington.	2	1	2		23
Lisbon.	LESLIE D. LEMPLE, Joseph Kileore, Thomas Ham, Samuel Tibbets.		1	3		48
Berrettstown.						23
New Gloucester.	* ROBERT LOW, John Warren, John W. Gilman, Stephen W. Shuburn.					34
Clinton.	MERRIS HETHCAIN, Henry Burrall, David Lancaster, Joseph Mills.					61
North-Yarmouth.	THOMAS GREEN, Samuel York, Nathan Weston.					23
Harlem.	J. B. CHADWICK, Thomas Ward.	2				26
New Vineyard.	Rowland Luce.	6	1		1	16
Farmington.	James Lunt, Joseph Fairbanks.	3		1		10
2d Litchfield.	John Neal, James Pearce, Jacob Goodwin, Daniel Cunningham.	1		4		82
Walton.	Phillip Jenkins, James Larrabee, John Ross.			5	1	48
Jay.	Peter Austin, Thomas Macomber.	2	2			34
Mount Vernon.	Joba Prescott, Ezekiel Carril, Levi Jewell.	8		1		52

Churches. Ministers & Messengers.

		Added.	Dismiss.	Exile.	Lied.	Total.
Brunswick.	ELIHA WILLIAMS, Samuel Dunlap, Abner Melcher.	5				33
Leeds.	THOMAS FRANCIS, Gideon Lane, Daniel Lathrop, Isaac Freeman.	1				18
Woolwich.	Samuel Stinton, James H. W. born.					15
Medumcook, Warren.	Simon Fuller	10		3		33 43
Portland,	*BENJAMIN TITCOMB, Moses Cross.	6			1	19
Freetown,	JABEZ LEWIS, Stephen Dexter.					17
2d. Buckfield,	George Ricker.					18
Mount Ephraim,	John Hains.					11

Total.

162 | 24 | 41 | 16 | 754

N. B. From the Churches at Barretts-town and Medumcook, no messenger or letter, numbers the same as last year.

The three last mentioned Churches were received into union the present session.

The Church called Lisbon was called Thompsonborough in our last

Received letter and minutes from the Warren association by their messenger Elder Rathbun—from New-Hampshire association, letter and minutes by their messengers, Elders, Otis Robinson and Levi Chadbourn.

4 Read and adopted the circular letter prepared by Elder Francis.

5 Voted that Elder John Tripp write the corresponding letter to sister associations.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning, 9 o'clock.—Sermons in the evening in different parts of the town.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26.

Met according to adjournment—Prayer by the Moderator.

6 Voted that Elder Chadwick write the circular letter for the next year, and Elder Williams the corresponding letter.

The Committee appointed the last year to visit the Church in Harlem, reported as follows, viz. "We give it as our opinion, the Church had the glory of God in view, in dealing with the brother that had transgressed the rules of the gospel, and the Church proceeded with him according to the gospel rule, and that there appears to be good order and discipline in the Church."

7. Read and adopted the corresponding letter prepared by Elder Tripp.

8. Voted, that Elder Tripp be our messenger to the Warren association, Elders Williams and Smith to the New-Hampshire.

9 Voted, that brother Abner Harris be Treasurer to the association.

10. Voted, that Elder Williams superintend printing the minutes.

11. Voted, that the Committee and Treasurer for the Missionary business that were chosen last year, be continued.

12. Voted, that our association which heretofore have had their annual meeting on the 4th Wednesday in August, be held in future on the 4th Wednesday in September.

13. Voted, that Elder Case be our messenger to the Warren association the next year.

A contribution for the support of a Gospel Mission from a number of our Churches in the association, and some individuals, was received, amounting to thirty eight dollars and forty one cents.

It being thought beneficial to our Churches and individual members, Voted to print in our minutes a summary of our articles of Faith and Church Covenant, which are as follow :

We believe that the scriptures of the old and new Testaments are the word of God : We believe there is but one living and true God : We believe the important doctrines of three equal persons in the Godhead ; eternal and personal election ; original sin ; particular redemption ; free justification by the imputed righteousness of Christ ; efficacious grace in regeneration ; the final perseverance of real believers ; the resurrection of the dead ; the future judgment ; the eternal happiness of the righteous ; and everlasting misery of the finally impenitent. We also believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Christ, to be continued until his second coming, and the former is requisite to the latter (that is to say) that those are to be admitted into the communion of the Church and so partake of its ordinances, who upon profession of their faith, have been baptized by immersion, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Covenant.

WE do now, in the presence of the all seeing and most gracious God, and before angels and men, give up ourselves to the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and avouch him this day, to be our Father, Saviour, Leader, and Teacher, and receive him as our only portion forever. Also we receive Jesus Christ as the supreme head of the Church ; and Mediator of the New Covenant ; and our Prophet, Priest and King to govern and teach us in the way to, and appear as our advocate with the Father for our admittance. We acknowledge it is our indispensable duty to glorify our Covenant God, by living holy lives in this present world, in all our several places and relations.— And we engage by divine assistance to improve our time, strength, talents, and advantages for the glory of God and the good of our fellow men. Promising that by divine help, we will walk in our houses in the fear of God ; training up those committed to our charge in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We also give up ourselves to one another, covenanting and promising to act towards each other as Brethren in Christ, Watching not only against those that are called more gross evils, but also against all foolish talking and jesting which is not convenient ; also disputing about words and things that lead to strife, or disregarding promises and not fulfilling engagements, tattling and backbiting, spending time idly at taverns or elsewhere, and all vain and unsuitable conversation on the Lord's days ; or whatsoever is contrary to the word of God. Promising to hold communion together in the worship of God, ordinances of Christ, and disciplining of his Church, according as we are or shall be guided hereto by the word and spirit of God ; Believing that he will further and more gloriously open his word and the mysteries of his kingdom. Meanwhile relying to the blood of the everlasting covenant for the pardon of our many errors, and praying that the Almighty would prepare and strength-

en us for every good work ; working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



The following supplies were agreed on, viz.

Wayne.	{	Elder Billings 4th Lord's day in October.
		Elder Macomber, 4th in December.
		Elder Case, 4th in Feb. & 4th in June.
		Elder Smith, 4th in April.
		Elder Francis, 4th in July.
New Vineyard.	{	Elder Smith, 2d in January.
		Elder Chadwick, 2d in March.
		Elder Bailey, 2d in May.
		Elder Boardman, 2d in August.
		Elder Boardman, 4th in October.
Farmington.	{	Elder Chace, 2d in January.
		Elder Billings, 2d in February.
		Elder Smith, 2d in May.
2d Litchfield.	{	Elder Smith, 4th in September.
		Elder Case, 4th in December.
		Elder Stinson, 4th in June.
Wales:	{	Elder Cole, 4th in Sept. & 4th in Nov.
		Elder Stinson, 4th in Jan. & 4th in March.
		Elder Stinson, 3d in October.
Woolwich.	{	Elder Bailey, 3d in January.
		Elder Case, 3d in May.
		Elder Woodward, 3d in July.

14th. Voted to hold our association the next year at the Baptist meeting house in Vassalborough, the 4th Wednesday in September, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Council convened at the request of the Church in Lisbon, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, attended to the ordination of brother Ichabod Temple:



Circular Letter.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

SINCE It has pleased our heavenly father to indulge us with another annual meeting, we feel ourselves constrained by love to address you in another annual epistle, in which we consider you as persons called with an high and holy calling—spiritual pilgrims, seeking a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. We also consider you as experiencing these difficulties which are the common lot of all who run the christian race ; and through infirmity, ready to say with those who have gone before you, the Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me, Isaiah 49. 14. by reason of which you are ready to halt, and much sorrow attends you in your journey, Psalm 38. 17. We therefore, as helpers of your joy, entreat you for a moment to sit down under the shade of the mystical apple tree. Solomon's Song. 2. 3. and may God refresh your souls with its delicious fruit, while we endeavor to point out the certainty of your arrival within the gates of the new Jerusalem.

To what shall we ascribe the certainty of this happy event? Not to your natural birth for you are of the earth earthy, and children of wrath as others, by nature. Neither was it your natural choice to pursue the way that leads thereto—for ye were as sheep going astray. Although divine grace has caused you to return, and sweetly constrained you to pursue the narrow way, yet according to scripture and experience so great and numerous are the difficulties and dangers which you have to encounter with on the road, that your arrival within the pearly gates could not be obtained if it depended upon your wisdom, righteousness or strength.—Yes, brethren, on these conditions, your mortal souls must tire and faint, and though you could not go back so neither with certainty could you go forward. Would you know fellow travellers the certainty of your perseverance, see it secured to you in the eternal unalterable purposes of sovereign grace. God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth. 2 Thes. 2. 13. And hath also blessed you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, before the foundation of the world. Eph. 1. 3. 4.

You consider yourselves, perhaps, as justly you may, undeserving any favor at the hands of God, and by reason of sin, justly deserving his wrath and curse. But you do well to remember, that your title to the heavenly kingdom is the free gift of God, flowing to you through the person and work of Immanuel—who has assumed your nature, and was made sin for you; by whose righteousness you have now received the atonement, even a pardon most free, full and irreversible, and all your title to all the privileges and blessings of the new Jerusalem. Hith God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he hath loved you, even when you were dead in sins, not spared his only begotten son, but delivered him a ransom for you, and also caused you to hear his voice which hath inclined you to pursue the narrow way, and will he not bestow every blessing upon you in your journey?—Yes, beloveds, that you may have strong consolation, that you may not run in uncertainties, your perseverance is secured by the oath and promise of a faithful and unchanging God. Your Redeemer and forerunner ever lives to make intercession for you, and the Comforter—the spirit of truth shall be a light unto your feet. The angels, those ministering spirits hover round your paths, and all the redeemed millions are concerned for your good. May you not then with propriety say, more are they that are for us, than all they that are against us. Yea, may you not adopt the language of the apostle and say, if God be for us, who can be against us? Gird up therefore the loins of your mind, be sober and hope to the end, for the glory that awaits you—pursue your journey with delight, with patience and with confidence. Be careful to encourage the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees of your fellow travellers.—Communicate to the poor of the flock of your worldly substance, as the fruits of gratitude to your adorable benefactor. Be careful to look unto Jesus your forerunner for counsel and strength.—Watch and pray against the insurrections of indwelling sin—the solicitations of worldly pleasure and the assaults of Satan. Repel spiritual sloth, pride and carnal security. Think how necessary is watchfulness and circumspection, lest falling into sin you dishonor God, wound your souls, impair your spiritual strength, grieve and discourage your fellow-travellers, and cause your enemies to triumph.

Again, remember for your comfort, that the day of your redemption draweth nigh. Consider yourselves as on the confines of the heavenly Canaan.—A few more rolling suns and death shall release your spirits from their prisons of clay—guardian angels shall convey them to the blissful abode of your God and Saviour. Nor have you cause of sorrow at death as those who have no hope. Your dead bodies shall be raised again by almighty power, and fashioned like the glorious body of Christ. A union indissoluble shall commence—then shall your soul and body shine forever, like the sun in the kingdom of your heavenly Father, forever expanding and filling in the unfathomable ocean of divine love.

*These lively hopes we owe
To God's eternal love;
We would adore his grace below,
And sing his praise above.*

May God bless the Churches which we represent, and Zion universally for Christ's sake. Amen.

THOMAS GREEN, *Moderator.*
ELISHA WILLIAMS, *Clerk.*