

48048

Baptists. Connecticut. Danbury Association, 1797.

Minutes ... at Wallingford ... October ... M, DCC, XCVII.

Hartford, Babcock, 1797. 7, [1] pp.

AAS ph. copy.

M I N U T E S
OF THE
DANBURY
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HOLDEN AT

W A L L I N G F O R D,

OCTOBER 4th and 5th,

M, DCC, XCVII.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR
CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING
LETTERS.

HARTFORD,

PRINTED BY ELISHA BABCOCK.

1797.



MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4th.

1. THE Association met according to appointment at Wallingford; Introductory Sermon delivered by Brother Reynolds, from John, iii 4. "Whoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law."

2. Proceeded to business; Brother John Hastings was chosen Moderator, and Brother Hezekiah West, Clerk.

3. Letters from the several Churches in our connexion, were presented, read, and the following list taken.

N. B. In the list, Ministers Names in Capitals; licenced Preachers in Italics; those to whose names an * is affixed were not present; dashes denote no settled Minister; from Churches marked † we received no letters.

Churches.

Messengers.

Suffield,

{ JOHN HASTINGS,
Daniel Bester,
Judah Phelps,
Josiah Remington,

Westfield,

†:st. Danbury,

sd. Danbury,

{ Daniel Wildman,
Bennet Pepper,

Canaan,

st. Wallingford,

{ Deacon Jeduthan Higby,
Isaac Hall,
Ephraim Hough,
Joel Ives,

sd. Wallingford,

{ Deacon Jesse Dickerman,

Farmington,

{ Deacon Ebenezer Hawley,
Chauncey Merriman,
Edward Parker,

Added.	Dismissed.	Present.	Not Present.
2	1		
1			
23			

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Disin.	Discom.	Died.	No.		
Richfield,	Jonathan Woodworth, John Todd, STEPHEN ROYCE,	1				23		
Stratfield,	Nathan Balkley, Amos Meriman, STEPHEN SHEPARD,	1	1	3	3	110		
Ferrington, X					1	49		
Lexbury,	Deacon David Mallery, Isaac Fuller,					26		
Warren,	Deacon Asahel Wiege, ELIJAH WOOD,* DANIEL WILDMAN,	2	1			31		
Wana-Town,						27		
Wolcott,	Amos Brackett, Elisha Peck, Aden Todd, EPAPH'S. THOMSON,	8				39		
New-Hartford, & West-Briton.	Deacon Zech'h. Watson, Deacon Hezekiah West, Ichabod Stark,	1		1		73		
New-Milford,						35		
Iron,	Asahel Hall, John Barlow, Nathaniel Johnson,		1	1		24		
Symbury,						7		
Lebrook,	RUFUS BABCOCK, Deacon Thomas Miner, BENJ'N. BALDWIN,	2	5			33		
Sandersfield,	Deacon Oliver Judd, Juddimer Hubbard, SETH HIGBY,	28				82		
Paulingstown,		6			1	53		
New-Hartford,	Isaac Bellows, Benjamin Cafe, Oliver Pierce, JOHN SHERMAN,*		4		1	33		
Wintown,	William Churchel, Deacon Elijah Sherman, Timothy Badcock, Joseph Allis,	5		1		26		
Paulingston,				1	1	50		
Wintown,	Daniel Kelley, Joseph Coe,					27		
5 Churches.								
The last Church was closed the present Session.		Total,		8	19	6	11	1162

4. Received a letter and minutes from the Shaftsbury Association, by Brother Gray. Received a letter and minutes from the Stonington Association, by Brother Arnold. Received a letter, but no minutes, from the New-York Association. Received a letter and minutes from the Otsego Association, by Brother Holmer.

5. Voted that a *Committee* consisting of Brethren, *Seth Higby, Stephen Royce* and *Calvin Hulbart*, be appointed to examine the Circular and Corresponding Letters.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 8 o'clock, A. M.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5th.

Met according to adjournment.

Meeting opened by Prayer, by Brother *Bacon*.

6. Took the matter into consideration, with regard to the Messengers of this Association communing in the Lord's Supper, when met together; and after discussing the matter, voted not to go forward in the same.

7. Brother *Baldwin's* Circular letter, and Brother *Wildman's* Corresponding letter was read and approved.

8. Appointed Brethren *Babcock, Baldwin* and *Woodworth* to the Shaftsbury; Brethren *Shepard, Case* and *Bellows* to the Stonington; Brethren *Higby, Royce* and *Babcock* to the New-York; Brethren *Bulkley* and *Hall*, as Messengers, to the Otsego Associations.

9. Appointed Brother *Thomson* to superintend printing the minutes.

10. Appointed Brother *Kelley* to prepare the Circular letter, and Brother *West* the Corresponding letter for the ensuing year.

11. Voted that the Association be holden the next year, on the 1st Wednesday in October, at one o'clock P.M. with the Baptist Church of New-Hartford and West-Briton, at the Presbyterian Meeting-House in said West-Briton.

12. Voted that Brother *Wood* preach the introductory Sermon,—in case of failure, Brother *Babcock*.

13. Voted that Brethren *Higby* and *Royce* be a Committee to return thanks to the *Minister* and *People* of this *parish*, for their kindness in favoring us with their Meeting-House.

SUPPLIES for DESTITUTE CHURCHES.

sd. Danbury,	{	Brother <i>Royce</i> , 1st:	Lord's Day	in January.
		Brother <i>Bulkley</i> , 2d.	do.	in November.
		Brother <i>Babcock</i> , 3d.	do.	in December.
		Brother <i>Bellows</i> , 2d.	do.	in February.
		Brother <i>Bulkley</i> , 2d.	do.	in March.
Litchfield,	{	Brother <i>Hall</i> , 2d.	do.	in May.
		Brother <i>Baldwin</i> , last	do.	in June.
		Brother <i>Thomson</i> , 2d.	do.	in July.
		Brother <i>Shepard</i> , 2d.	do.	in September.

Torrington,	{	Brother Babcock, 3d.	Lord's Day	in March.
		Brother Bellows, 2d.	do.	in January.
		Brother Thomson, 2d.	do.	in April.
		Brother Gray,	do.	before the Association.
Sharon, Roxbury,	{	Brother Hastings, 3d.	do.	in June.
		Brother Thomson, 2d.	do.	in May.
Symsbury,	{	Brother Shepard, 1st.	do.	in February.
		Brother Shepard, 1st.	do.	in December.
		Brother Thomson, 2d.	do.	in November.
		Brother Hastings, 3d.	do.	in May.
East-Hartford,	{	Brother Babcock, 3d.	do.	in June.
		Brother Shepard, 2d.	do.	in January.
		Brother Hastings, 2d.	do.	in December.
	{	Brother Thomson, 2d.	do.	in February.

Concluding Sermon delivered by Brother Austin, from Daniel ii. 35. "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors, and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DE BRETHREN,

THE happy period is now arrived, that we are indulged to meet in general Association at the time, and place appointed: we rejoice to hear from the Churches in Fellowship, from various parts of the land, by their delegates and messenger; and while we enjoy the inestimable blessings of publick, and social fellowship, permit us to remind you of some of the important duties incumbent on us at home.

Family government, is an injunction of Heaven, which Heads of Families, professing Godliness of every denomination, are called to be in the practice of; without which, no one should be thought fit to be in Office in the Church of Christ, says Paul to Timothy. And dear Brethren, in order to perform this important duty aright, how necessary is it, for Parents, and Masters, at all times, to govern themselves; for what government can Parents, and Masters have over their Households, unless they have a suitable government over themselves. The wise Man saith, he that hath no rule over his own spirit, is like a City broken down, and without walls. Therefore governors of families, ought at all times to search what manner of spirit they are of, when in this important Duty.

Suitable correction for Children, when young, is commendable in the sight of God; while they are like the young branches, that will easily bend: for the want of which many parents are fill'd with sorrow in their old age, and their children then like sturd-oaks, are ungovernable. Solomon saith; he that spareth the rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. Moreover we have had Fathers of our ties, and they corrected us according to their pleasure.

When children are grown to riper years, they are still under the government of parents; they can inflict punishments upon them, or bestow blessings.

Children feel themselves in the hands of parents, that are daily providing for the support of their bodies. And God says concerning Abraham; I know Abraham that he will command his children and his household after him. And it appears that the curse fell on Eli, and his household, because he did not restrain his children from wickedness when grown to years of understanding: train up a child (saith Solomon) in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Many are the pleasures in the world for the recreation of youth, and for civil mirth, so call'd, but is going to the house of mirth, the way in which our children should walk? Brethren let us not do evil that good may come. Is it not therefore the duty of all parents and masters, especially those professing Godliness, that they restrain their children, and those under their government, from running with the multitude to do evil. How must it strengthen the hearts of the wicked to have parents, or masters, professing Godliness, to tolerate in the least degree, those under their government, to spend the morning of their days and flower of their lives, in chanting after the sound of the viol, and giving their days to the waste and their years to the cruel. Dear Brethren does not the God of Heaven, and Earth require of us to use that government, that he has intrusted us with, to restrain those under our care from wickedness? And how can parents and masters answer it to that great Judge of quick and dead, to live in the neglect of this important duty? What parents, or masters, if they thought they were soon going out of time; or that their children would be taken from them in a few hours, could bear the thought, that they should go to the house of mirth, and they never see them more, until they should meet them in the eternal world?

How would Godly parents feel themselves under the greatest obligations, then to restrain their child; what exhortations would then be given: what tears would they shed? the feeling of the parents hearts would then be towards their child. I cannot say you go. And what parents know how soon they may be taken from their children, and their children from them. Therefore, God requires us to live as dying mortals, and do the duty of the day, in the day, and to train up our children in the fear, nurture, and admonition of the Lord; and to rule well our own households, having our children in good subjection.

Let us therefore consider, that God is glorified in our obedience to truth, and that much of the good we can do to mankind in our day and generation depends greatly on this important duty. The government of Church, and State much depend on family government, and if this important duty was more closely attended to, it might no doubt render the government of both more easy.

The accomplishments of men for publick services much depend on the conduct of domestic life. Many things which are absolutely necessary, for the two essential offices in the Church of Christ, have been exhibited by the Apostle Paul, and the usefulness of those officers must therefore depend on maintaining such characters, as are essential to their trust.

Let us therefore, Dear Brethren, maintain this government in our families and, religiously at home; bringing up our children in the nurture, and admonition of the Lord; and by so doing we may not only be the means of doing good to our families; but also to the Church of Christ and society in general after we are dead and gone.

Since the peace of families, the good order of households, and the government of Church and State, depend on this important duty, be exhorted Brethren, to look to the throne of Almighty Grace, for divine assistance therein; that God would add his blessing to our endeavours, to live agreeable to his word of truth, and that God would bestow his grace on our children, and households; and what way so likely to obtain the blessings of Heaven, and to have our houses like the house of Obadedom, as to live in obedience to all the requirements of the Supreme Sovereign of the universe.

And Dear Brethren, what peace will this produce in our households, if God shall please bestow his grace on our children; what peace and harmony in such families: here shall be true devotion, Godly sorrow, Heavenly joy. However poor, as to this worlds goods, such families would be infinitely rich, and blessed in God. In living thus, all the mercies of Heaven are enjoyed, both spiritual, and temporal, and we joyfully unite in the sweet employment of thanksgiving and praise to our Divine benefactor.

In this way Brethren, we may have peace of conscience when death shall come into our families, and we parents, shall be taken from our children, or they from us, that we have lived before them in all good conscience, so that our children, and households may look knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus.

Let consider Brethren, what reflections is likely to be in the minds of parents, and children, living in the neglect of this known duty: especially on a dying bed, when parents shall be call'd to wipe the cold sweat from the face of the dying child; that the child is now gone with their child, and they can give no instructions, no warnings, no reproofs. And on the other hand, when parents shall be call'd to lie on a dying bed, and their children round them, those that they are going to leave in a sinful world, and that they have left undone (as to their duty to their children) must forever remain undone.

Dear Brethren, the time is short, soon parents, and children must meet at the bar of an angry God: let us therefore be up and doing while the day lasts, the night of death, and the day of judgement is at hand, wherein no man can work.

Dear children, obey your parents in the Lord, and servants be obedient to your masters.

Dear Brethren be ready to every good word and work; teach the precepts of the Lord when thou liest down and when thou risest up, and when thou walkest by the way. And may God give you, that resolution of Joshua; that as for me, and my household, we will serve the Lord. No excuse can be sufficient for the neglect of duty. Let the Lord help us all to do our duty, both at home, and abroad; that whether we live unto the Lord; or whether we die we may die unto the Lord: that whether we live therefore or die, we may be the Lord's.

Signed in behalf of the Association,

JOHN HASTINGS, Moderator,
HEZEKIAH WEST, Clerk.

T H E
DANBURY ASSOCIATION,
TO THE
CORRESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS,
SENDETH, GREETING.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE are once more by the kind providence of our all merciful Creator, indulged with the opportunity of gladly welcoming the return of our anniversary interview.

Sensible of the many advantages resulting from a christian correspondence, we hope by all means that it may be still continued; as we are thereby favored with a more general view of the state of Zion, and may rejoice in the growing interest of the Redeemer.

We are happy to inform you that unity and peace, to a good degree still abound in our Churches. From some of them we are saluted with the joyful tidings that Christ has been lately riding in triumph among them upon the chariot of his word; favoring his people with a more than ordinary degree of divine influence; causing them to shake off their spirit of sloth, and vigorously to exert themselves for the promotion of religion. Sinners who have long had their eyes clos'd in the sleep of carnal security, have been numbers of them awaken'd, and with deep concern enquired what they should do to be saved, and many who but a little before were ringleaders in vice, are now become trophies of invincible Grace, and shining examples of piety. These things Brethren give us new grounds of encouragement, and ought to inspire us with greater zeal in the glorious cause of truth, and engage us earnestly to ply the Throne of Grace with our ceaseless petitions, that these manifestations of the divine mercy might be only the preludes of universal outpouring of the spirit upon our guilty land.

One of the glorious predictions concerning our exalted Redeemer is, that his reign shall continue, until he has become, completely victorious over all his enemies. That far he has continued in the exercise of his Kingly authority: carried on the wonderful work of our Redemption, built and supported his Church upon himself, the immovable Rock, in spite of all the united rage and malice of Earth and Hell; and we have the strongest assurances from the unerring word, that he will still go on and make more glorious displays of his almighty Power and Grace in the advancement of truth in the world until the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole Heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most high. This unspeakably glorious event, undoubtedly near at hand, and will soon receive its full accomplishment. Those kingdoms which have long supported mystical Babylon, begining to hate the Whore, shall make her desolate. The emancipation of millions from this vassalage to Tyranny, and Superstition. The consumption of Antichrist to a great degree by the increase of light and truth. The propagation and success of the Gospel at this day among the Heathen with many other remarkable providences which might be mentioned, all forebode a speedy, and joyful approach of this glorious day.

What then remains for us, Brethren, but to encourage ourselves in God, as Christians in our respective callings, let us hold the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience, keep our garments unspotted from the flesh. Armed with the invincible weapons of the Gospel, let us boldly defy, and vigorously resist, spiritual wickedness in high places, holding ourselves in a compleat readiness for all the divine dispensations which come as; and then, as heroes in the cause of truth, &c. shall joyfully triumph in the midst of all our sufferings, and afflictions; gain the victory over the world; contemplate with joy the gradual approaches of that auspicious day when the Redeemer's reign shall be universal: meet Death with fortitude; and finally receive the crown of Glory: which fadeth not away.

Signed in behalf of the Association,

JOHN HASTINGS, Moderator
HEZEKIAH WEST, Clerk.