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Baptists . Connecticut . Danbury Association, 1805.

Minutes ... at Huntington, October ... 1805.

n. p., [1805]. 8 pp.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Danbury Baptist Association,

HELD AT HUNTINGTON,

OCTOBER THE 2d & 3d, A. D. 1805.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTERS.

WEDNESDAY, October 2d.

1. **A**SSOCIATION met according to appointment. Introductory Sermon delivered by Elder Daniel Wildman, founded on John iii. 30. first clause, "*He must increase.*"—Intermission one hour. Sermon delivered by Elder Justus Hull, from 1st Peter, ii. 7—"Unto you, therefore, which believe, he is precious."

2. Proceeded to business. Elder Daniel Wildman, Moderator; and Elder Asahel Morse, Clerk.

3. Letters from the churches in our connection were presented and read, and the following list taken.

N. B.—In the list, Ministers' names are in capitals; Those to which an (*) is affixed, were not present; Dashes (—) denote no settled Ministers; From churches marked thus (+) we received no letters.

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss.	Excom.	Died.	No.
Suffield,	{ *JOHN HASTINGS, *JACOB WINCHEL, DANIEL WILDMAN, Daniel Bester,	69	5	1	1	197
1st Wallingford,	{ John Hall, NATHAN BULKLEY, Thaddeus Morehouse,	3	0	1	0	56
1st Danbury,	{ Joseph Hamilton, Benjamin Bears,	4	1	0	0	39
2d Wallingford,	{ Ward Johnson, Daniel Chatterton,	0	1	1	1	21
2d Danbury,	{ Bennet Pepper, Peter Ambler,	5	1	5	2	22

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	Adm't.	Dismit.	Excom.	Died.	No.
Southington & Farmington,	{	0	1	0	1	87
Litchfield,	{ Levi Moss, John Todd,	0	1	0	0	30
Stratfield,	{ ANAHIEL MORSE, Robert Wilton, David Silliman, Jesse Silliman,	0	0	1	3	138
Roxbury,	{ ISAAC FULLER, Abijah Fairchild, Andrew Erwin,	2	0	0	0	53
Wolcott & Bristol,	{ Eliada Blakeley, Oliver Tuttle,	5	3	0	1	102
Warren,	{ Timothy Parmelee, David Smith,	1	0	1	0	53
Colebrook,	{ RUFUS BAECOCK, John Stevens,	2	1	0	1	84
2d Sandisfield,	{ * BENJ. BALDWIN, Jaddimer Hubbard, Jarius Barker, Jonathan Smith, 2d.	0	4	0	1	169
2d Paulington, † East-Hartford, Simsbury,	{ * ALAS BRUMLEY,	0	0	0	0	47
		0	0	0	0	40
		0	0	0	0	13
Newtown,	{ JOHN SHERMAN, Elijah Sherman, Richard Bennett,	1	1	0	1	27
1st Paulington,	{ ANAN'S DERTHICK, Eli Dayton,	0	0	0	1	48
1st Middletown,	{ Enoch Green, James Hart,	0	1	2	1	53
Winchester, Hartford,	{ * ISAAC BELLOWS,	2	0	0	0	31
		2	2	1	1	69
New-Hartford,	{ Samuel Benham,	0	0	0	0	19
Granville, † Sharon & Cornwall,	{ * CHRIST' R MINER,	4	1	1	1	47
† Amenia-Town,	{ * ELIJAH WOOD,	0	0	0	0	24
North-Stamford,	{ Elijah Scofield,	0	0	0	0	22

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This last church received at this meeting of the Association.

4. Elders and Brethren from corresponding Associations, were desired to take a seat with us.

5. Adjourned till eight o'clock to-morrow morning. Worship in several places in the vicinity this evening.

6. *Thursday, October 3d.* Met according to appointment.— Meeting opened by prayer.

7. From the Shaftsbury Association received minutes and their messenger Elder Afa Spencer. From New-York Association minutes, by their messenger Elder Nathaniel Finch. From Stonington Association a copy of their minutes, presented by Brother Morse. From the Sturbridge Association minutes containing their letter.

8. The Corresponding and Circular Letters not being presented as was expected, the Association desired Brother Morse to bring forward a Circular and a Corresponding Letter—he having a manuscript by him containing remarks upon the sacred writings, some of them collected from some of the former minutes of a sister Association, with some similar observations; was read and accepted, and ordered to be printed with our minutes. The Corresponding Letter brought forward by Brother Morse, was read and accepted.

9. Heard the report of Brother Daniel Bester, respecting his not carrying forward our Petition, last spring, to the General Assembly; and voted unanimously that Brother Bester shall be our Agent, in connection with the Agent from the Stonington Association, to present our Petition to the general Assembly of the State of Connecticut at their session in May next.

10. Appointed the following Brethren Delegates to sister Associations. To the Osego, Brother Babcock. To the Shaftsbury, Brother Morse. To the New-York, Brethren Wildman and Morse. To the Stonington, Brethren Morse, Green & Blakelle.

11. Brethren Fountain and Sturdefont presented a request from the Warwick Association, to open a correspondence with us, which was cordially received, and Brother Bulkley appointed our Messenger to them.

12. Appointed Elder Wildman to prepare a Circular Letter, and Elder Sherman the Corresponding Letter, for the ensuing year.

13. Our next Association to be held with the 2d Church of Sandisfield, at the free meeting-house in Bethlehem, on the first Wednesday in October next, at 10 o'clock A. M. Elder Sherman to preach the introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, Elder Fuller.

14. Appointed Elder Morse to superintend the printing of our Minutes.

Supplies for the Church of North-Stamford.

Brother Bulkley, 2d Sunday in November.

Brother Pepper, 1st Sunday in December.

The business of the Association being finished, Elder Babcock preached to the people from Psalm 1. 5.

C I R C U L A R L E T T E R.

The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the DANBURY ASSOCIATION to the Churches they represent, send Christian salutation.

Beloved Brethren,

THAT the power and majesty of God is revealed in the works of creation ; that his wisdom is manifested in the dispensation of his providence, is evident to every observing intelligent ; but his boundless love and matchless grace are particularly revealed in that sacred book we call the Bible.

That Book we consider as the sacred depository of that truth which God hath revealed concerning himself, respecting his creatures and his dealings with them.

It being such a rich gift from heaven, it cannot be searched too closely, nor admired too much.

The various opinions which men have embraced concerning the Bible, flow not from any different aspects which they may suppose the scriptures exhibit ; but from the prejudices of depraved minds.

Were men divested of prejudice in favor of particular opinions, and would search the Bible candidly and impartially, they would be led to discover the same truths ; and were their hearts disposed, they would mutually embrace the same doctrine.

The principal reason why men harmonize no better in their belief of the doctrine of the Bible, is this, they first set up a standard in their own minds, and then ransack the sacred volume from Genesis to Jude in order to find props to support it ; as if, as the Jewish Rabbies have said, that the scriptures hath seventy-two faces.

But in order that our principles may be supported by the scripture, it is necessary that *they* should be drawn from the Bible ; and then our principles and the support for them will harmonize together.

To assist your minds more diligently to search the word of God and meditate thereon, the following observations are submitted for your consideration.

The antiquity of a part of the sacred writings, is an argument in favor of their divine authority.

The writings of Moses are several hundred years earlier than any profane writings now extant ; which proves that he did not collect them from any records, but wrote by inspiration of God. *The honesty of the penman affords an argument in favor of the truth of the Bible.* Moses, for instance, gives an account of his own sin and of the sins of his brother and sister ; and was plain in pointing out, and reproving his nation for their sins.

He declined the offer of being made great, and of having his family advanced. He prayed for his enemies, and strove to reclaim them. He boasted not of his learning, wisdom, and the honor he had enjoyed in Egypt ; all of which look as if he did not write to aggrandize himself, but to reveal the will of God and do good to mankind. The

