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Baptists. Connecticut. Danbury Association.  
Minutes ... October the 1st & 2d. A.D. 1806.  
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# MINUTES

OF THE

## Danbury Baptist Association,

HELD AT BETHLEHEM, (Mass.)

OCTOBER THE 1st & 2d A. D. 1806.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTERS.



WEDNESDAY, October 1st.

1. **A**SSOCIATION met according to appointment. Introductory Sermon delivered by Elder John Sherman, founded on 2d Cor. xiii. 5. *Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith: prove your ownelves; know ye not your ownelves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates.*

2. Proceeded to business. Elder Rufus Babcock, 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.	From.	Died.	No.
Suffield,	{ JOHN HASTINGS, JACOB WINCHEL, Dea. David Hastings, Daniel Bestor, Joseph Hastings, John Hastings, junr.	9	25	0	1	181
Merriden,	SAMUEL MILLER,	0	0	0	0	51
† 1st Danbury,	*NATHAN BULKLEY,	0	0	0	0	39
† 2d Wallingford,	—	0	0	0	0	21
† 2d Danbury,	—	0	0	0	0	22
Southington & Farmington,	{ Deacon Ebr. Hawley,	1	8	0	0	74

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Addd.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Transcom.</i>	<i>Discd.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Litchfield,	{ Dea. Levi Moss, John Todd,	0	0	0	0	30
Stratfield,	ASAHEL MORSE,	1	3	1	1	154
Roxbury,	{ ISAAC FULLER, Milo Garnsey,	31	1	2	0	82
Welcott & Bristol,	{ DANIEL WILDMAN, Oliver Tuttle,	2	0	0	0	83
Warren,	Ebenezer Strong,	0	0	0	1	52
Colebrook,	{ RUFUS BABCOCK, Dea. Eleazer Bidwell, Elisha Richards, Joshua Osborn,	25	0	0	0	109
2d Sandisfield,	{ BENJ. BALDWIN. ELKAH. RICHMOND, Jonathan Smith, sen. Dea. Oliver Judd,	6	4	1	1	159
2d Paulingston,	_____	0	2	0	0	39
† East-Hartford.	_____	0	0	0	0	40
Simsbury,	{ Deacon Elisha Case, Ezra Cleaveland,	1	0	0	0	14
Newtown,	{ JOHN SHERMAN, Elijah Sherman,	4	0	0	1	50
1st Paulingston,	ANAN'S DERTHICK,	1	0	1	2	46
1st Middletown.	ENOCH GREEN,	8	0	0	0	61
Winchester,	{ ISAAC BELLOWS, ASA TALMAGE, Jacob Hubbard, D. Deming, Nathaniel Smith,	63	1	0	2	91
† Hartford,	_____	0	0	0	0	69
New Hartford,	{ _____ Hezekiah West, Martin Merrill,	1	2	2	1	15
Granville,	{ CHRIST' MINER, Thomas Stedman,	26	0	0	3	77
Sharon & Cornwall,	{ _____ Luman How,	18	1	0	0	47
† Amenia-Town,	*ELIJAH WOOD,	0	0	0	0	24
North-Stamford,	_____	0	0	0	0	22
		197	47	7	12	1627

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

5. Appointed Elder A. Derthick, and Dea. Levi Moss, to visit the Church of Amenia-Town, and enquire into the cause of their not corresponding with us; and make return to our next Association.

6. Received Letters and Messengers from corresponding Associations. From Shaftsbury, Minutes and messenger, Elder Jesse Hartwell. From Stonington, Minutes: from Sturbridge, Minutes of the last year, and Messengers Samuel Abbot, and Silas Root: from the Otsego, Minutes.

Deacon Daniel Boardman, from the Saratoga Association, presented their Minutes, and requested to open a correspondence with us, which was cordially received; and the right hand of fellowship given to the Messenger by the Moderator.

7. The Circular and corresponding Letters brought forward by Elders Wildman and Sherman, was submitted to a Committee, consisting of the Authors, with Brethren Morse, Derthick, Bestor and Miller.

8. Adjourned till 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Brother Bellows.

9. *Thursday October 2d.* Association met according to appointment.—Meeting opened by prayer.

10. The Circular Letter brought forward by Elder Wildman, was read and accepted. Elder Sherman's corresponding letter was also read and accepted.

11. Heard the report of Brother Daniel Bestor, who stated the treatment our petition met with last Spring in the General Assembly at Hartford; and as we obtained no hearing, we still continue Brother Bestor our Agent and direct him to present our Petition to the General Court at Hartford, at their session in May next.

12. Appointed Brethren Morse, Baldwin and Talmadge, to the Shaftsbury Association. Brethren Morse and Green, to the Stonington. Brother Morse to the New-York. Brother Hartwell to the Otsego. Brethren Derthick and Simonds to the Warwick. Brethren Baldwin and Babcock to the Saratoga. Brethren Daniel Bestor and John Hastings, jun. to the Sturbridge.

13. Appointed Brother Samuel Miller to write the Circular, and Brother Green, the Corresponding Letter, for the next year.

14. Our next Association to be holden with the 1st Church of Suffield, on the first Wednesday of October next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Elder Morse to preach the introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, Elder Miller.

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

16. Agreed to recommend to the Churches to contribute at the next session of the Association, to support a Missionary. Sermon by Elder Samuel Abbot, from the Warren Association, from Psalm cxxxiii. 1. Concluding Sermon by Elder John Hastings.  
 RUFUS BABCOCK, *Moderator.*  
 ASAHEL MORSE, *Clerk.*

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**CIRCULAR LETTER.**

*The DANBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, holden at Bethlehem, October 1st and 2d, 1806, to the Churches they represent, send christian salutation.*

*BELOVED BROTHERS,*

**B**EING by the kind providence of God indulged with another anniversary interview, according to appointment, we are happy to inform you that tidings of the general peace of our Churches, and the special visits of ~~the~~ grace, and in-gatherings which some of them have enjoyed, were very refreshing to us. The benign influence of the holy spirit has also in a good measure, we trust, attended our public religious services while together. For further particulars we refer you to our Minutes.

In testimony of our high regard to your spiritual welfare, we proceed, as usual, to present you with a short address. Cordial submission to the authority of Christ in his Churches, is the great duty of every believer. Without this, the beauty and harmony of religious societies must cease, and disorder and discord follow. A humble walk with God, will lead us to cheerful subjection to the discipline of his Church. St. Peter earnestly exhorts to these two great branches of the christian duty, in his first Epistle, Chap. V. ver. 5, in these words; "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility." Christ our Lord and Head, hath by divine authority established, and regulated the government of his Church. Ministers are particularly authorised and required to see to the execution of his Laws among his people; not indeed as Lords over God's heritage, but spiritual officers in his kingdom; and as such we are directed to submit to them, while they watch for our souls as they that must give account. When, therefore, in the due exercise of their office they are disregarded, Christ, and not they, is especially despised. Deacons and elderly brethren are also considered as helps in Church government. Their office, age, experience and gravity, qualify them to counsel and warn the younger, who are required to regard them; the lack of which, discovers the want of gospel humility. Aged and understanding women are also considered as mothers in God's Israel; and to their pious ex-

amples, teachings and warnings, younger sisters are bound to give heed, and if they do not, they will incur the censure of the Church, and the frowns of its great Head. A carnal worldly way of living, or the indulgence of any of our former vices, both are expressly forbidden—contrary to our covenant vows—and justly reprehensible by the Church. We are directed to be obedient children, not fashioning ourselves according to the former lusts in our ignorance, but patterning after the holiness of God. Unfriendly treatment of those who attempt meekly to reclaim us when we have gone aside, such as avoiding their company, retorting upon them some of their miscarriages; and the like, indicates an awful departure from our first love, or total ignorance of religion; and is itself vile ingratitude; both to God and our brethren. Neglect of the public worship of God, particularly on the Lord's day, without just occasion, is a breach of divine rule, and ought to be noticed by the Church; as also spending the day in employments unsuitable to its sacred design. Unnecessary absence from Church meetings, is a practical contempt of Church authority, and a breach of covenant engagements. Covetousness in the demands of the Church for the support of the Ministry, and other necessary things is idolatry, and unsufferable among christian brethren. From these, and all other evils, which may be thought to do less injury, such as idle diversions, foolish talk, jesting and the like, let us keep ourselves brethren; and let us walk in the fear of the Lord, and consider our accountability to our great Judge for all our conduct in life; remembering the encouragements given to those servants, whom their Lord when he cometh, shall find so doing. The honor of God; the conversion of sinners to the truth; the welfare of our brethren and the present peace, and future happiness of our own souls, are objects of infinite importance. To promote these let us diligently walk in all the commands and ordinances of the Lord blameless. Let us give no just offence in any thing, to our brethren or those without. It becomes us to cherish the spirit of the Gospel in our hearts, and to sow none of the seeds of discord among brethren by partial respect, talking, railing, whispering, back-biting, defaming and the like. As followers of one who was meek and lowly in heart, we ought likewise to be clothed with humility. This ornament, instead of lofty carriage, vain glory, and extravagance of dress, much nearer resembles our great leader and his ancient followers, and is one of our highest preparatives for heaven itself; where may we all at last arrive to the everlasting honor and praise of our glorious Redeemer. World without end---Amen.

## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Danbury Baptist Association assembled at Bethlehem, October 1st and 2d 1806, to the corresponding Associations, sendeth Christian salutation.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

**T**HE kind Father of Mercies has favored us with another anniversary meeting; and with another opportunity to see one another and to enjoy a refreshing season together as brethren under the smiles of heaven. Likewise with favorable intimations from our churches, especially from some of them. We cannot but feel and acknowledge ourselves under indispensable obligations to love and adore the blessed God as the infinite source of all good; whose love and faithfulness to the Church, is not only expressed in his word in a multitude of the sweetest promises and most soul-supporting declarations. But has been, and is abundantly verifying the same in all that infinite grace and faithfulness with which the church is constantly attended and by which it is supported through the various changes of its militant state. The true church of Christ is related to the great God in a happy relation; she has arisen from her death in sin by the power of his infinite and sovereign grace. She has been supported by his power, directed by his council, comforted by his presence, and made to rejoice in an infinite variety of circumstances in his loving kindness and tender mercy.—In consideration of these things we may view it to be the duty of the Church universally, and always to rejoice in God. Every divine perfection of the blessed God may afford matter of rejoicing to the real christian, and in him, and in him alone, he ought always to rejoice; for in Him all fulness dwells, and from him all good flows. Hence the Omnipotence of God when considered in connexion with his other perfections, affords the most solid ground of Joy. In view of his greatness and power the Church may rejoice with a joy unspeakable, yea, they may lift up their heads before a potent enemy, and hope to survive all the opposition with which they may have to conflict from earth or hell, since an Almighty God is their friend. Infinite wisdom is also matter of joy to the saints. By the wisdom of God all the system of his government is concerted, all the dispensations of his providence directed, and all the devices of his, and the enemies of his people detected. O how wonderful and glorious is that Divine wisdom which has ever controlled the events of time, has made every thing subserve his own gracious purposes, and all things to work together for good to them that love him! How mysterious the wisdom of God as it is displayed and exercised in the plan, and in the prosecution of the glorious work of grace in the salvation of fallen man! Likewise,

the holiness of God is that for which, and in which the people of God may, and ought to rejoice. Holiness is a moral perfection of the blessed Jehovah, and doth not imply that he is under any law, neither does it consist in obedience to any being : but is that purity of nature, in the exercise of which he stands opposed to all moral evil and in all his government, ways and works, is inclined to that which is perfectly right. Indeed, we must not suppose that holiness originated in the giving of the law, for that a display of it which makes manifest that Divine purity which eternally existed. Now when we consider the character of the Supreme Ruler of the universe as perfectly holy and absolutely righteous, and as he cannot lie, so he cannot do any wrong, how joyful must every holy intelligent be : Holy and Reverend is his Name.

And the love, the mercy, the grace, and the patience of God stimulate the most lively sensations of joy in Him who is the infinite source from whom millions of souls have derived their whole salvation, without diminishing in the least degree the fountain from whence it flows. The faithfulness of God in his promises, and to the Church, and to all who put their trust in him, and by which the little flock of Christ has withstood the gates of hell, is matter of great joy. Finally Brethren, rejoice in God the Father, and in Jesus his Son and our Saviour, and in the Holy Ghost the comforter. Rejoice in the triune God. Rejoice in him as a Father, and unchanging and Almighty friend—as a prayer hearing God—as a present help in time of need—as an every where present God—as a sun and shield, giving grace and glory.

We can give only a brief sketch of this extensive and delightful subject. But were we to bring forward and clearly to state those considerations which may, and do excite emotions of joy in the minds of the people of God, we should see great propriety of our being called upon to rejoice in God always, even as the Prophet Habakuk ; “ Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines, the labor of the olive shall fail and the fields shall yield no meat, the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls, yet will I rejoice in the Lord. I will joy in the God of my salvation ;” that is, in all the changes and calamities of life. All things are under a divine control : all things are made to work together for good to those that love God. Surely there is no joy to be compared to this : none so just, so innocent, or so well founded. May we not then banish our fears, surpress our sorrows, and exult in the infinite love and faithfulness of our God ? Dear brethren let us exhort you to trust in the Lord, and you shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abideth forever, wait upon him in all your straits and trials, and you shall renew your strength, mount up with wings as eagles.



What engaging objects are represented before as a christian church to stimulate our souls in the race which he has set before us, even an immortal Crown, and all the glories of the world to come. May we all find the grace of God to be sufficient for us —may we be faithful unto the death—and finally be made conquerors, and more than conquerors through him that hath loved us, and hath given himself for us ; and may we be admitted to reign with our God in eternal glory through Jesus Christ.

**AMEN.**

*Signed by order and in behalf of the Association.*

**RUFUS BABCOCK, Moderator.**

**ASAHEL MORSE, Clerk.**