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Baptists. New York. New York Association, 1791.

Minutes of the Proceedings ... October 19 ... 21, 1791.

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MINUTES
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF A
CONVENTION

BAPTIST CHURCHES,
In New-York, October 19, 20, and 21, 1791.
IN FORMING
THE NEW-YORK ASSOCIATION.

*Sing to the Lord above,
Who deigns on earth to raise
A Temple to his love,
A monument of Praise;
To Saints around, through all its frame,
Harmonious sound the Builder's name,
Beneath his eye and care
The edifice shall rise
Majestic, strong and fair,
And shine above the fane;
There shall be place the polish'd stone,
Ornam'd the work of grace to crown,*

Rippon's Selection.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM DURELL, No. 19, QUEEN-STREET.
M,DCC,XCI.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, October 19, 1791.

A GREEABLY to an appointment of a Convention of Churches, by their messengers, in the city of New-York, on the 12th of April last, again to meet in said city on the third Wednesday of October ensuing, at 2 o'clock, P. M. in order if it should then be thought expedient, further to proceed in forming an Association, Messengers from several of the Churches in the vicinity assembled.

Public worship was attended: and brother Foster preached on the occasion from Daniel xii. 4. "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

At the conclusion of public worship agreed on an intermission of half an hour.

Met as proposed, and proceeded to business. Brother Holmes was chosen Moderator, and brother Foster, Clerk.

Some account was given of matters connected with the proceedings of the last Convention.

Adjourned till nine o'clock the next morning.

Brother Holmes preached in the evening from Psalms cxxii. 9. "Because of the house of the Lord thy God I will seek thy good."

MET on Thursday Morning, Oct. 20.

Letters from the Churches were produced by their Messengers, and read.

After this the plan of a new Association, which already had been submitted to the Churches, or their examination, was distinctly read and considered.

The question was then formally and individually put to all the Messengers who were present **If they judged the constitution of the proposed new Association expedient ? And the answer without a single exception, was given in the affirmative.**

Agreed that a committee be chosen, consisting of one Messenger from each church, to consider what amendments to the proposed plan might be expedient ; and also to attend to a proper mode of procedure in constituting the Churches, represented for that purpose a body united in Association. And our brethren Samuel Dodge, Francis Van Dyke, William Van Horne, Isaac Price, Jacob Fitz Randolph, Michael Pearce, Benjamin Coles, and Edward Tylee were appointed the committee.

Adjourned to half after two o'clock, P, M. then to attend to the report of the Committee.

MET in the afternoon according to adjournment.

The aforesaid committee then appeared ; and as requested made their report : agreeably to which, proceeded as follows :

1. The Plan, as now amended, was read.
2. On its being called for, it was read a second time.
3. It was then read paragraph by paragraph, and subjected to further corrections.
4. The plan being thus carefully examined and corrected, was signed by the following Messengers of the Churches.

<i>Churches,</i>	<i>Messengers,</i>
Scotch Plains,	William Van Horne, Benjamin Blackford, John Stites, Robert Fitz Randolph.
Oyster-Bay,	Benjamin Coles. Albert Albertson.
Morris-Town,	John Brookfield, Michael Pearce.
1st New-York,	Benjamin Foster, Samuel Dodge, Abraham Cannon William Norris, John Bedient.

ed New-York, Francis Van Dyke,
Joseph Stout.

Canoe-Brook, Isaac Price:

Staten-Island, Elkanah Holmes,
Nicholas Cox.

V. The Churches, by their Representatives, presenting themselves before the Moderator were pronounced by him, to be an Associated body.

VI The Moderator then prayed: And after prayer gave to the Messengers, the right-hand of fellowship; which was concluded with mutual expressions and congratulation.

Our worthy brethren; the Messengers of the Church in Mount Bethel. Jacob Fitz Randolph, John Worth, David Ayres, and Benjamin Enyart; and of the Church in Mount Pleasant, Elijah Hunter, John Willis and Edward Tylce; though the Churches they represented are not in Associated union with us at present, were pleased, notwithstanding, to give their entire approbation of our plan and proceedings.

We were favoured also with the assistance and approbation of brother Lyon from Kings-street.—

THE PROPRIETY AND UTILITY OF ASSOCIATIONS.

STATED meetings of Christian Churches are attended with important information, respecting the state of religion in general—the situation of Churches and Christians in particular—opportunities of guarding against intruders into the work of the ministry—of giving and receiving advice in cases of difficulty—of sympathizing with our brethren in their afflictions, and of partaking of the joys of those Churches on whom God has smiled by showers of divine grace. They are often the occasion of the restoration of peace and harmony—the knowledge of each other's wants and trials—the increase of Christian love and fellowship, and the knowledge of gospel doctrines and discipline. By those means also Christ's ministers are led to understand in what part of his Vineyard they are called to labor; and remote and destitute Churches obtain supplies. In a word, when Churches from a regard to the glory of God and the good of Zion, unite in Association, Jerusalem appears to be builded as a city that is compact together; peace is to be expected within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces.—

THE PLAN, OR REGULATIONS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

I. This union of Churches shall be stiled the NEW-YORK ASSOCIATION.

II. The articles of faith to which the Churches of this Association subscribe, in a summary way, are as follow—Three equal persons in the divine essence; eternal and personal election

to holiness here and eternal life hereafter : The original guilt and total depravity of mankind ; particular redemption ; free justification by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ : efficacious and irresistible grace in regeneration ; the final perseverance of the saints in grace, water baptism by immersion on a profession of repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and the eternal punishment of the wicked in its duration in a sence unlimited as the happiness of the righteous. In fine, we approve of the baptist confession of faith as adopted and held by the Association of Philadelphia as happily expressing our sentiments, contained in the holy scriptures of divine truth ; which we acknowledge as our only certain rule of faith and practice.

3. We acknowledge the power and independence of particular churches, and that no authority or jurisdiction is to be exercised over them by this Association : nor will this Association decide in any controversy that may arise in any particular Church. But nevertheless they deem it their duty to disown such Churches, received by them, which may have essentially departed from the faith.

IV. We think it necessary that such brethren be chosen to meet in this Association as are expert, knowing and judicious in the scriptures, that thereby they may be able to administer help to enquiring minds, and give advice if applied to.

V. The meeting of the Churches in this union is to be held annually in the city of New-York, unless circumstances, as to time and place, otherwise direct ; and at such seasons as shall be appointed. When the Messengers are assembled, after divine service, for the regular proceeding in business, a Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen.

VI, The Churches are to be received into this Association by petition ; setting forth their desire to be admitted, their faith, order and willingness to be conformable to the rules of this associated body. When it is read, and the subject ripened for a vote, the Moderator is to state the question, And if suffrage be given in favor of the question by the members present, the Moderator is to declare that such Church is received ; in token of which he is to give the Messenger or Messengers the right hand of fellowship, and invite them to take their seats.

VII. The Churches belonging to this Association are to send letters at the time of their annual meeting addressed to the Association, mentioning the names of the Messengers and their authority to act for their Churches. Also the state of the Churches represented relative to their peace and union ; their increase by baptism or otherwise ; their decrease by death, dismissal or excommunication, and their total number. If any query arise, or business be proposed, it is to be inserted in the Church's letter by way of postscript.

Brother Winchel preached in the evening from *Ezk. xxxvii. 4. O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.*

Met on Friday morning, Oct. 21.

In answer to a letter and minute of the Danbury Association proposing a coalition of the two in one Association, from the consideration of the local situation of our Churches, and the tendency it might have to render our proceedings too complex, in the manner proposed, we conclude it would be inexpedient; but that every brotherly attention and correspondence between the Danbury Association and this be promoted.

The next Association is to be held in the city of New-York the last Wednesday in the ensuing October. The introductory sermon is then to be preached by brother William Van Horne: and in case of failure by brother Eliknah Holmes.—The circular letter is to be prepared by brother Samuel Dodge.

Brother Hamilton was chosen to prepare a letter for the Philadelphia, and brother Dodge to the Danbury Association.

The publishing the Minutes was recommended to the care of brother Foster.

SUPPLIES FOR DESTITUTE CHURCHES.

The second Church in New-York is to be supplied the second Lords day in November, by brother Van Horne: the second in April by brother Holmes: the first in June by brother Price: the second in May, and the second in June by brother Fitz Randolph.—The Church in Morris Town; the fourth in November by brother Van Horne.



Circular Letter.

The Elders and Messengers of the several Churches met in the city of New-York the 19th, 20th and 21st. of October, 1791.

To the Churches whom they represent, send christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN,

OUR minutes will inform you in what manner we have proceeded to discharge the trust you have committed to us.

Having now formed an association, our next concern will be to conduct its affairs, as will be most conducive to its utility. One mean, will be, at all times to send as able a Representation from the Churches as their circumstances will admit. To this dear brethren we trust you will attend particularly as an important point, and especially so in the infant state of our Association.

A due concern for the interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom, should ever influence our conduct. This principle will lead us to hold every other consideration in subordination to the honour of Christ and the prosperity of his churches; will tend powerfully to counteract, all these numerous causes of opposition to the glory of God, which so often arise even amongst his dear children: will dispose us to seek the best direction and assistance to glorify God in every relation, in which we may be called to act, whether in the private walks of life, in the particular churches with which we are more immediately connected, or when we meet to attend to their concerns more generally. May we ever feel for this dearest of all interests, and ardently pray for Zion's cause.

In your particular relation as churches, we wish you the greatest prosperity. Brethren forsake not the assembly of yourselves together in the stated seasons of divine worship—Be attentive to every mean of grace, and wrestle like *Jacob*, for a blessing upon them, upon you and the Church of Christ in general. We are dear Brethren your Brethren in CHRIST.

ELKANAH HOLMES, MODERATOR.
BENJAMIN FOSTER, CLERK.

✠ Subscriptions are received by BENJAMIN FOSTER, for the Baptist Annual Register, who has received the first and shortly expects the second Number--- Also, has for sale RIPPON's selection of Hymns.

N. B. Mr. Abraham Booth's Essay on the KINGDOM of CHRIST, will be published in about six or eight weeks---when those who subscribed to the proposal which was printed with the Minutes of the last Association held at New-York, may be supplied by applying to WILLIAM DURELL, No. 19, Queen-Street.