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Minutes . . . in the City of New York, May . . . 1802.

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MINUTES

OF THE

New-York Baptist Association,

HOLDEN IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK,

MAY 19th AND 20th, 1802.



WEDNESDAY, May 19.

ASSEMBLED at 3 o'clock, P. M. for Public Worship, at the Baptist Meeting-House in Gold-street. Brother WILLIAM COLLIER preached the Introductory Sermon, founded on Matt. iii. 1, 2.—“ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, repent ye: for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

2. Prayer introductory to business, by Brother RUNYAN. Brother WILLIAM VAN HORNE was chosen Moderator, and Brother COLLIER, Clerk.

3. Received and read Letters from the Churches belonging to this Association.

Note.—Ministers' names are in SMALL CAPITALS.—Licenced Preachers in *ITALICS*.—No Intelligence from the Church at Patihos.—Dashes [—] denote no settled Minister.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Baptized.</i>	<i>Received by letter.</i>	<i>Dismissed by letter.</i>	<i>Excommuni- cated.</i>	<i>Deceased.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Time of Con- stitution.</i>
Piscataway,	{ REUNE RUNYAN, Edward Griffith.		2	1		2	123	1689
Scotch-Plains,	{ WILLIAM VAN HORNE, Ezra Darby, William Little.	1		5	1	3	81	
King-Street,	{ NATHANIEL FINCH, Daniel Wilson.			2		1	50	1747
Carried over,		1	2	8	1	6	254	

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Baptized.</i>	<i>Received by letter.</i>	<i>Dismissed by letter.</i>	<i>Excommunicated.</i>	<i>Deceased.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Time of Con- stitution.</i>
	Brought forward,	1	2	8	1	6	254	
Oyster-Bay,	{ BENJAMIN COLES, Richard Latting, Albart Albertson, James Coles.						40	1748
Morris-Town,	-----	1		4		1	41	1752
1st. New-York,	{ WILLIAM COLLIER, Samuel Dodge, John Bedient, Abraham Cannon, Eliakim Ford, Lewis Rogers.	7	2		1	2	212	1762
Mount-Bethel,	{ LEBBEUS LATHROP, Reuben Ferris, Oliver Still.	2	3	13	1	1	109	1767
Lyon's Farms,	{ PETER BRYANT, John Sites.			9		2	24	1669
Bethel* Baptist Ch.	{ CHARLES LAHATT, Peter Thurston, Augustine Elliott, Francis Vandyk, Richard Wilkinson, James Gritman.		1		2	3	63	1770
Staten-Island,	{ ELKANAH HOLMES, Nicholas Cox.					1	27	1786
Northfield,†	{ MOSES EDWARDS, Jonathan Meeks.	8		5			58	1786
Mount-Pleasant,	{ _____, STEPHEN S. NELSON, Thomas Stevens, P. G. Smith.	4	5	5		3	50	1792
Patihos,	-----							
Samp-Town,	{ JACOB FITZ RANDOLPH, Samuel Randolph.		1	3		2	33	1792
Middle-Town,‡	{ DANIEL STEARS, James Burges, John Wandell.	25					39	1796
Total,		48	11	47	5	21	955	

* This Church was formerly called the *Second* in New-York; but some inconveniences arising, there being two Churches in the city known by that distinction, they have mutually agreed to change their names.

† Formerly Canoe-Brook.—Altered by the request of the Church.

‡ Formerly Rockland.—Altered by the request of the Church.

4. Brethren John Pitman and John Williams being present were invited to take seats with us.

5. Received and read an affectionate letter from the Muhheconnuk nation of Indians at New-Stockbridge, in which they manifest great satisfaction in our epistolary correspondence with them, and gratefully acknowledge the reception of the books we sent them last summer, by the hand of Brother Holmes.

6. The Circular Letter prepared by Brother Darby, was read and referred to a committee of Brethren Runyan, Holmes, Pittman, Collier, and the Author.

7. Adjourned until half past eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

8. Prayer by the Moderator.

[Sermon in the evening by Brother John Pitman: Founded on 2 Peter I. 1.]

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 20.

9. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Brother Bryant.

10. Received the minutes of the Shaftsbury, the Philadelphia, the Virginia Portsmouth, the Middle District, the Roxsok District, the Dover and the Kehukee Associations.

11. The Church on Staten-Island, labouring under some difficulties, at their request, the following Brethren were appointed to visit them as an advisory council:—Runyan, Bryant, Labatt, J. Randolph, S. Randolph, Griffin and Ferris. The council to meet at Brother Fountain's on the second Wednesday in June.

12. Brother Williams presented a copy of the minutes of the Warwick Association, held at Bedford on the 26th and 27th of May, 1801; with special reference to our taking into consideration the 15th article of said minutes. Took the same into consideration; and appointed Brethren Van Horne, Dodge and Nelson, a committee to prepare a letter upon the subject.

13. The following Brethren were appointed to write to the Associations, annexed to their names:—Bryant to Shaftsbury, Smith to Philadelphia, Randolph to Warren, Dodge to Danbury and Van Horne to Stonington.

14. Adjourned until 4 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Brother Randolph.

AFTERNOON

15. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Coles.

16. The Letter to the Warwick Association read and approved. Brethren Williams and Nelson appointed to present it at their next session.

17. The Circular Letter read the second time and adopted.

18. Letters to Corresponding Associations read and approved.

19. The following Brethren were appointed Messengers to the Associations annexed to their names. Brethren Runyan, Labatt and Lathrop to the Philadelphia, and Brother Pitman to the Warren.

20. Being desirous to manifest our Love and Friendship to the Brother-Town and Muhheconnuk Indians, we request our Committee of Indian affairs to write to each of them, and take such measures as they think proper, to furnish them with more books, and to give some assistance to the latter, to enable them to prosecute their proposed Mission to their Western Brethren in the Wilderness.

21. Whereas great inconveniencies often arise for want of a proper system of correspondence: Therefore agreed to appoint a *Standing Secretary*, whose duty it shall be to keep a record of the proceedings, and have charge of the papers belonging to the Association; to receive minutes, letters and other communications from a distance and transact such other business as appertains to the appointment.

22. Brother Collier was appointed to the office created by the preceding article.

23. Took into consideration the request from Mount-Pleasant, to raise an *Education Fund* : referred until our next Association.

24. Supplies for Bethel Church.

Brother Holmes, 2d. Lord's day in June.

Lahatt, 2d. do. in July, December and January.

Collier, 2d. do. in August and March.

Coles, 2d. do. in September.

Bryant, 2d. do. in October.

Van Horne, 2d. do. in November.

25. Brother Lathrop is appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon next year : and in case of failure, Brother Nelson.

26. Brother Collier to write the Circular Letter for next year. Also to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes.

27. The next Association to commence on the last Wednesday but one in May, 1803, at 3 o'clock, P. M. in the Meeting-House of the 1st Baptist Church in the City of New-York.

28. The Moderator concluded by Prayer.

[Sermon in the evening by Brother Nelson : Founded on Psalm xxxiv. 15.]

Circular Letter.

The Elders and Messengers of the several Baptist Churches, met in Association, in the City of New-York, the 19th and 20th days of May, 1802: holding the doctrine of three equal Persons in the Godhead, eternal and personal election to Holiness here, and eternal Life hereafter; original guilt and total depravity of all Adam's race; redemption of the elect by the life, sufferings, and death of JESUS CHRIST; sovereign grace, in regeneration, the final perseverance of the Saints, water Baptism by immersion only, on a profession of repentance towards GOD, and faith in our LORD JESUS CHRIST; the eternal punishment of the finally impenitent, in an unlimited a sense as the happiness of the righteous, &c. &c.

TO THE CHURCHES THEY REPRESENT,

SEND CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

Dear Brethren,

WE have received new manifestations of the tender mercies of our heavenly Father. He has once more brought us together in an associated capacity, he has refreshed us with agreeable intelligence from various quarters, and we trust he has in some degree manifested his presence to our souls.

It has been usual on these occasions to address the Churches on some important subject. The annual return of Associations and Circular Letters, have been so frequent and become so far things of course, that, if they suffer not from you, that neglect, to which periodical publications are generally exposed, yet it causes us some degree of anxiety to select such subjects from the many which present, as are peculiarly interesting, and calculated most for your edification. At various times, you have been addressed on the doctrines of our Holy Religion. The operations of grace and the outlines of Christian experience have been exhibited. Attempts have been made to unveil the prophetic volume and point you to the future prospects of the righteous. We shall content ourselves, at present, with turning your thoughts to *Brotherly Love*, a subject which so incessantly requires our attention, and with which our hopes of eternal happiness are so intimately connected, that, though our usual limits require our treating it rather in a

disultory manner, yet we confidently hope you will give it that candid consideration which its infinite importance demands.

For the fountain of this principle we must carry our ideas far back, to the council of peace in the eternal Mind. Long before creation was spoken into being; long before the generations of mortals existed, it smiled in the bosom of Deity, and contemplated its future conquests among the human race. It projected a plan which finite intelligences could never have conceived; a plan of salvation worthy of Omniscience; a plan which is represented as exciting the curiosity of Angels, and which will be the wonder of Heaven forever.

After nature was put in motion, and sin was permitted to tarnish the system, our father, and representative, broke through the restriction which his Maker had assigned, and involved himself and posterity in disgrace and ruin. The thunders of a violated law, the voice of the offended Majesty of Heaven, roused him from his torpor to meet an expected doom. The criminal stood without a plea; Justice lifted an almighty arm to strike; then Love arrested the blow and cried, "Deliver him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransom." What must have been the sensations of the heavenly host, on this display of a glorious attribute of Divinity. How must the contemplation of a God of

