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Baptists. Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Association, 1771.
Minutes of the Philadelphian Association in MDCCLXXI.
[Philadelphia, 1771.] 8 pp.
ABHS copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

PHILADELPHIAN ASSOCIATION

In MDCCLXXI.

PHILADELPHIA, October 15, 1771.

THE Association met at Three o'Clock.—Divine Service being over, Rev. John Gano was chosen Moderator, and Rev. Morgan Edwards, Clerk.—Letters from Thirty-nine Churches were read, also from the VIRGINIA and WARREN Associations.—The Names of the Messengers enrolled, viz. Rev. Messieurs Samuel Jones, William Vanhorn, John Sutton, Robert Kelsay, John Davis, P. P. Vanhorn, Isaac Eaton, David Sutton, Morgan Edwards, Reunè Runyon, John Davis, Joshua Jones, Abel Griffiths, Nicholas Cox, Samuel Heaton, John Gano, David Branson, David Jones, James Benedict, Benjamin Miller, John Blackwell, James Sutton;—also, Messieurs Alexander Edwards, James Motte, Joseph Stillwell, George Drake, Isaiah Lewis, Seth Bowen, David Bowen, John Davis, George George, John Jewell, Thomas Davis, Andrew Bray, Anthony Yerkes, Arthur Watts, Joseph Moulder, Thomas Shields, Joshua Moore, Samuel Mead, Thomas Francis, John Brookfield, David Evans, Edward Kesby, John Carman, Samuel Edmonds, John Briggs, Benjamin Truax, James Sexton, Philip Ketcham, Richard Jones, Lines Pangburn, John Mayhew, David Philips.—Adjourned.—A Sermon in the Evening.

Oct. 16. A Church constituted at Manahawkin, August 25, 1770, their number 9; another constituted at Pittsgrove, May 15, 1771, their number 17; another at Vincent, constituted October 12, 1771, their number 52; another in the Northern Liberty, constituted October 29, 1769, their number 6, were all received into the Association. (2) By a letter from the VIRGINIA Association it appears that two Churches joined them, with an increase of members by Baptism to the number of 275, their Messenger

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fenger was Rev. Richard Major; and by another from the WARREN Association, that five Churches joined them, with increase of members 167. (3) The Church of Newtown desired the Association to appoint time and ministers to ordain Mr. Nicholas Cox; the Association reply, That the appointment of both properly belongs to his church. (4) It was queried in the letter from Goshen, What is to be done, when a member of a church that is dissolved, offers to become a member of another church? Advised, that enquiry be made, whether he was a member at the time of said dissolution, and whether his faith and practice are agreeable to the Gospel or not, and then proceed as the state of the case requires. (5) To a query from Dividingcreek, relative to washing the saints feet, the following reply was made, This query being founded on Joh. xiii: 1-17. can no otherwise be determined than by fixing the genuine sense of that scripture, which to do is earnestly recommended. (6) A motion being made in the Association, relative to the appointment of an EVANGELIST, it was universally agreed, that such an appointment promised much advantage to the Baptist interest: five ministers were put in nomination for the office, viz. Rev. Messieurs John Gano, Benjamin Miller, Samuel Jones, David Jones, Morgan Edwards; the choice fell on the last, which he accepted on the conditions that were then specified. (7) A motion being made for printing, in America, a book of Mr. Keach on the parables, it was advised, that endeavours should be used to see what number of subscribers can be obtained.—Adjourned.—Sermon in the evening.

Oct. 17. Appointed to write the Circular letter and the letter to the Association of VIRGINIA and WARREN, Rev. Messieurs Abel Griffiths, John Blackwell and William Van Horn; the messengers to the former are Rev. John Davis and David Jones; the messengers to the other, Rev. John Gano and Morgan Edwards. (2) The following Gentlemen were appointed trustees of Mrs. Hob's donation, and to settle accounts with her executors, viz. Rev. Samuel Jones, of Pennepk, Rev. Isaac Eaton, John Stout, Esq; and John Jewell, of New-Jersey. (3) The petition of Mr. Ebenezer David (student in Rhode-Island college) was granted to the amount of 14 £, he giving a bond to the trustees to return the money in case their intention and the intention of the benefactor should not be answered. (4) The Association to be in New-York next year; to begin the Tuesday after the second Sunday in October; Mr. Abel Morgan to preach,

preach, or, in case of his absence, Mr. Morgan Edwards. (5) Visiting Lyonsfarms is recommended to our Ministers. (6) The pious design of Mr. Britton, of Shammony, was attended to; and the following persons have engaged to preach there this year,

Mr. Samuel Jones, the fourth Sunday in January, June and September.

Mr. John Thomas, the fourth Sunday in November, March and July.

Mr. William Van Horn, the fourth Sunday in December, April and August.

Mr. John Blackwell, the fourth Sunday in May.

Mr. Joshuah Jones, the fourth Sunday in February.

Mr. David Branson, the fourth Sunday in this present Month October.

(7) Manahawkin to be supplied by

Mr. Branson, the third Sunday in December and May.

Mr. David Jones, the third Sunday in November and March.

Mr. Worth, the third Sunday in January and June.

Mr. James Sutton, the third Sunday in February.

Mr. Heaton, the third Sunday in April.

Mr. P. Van Horn, the fourth Sunday in July.

Mr. Runyon, the third Sunday in August.

Mr. William Van Horn, the third Sunday in September.

(8) The Northern Liberty church to be supplied by

Mr. Kelfay, the third Sunday in November.

Mr. Worth, the third Sunday in February.

Mr. Abel Griffiths, the second Sunday in January.

Mr. Runyon, the third Sunday in June.

Mr. Heaton, the third Sunday in March.

Mr. D. Sutton, the third Sunday in April.

Mr. Josh. Jones, the fourth Sunday in May.

Mr. Runyon, the fourth Sunday in August.

(9) The

(9) The ministers expressed a readiness to supply Philadelphia, in case Mr. Edwards should proceed in the execution of his public office.

(10) The contributors to the Association fund were,

The church of Philadelphia	—	—	£	2	12	0
The church of Cohansey	—	—		0	15	0
The church of Southampton	—	—		1	2	6
The church of Baltimore	—	—		0	10	0
The church of Pennepack	—	—		1	0	0
The church of the Great Valley	—	—		0	6	10½
The church of Hopewell	—	—		1	0	0
The church of Kingwood	—	—		0	5	0
The church of New-York	—	—		3	0	0
Edward Kesby, Esq;	—	—		0	7	6
Mr. Parfburn	—	—		0	3	9
Mr. John Briggs	—	—		0	3	9
				<hr/>		
				£	11	6 4½

This added to the former Capital, and the interest, make £ 1 ro : 12 : 2½

The CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers of the several Baptist Congregations in Pennsylvania, the Jerseys, and Provinces adjacent, (met in Annual Association at Philadelphia, October 15, 16, 17. 1771) to the several Churches we respectively relate unto, wish Grace, Mercy and Peace be multiplied.

Dear Brethren!

THROUGH the good Providence of GOD we have been preserved to see one season more of our annual meeting; and, blessed be GOD, we met in love, and preserved love and harmony through the whole of our consultations. We were agreeably entertained with a discourse on the insufficiency of our own righteousness in point of justification, by our brother Kelsay, from *Phil. iii: 9*; and much refreshed with your letters, by which we learn
that

that our churches are mostly at peace among themselves; and that the LORD is still continuing his presence in the midst of his golden candlesticks, and blessing his word to the bringing of some to the obedience of faith. We also have good news from the EASTERN and WESTERN Associations, of seven churches joining them, and of increase by baptism to the number of 442, which, with the increase in ours, make 524.—Now, beloved Brethren, before we part from one another, we would remind you of these few necessary things, viz. That as there be some complaints of deadness and coldness in religion, O be instant with the LORD in private and public prayers, wrestling with him for his blessing, and those measures of his Spirit and grace whereby your own souls may be quickened more and more, and you grow in grace and knowledge, and in the practice of every duty, and lay no stumbling block in the way of any. Be watchful against the temptations of satan, the great enemy of the church. Be careful to keep your Christian graces in exercise, that you may be comfortable in the midst of difficulties. Be diligent in attending the means of Grace. Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is. Strengthen the hands of your ministers, and pray earnestly that GOD will bless their labours. Finally, Brethren, be mindful of the exhortation, to keep your loins girt and your lamps burning, that whenever the midnight cry be heard you may be ready to go in with CHRIST to the marriage; which is the wish of your brethren. Signed in our behalf,

JOHN GANO, Moderator,
MORGAN EDWARDS, Clerk."

A private letter from Rev. Samuel Harris (alias Col. Harris, of Pittsylvania, in Virginia) was read, to the great joy and entertainment of the association; whereby it appears, that there are 4 associations now in Carolina, and two in Virginia;—that he hath planted 17 churches lately;—that two of our ministers are in Chesterfield goal;—that there is an unusual outpouring of the spirit on all ranks of men in those parts;—that many negroes endure scourgings for religion's sake;—that two clergymen of the Church of England preach JESUS CHRIST with unusual warmth, &c.

The

The STATE

OF THE

THIRTY-NINE CHURCHES

WHICH BELONG TO THE

PHILADELPHIAN ASSOCIATION

in M.DCCLXXI.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Bap- tiz</i>	<i>Added by Let.</i>	<i>Re- sto.</i>	<i>Dead.</i>	<i>Exco- mun.</i>	<i>Mem- bers.</i>
Pennepek	Samuel Jones	1	1	0	4	1	47
Middletown	Abel Morgan	2	0	0	3	0	142
Piscataqua	Isaac Stelle	1	0	0	1	0	72
Cohansey	Robert Kelsay	1	0	0	6	0	84
Wellhtract	John Sutton	5	2	0	3	0	115
Greatvalley	John Davis	13	0	0	4	1	72
Capemay	P. P. Van Horn	4	0	0	1	0	62
Hopewell	Isaac Eaton	0	0	0	0	1	199
Brandiwine		0	0	0	0	0	32
Montgomery	John Thomas	2	0	0	4	0	101
Tulpehokon *	Thomas Jones	0	0	0	0	0	16
Kingwood	David Sutton	4	0	1	0	0	79
Southampton	William Van Horn	0	1	0	2	0	50
Philadelphia	Morgan Edwards	3	0	0	4	0	146
Scotsplains	Benjamin Miller	4	0	0	1	1	126
Horseneck *		0	0	0	0	0	7
Oysterbay *		0	0	0	0	0	15
Morristown	Reunè Runyon	0	1	0	0	0	40
Knowlton *	Henry Crosley	0	2	0	0	0	26
Baltimore	John Davis	16	0	0	5	2	132
Newbritain	Joshuah Jones	4	4	0	1	0	64
Salem	Abel Griffiths	1	0	0	0	0	23
Newtown	Nicholas Cox	0	2	0	0	0	29
Beckmansprecinct *	Samuel Waldo	0	0	0	0	0	113

Dividing-

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Bap- tiz.</i>	<i>Added by Let.</i>	<i>Re- fo.</i>	<i>Dead.</i>	<i>Exco- mun.</i>	<i>Mem- bers.</i>
Dividingcreek	Samuel Heaton	0	0	0	2	0	41
New-York	John Gano	4	1	0	1	0	147
Newmills	David Branson	10	0	0	0	0	55
Konoloway	Joseph Powell	8	2	0	0	0	39
Coram	Noah Hammond	1	0	0	0	0	31
Croswicks	David Jones	1	0	0	0	0	42
Mountbethel	Henry Crosley	0	0	0	2	0	31
Goshen	James Benedict	6	1	0	0	2	66
Lyonsfarms	Reunè Runyon	0	0	1	0	0	20
Philipspatent*	Simon Dakin	0	0	0	0	0	65
Pittsgrove	William Worth	0	0	0	0	0	24
Manahawkin		2	0	0	0	0	11
Vincent	John Blackwell	0	0	0	0	0	52
Tuckahoe	James Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	17
Northern Liberty		0	0	0	0	0	16
		93	17	2	44	8	2449

Increase this year 82. N. B. The churches marked with an * sent no messengers; their numbers remain as they were last year.

FINDING that the Minutes of the Association do not fill the sheet as usual, I will (according to particular desire) add one agreement that the associating churches came to, dated the 27th of the Seventh Month, in the year 1707; and it is the first on record:

“ Agreed, That no man shall be allowed to preach among the
 “ associated churches, except he produce credentials of his being
 “ in communion with his church, and of his having been called
 “ and licensed to preach.”

Before this, vain and insufficient men, who had set themselves up to be preachers, would stroll about the country under the name of Baptist ministers; also ministers degraded and excommunicated, who with their
 immora-

immorality, and the other with their insufficiency and immorality too brought disgrace on the very name of BAPTISTS; which evil the above agreement of the Association, if attended to, would in a great measure remedy. CHRIST is the door to the ministry, and his church is the porter (for to it hath he given the keys); and whoever comes in at the door, to him the porter openeth, John x: 3; he that climbeth into the pulpit any other way, climbeth thither by an extraordinary call and mission, and must give an extraordinary proof thereof, as the Apostles did, or subject himself to a suspicion of intrusion and imposture. And it has been found, that they who pretend to extraordinary calls and missions are such as could obtain no ordinary ones, because either their characters or gifts would not justify any church that should put them in the ministry.— In truth, they are SELF-MADE preachers; and it has been said, that “ a self-made preacher, a quack doctor and a pettyfogging lawyer are “ three animals that the world would do better without than with.”

