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Minutes of the Philadelphian Association in MDCCLXXIII.
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MINUTES

OF THE

PHILADELPHIAN ASSOCIATION

In MDCCLXXIII.

PHILADELPHIA, October 12, 1773.

AT Three of the Clock the Association began, as usual, with Divine Service. The sermon by our brother Rev. Morgan Edwards from Num. xxiii, ver. 9; who (after observing, that *standing alone and unreckoned among the nations* meant a religious *singularity*; and comparing his text with the king of Moab's sense of it, ch. xxiv: 10.) advanced this doctrinal point; and exemplified it in the case of the Baptists from the beginning of Christianity to the present time. *Standing alone and unnumbered with any religious society is (in some supposable cases) a commendable and blessed thing.* Those who have solicited a copy of the sermon for the press, will be gratified when all the Association sermons come to be printed.

2. After Divine service, brother John Gano was chosen Moderator, and brother Morgan Edwards Clerk. Letters from 42 churches were read; and the names of the Messengers enrolled, as follows. Note. *The Ministers names are in Roman characters. Those marked with an * not present. The Churches marked in the same manner sent neither letters nor Messengers; their numbers remain as last year. Dashes denote no Minister.*

Churches.

Ministers and Messengers.

Pennepek

{ SAMUEL JONES, A. M.
{ Alexander Edwards, Esq;

Middletown

ABEL MORGAN, A. M.

Piscataqua

ISAAC STELLE.

Cohansey


{ ROBERT KELSAY,
{ Philip Shepberd,
{ David Bowen.

Welftract

{ JOHN SUTTON,
{ Hugh Glasford.

Regist.	Rec. by L.	Dism.	Deat.	Excom.	Mem.
6	4	1	0	0	63
2	0	0	0	0	142
2	1	0	2	2	72
0	2	2	4	0	79
22	1	2	4	3	129

Churches.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Baptiz.</i>	<i>Rec. by L.</i>	<i>Dism.</i>	<i>Dead.</i>	<i>Excom.</i>	<i>Membr.</i>
Great 	{ JOHN DAVIS, THOMAS JONES, <i>James Davis</i>	0	6	2	2	2	72
		0	0	0	0	1	61
Capemay	PETER P. VAN HORN.						
Hopewell	{ <i>John Stout,</i> <i>David Stout.</i>	0	0	0	3	0	191
Brandiwine	{ <i>Robert McKim,</i> <i>James Shields.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	29
Montgomery	{ JOHN THOMAS, <i>Elijah Davis,</i> <i>James Morgan.</i>	6	2	1	1	0	103
		0	0	0	0	0	16
Tulpehokon *	THOMAS JONES.						
Kingwood	{ DAVID SUTTON, <i>Andrew Bray, Esq;</i> <i>Elcana Holmes.</i>	3	1	0	1	0	80
Southampton	{ WILLIAM VAN HORN, <i>Joseph Hart, Esq;</i> WILLIAM ROGERS, A.M.	11	0	1	2	0	63
Philadelphia	{ <i>George Wescott,</i> <i>Samuel Davis.</i>	15	3	3	4	3	172
		0	0	0	1	0	24
Cranberry	BENJAMIN MILLER.						
Scotsplains		2	0	5	2	0	122
Horseneck *		0	0	0	0	0	7
Oysterbay	{ <i>William Roe.</i> RENUÉ RUNION. *	6	0	0	1	0	20
		4	6	2	0	0	49
Morristown		0	0	0	0	0	41
Knowlton *	{ JOHN DAVIS, <i>David Lane.</i>	12	1	1	6	0	146
Baltimore	{ JOSHUAH JONES, <i>David Evans.</i>	1	0	5	4	0	56
Newbritain	{ ABEL GRIFFITHS, * <i>John Holmes, Esq;</i> <i>Edward Keasby, Esq;</i>	1	0	0	0	0	24
Salem							

Churches.

Ministers and Messengers.

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptiz	Rec. by L.	Dysm.	Disch.	Errors	Members
Newtown	{ NICHOLAS COX, Peter Smith, Evy Adams.	49	0	1	0	0	67
Beckmansprecinct	SAMUEL WALDO.*	2	0	0	3	1	108
Dividingcreek	{ SAMUEL HEATON,* David Shepberd, William Newcomb.	0	0	0	0	0	39
New-York	{ JOHN GANO, Henry Williams.	13	0	6	1	0	171
Newmills	{ Samuel Gaskill, Peter Lane.	0	0	0	0	1	55
Konolowa	JOSEPH POWELL.	5	2	3	0	0	39
Coram *	NOAH HAMMOND.*	0	0	0	0	0	31
Crowicks	{ DAVID JONES, Caleb Carman.	4	0	0	2	0	44
Mountbethel	ABNER SUTTON.	0	2	6	0	0	28
Goshen	{ JAMES BENEDICT,* Philip Ketcham.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyonsfarms	{ Icbabod Grummon.	2	0	0	0	0	22
Philipspatent	{ SIMON DAWKIN,* EBENEZER WARD, John Lawrence.	10	0	0	0	1	81
Pittsgrove	{ WILLIAM WORTH, David Elwell.	7	3	0	1	0	38
Manahawkin *	— — —	0	0	0	0	0	12
Vincent	{ David Thomas, John Griffiths.	5	0	0	0	0	57
Tuckahoe *	WILLIAM LOCK.*	0	0	0	0	0	17
Northern Liberty	{ — — — Joseph Bull.	0	0	0	0	0	15

190|35|40|46|14|2585

3. A letter from the WARREN Association was read; whereby it appears, that three churches joined them, with an increase of members 104;—that the oppression of the Baptists in Massachusetts continues; the paragraph relating to this follows, “Our suffering in Boston government on religious accounts still continue in several places; a particular narrative of which is to be printed, with a fair representation of the treatment which the Baptists have met with in said government in time past.”

4. A letter from the CONGAREE Association, in South Carolina, was read, soliciting the continuance of our correspondence, and exhibiting the state of their churches, whereby it appears that there was a great increase among them; but the number is not specified—next year they promise to be more exact.

5. Also a letter from QUEKUKY Association, in North Carolina, thanking us for our care in sending messengers among them; exhibiting the state of their churches; and soliciting the continuance of correspondence and missions. The increase of members this year among them is 275.

6. No letter from SANDYCREEK Association, in the same province. Nor from the RAPIDANNE Association, in Virginia. A letter was prepared by the KETOKTON Association, and Rev. Richard Major appointed messenger. By some means the letter came not to hand; but the messenger informs us of a very great increase among them, with the addition of three churches to their Association. No letter from the CHARLESTOWN Association, in South Carolina. But as letters and a messenger are sent to each, we hope to have it in our power next year to gratify the churches with the state of their brethren to the Southward.

7. The Second church of New-York applying for admission, and some obstacles appearing in the way, a committee was appointed to meet at New-York November 8th, to inspect into the matter; and (if the obstacles could be removed) to receive said church into union in the name and behalf of the Association. The persons appointed are Rev. Messrs. Benjamin Miller, Isaac Stelle, and Alderman Stites.

8. The case of Mr. Henry Dawson, late of London, but now of Newport in Rhode-Island, came before the Association. Agreed, that Messrs. Samuel Jones, David Jones, David Sutton, Henry Williams and Joseph Hart be a committee to consider the matter, and make their Report. They met, and reported as follows, “As it doth appear to us that the said Henry Dawson hath deposited all his substance in a safe hand for the benefit of his creditors, and otherwise manifested a suitable inclination, and endeav-

“ yours

“ yours (to the utmost of his ability) to pay and discharge his debts, we
 “ are of opinion, that any minute or record formerly made by this Affo-
 “ ciation respecting him should and ought to become null and void as if
 “ the same had not been made,”—The Association agreed thereto, and
 the records were made void. *N. B.* The reason of our having to do with
 Mr. Dawson was, that (till of late) he professed himself to be a First-day
 Baptist, but now is in the observance of the Seventh-day.

9. A letter from a company of people at Oysterbay, on Long-Island,
 was read, requesting help in their present difficulties. Resolved, that
 Messrs. Benjamin Miller, John Lawrence, John Gano, Isaac Stelle, Eben-
 ezer Ward, Henry Williams and John Scites do meet at said Oysterbay the
 10th of November to give them the help they requested; and also to pro-
 vide supplies for them this year.

10. A petition from a certain number of well-disposed persons at Cow-
 marsh, in Kent, was attended to, and the following supplies provided for
 them:

Fourth Sunday in November, Rev. John Blackwell.

Second in April, Rev. William Worth.

Last in May, Rev. P. Peterfon van Horn.

Last in July, Rev. Morgan Edwards.

The Fourth in September, Rev. Robert Kelsay.

11. An answer to a query from the Greatvalley to be sent with their
 letter.

12. The money brought in by the church of Capemay, Salem and Cros-
 wick, for the use of our suffering brethren, being remanded; Ordered,
 That treasurer Wescott deliver said money to their messengers; and the
 rest to the other churches, if demanded by their messengers.

13. Agreed, that Messrs. Rogers and Vanhorn shall write the circular
 letter; and Messrs. Jones and Edwards write to the Associations correspond-
 ing or to correspond with us. Also, that brother Abel Morgan do, against
 next Association, consider a plan, and present a specimen of a circular let-
 ter to be addressed to the churches.

Agreeable to a request in the letter from New-York our Ministers were
 pressed to visit the brethren at Pigskill, in New-York government; and
 at Stamford, in Connecticut.

14. The usefulness of a travelling Minister on this continent appearing
 more manifest by trials, and brother Morgan Edwards declining the office,
 it was agreed, that brother John Gano be a *Messenger of the churches* for
 this

this year; and that the treasurer do pay him the interest of the Association fund, to help defraying his expences.

15. Agreeable to a petition from the church of Newmills, the following supplies were provided for them, as they are destitute, occasioned by the excommunication of their late Minister, Mr. David Branson, of whom the churches should be aware.

Fourth Sunday in December, Rev. Samuel Jones.

Second in February, Rev. William Worth.

Fourth in March, Rev. David Jones.

First in April, Rev. P. Peterson van Horn.

Fourth in June, Rev. Robert Kelsay.

Third in August, Rev. Ebenezer Ward.

Fourth in September, Rev. Samuel Jones.

Fourth in October, Rev. William van Horn.

16. The following supplies are provided for Hopewell church :

Fourth Sunday in October, Rev. John Blackwell.

Fourth in November, Rev. Nicholas Cox.

First in February, Rev. Morgan Edwards.

Third and fourth in ditto, Rev. William Worth.

Second in April, Rev. P. Peterson van Horn.

Fourth in May, Rev. Samuel Jones.

Fourth in June, Rev. William Rogers.

Fourth in July, Rev. David Jones.

Second in August, Rev. Ebenezer Ward.

Fourth in October, Rev. John Blackwell.

17. Agreeable to a petition from the church of Kingwood, their case was considered; and brother Abel Morgan appointed to write to them. The letter is as follows :

“ *Beloved Brethren,*

WHEREAS you have in your letter informed the Association, that you are not agreed among yourselves about the genuine sense of that place of scripture in John xiii. relative to washing the saints feet; and also request the Association to give you their opinion of it. The Association taking the same into consideration, are not so happy as to be universally agreed themselves in the point so as to give you the fixed determined sense of the words; and not chusing at present to enter into disputes upon the subject, thought proper to chuse I should write you a line upon the occasion;

caſion; deſiring (which is alſo my earneſt deſire) you to avoid all unbe-coming heats, perverſe diſputings, contentions, hard thoughts and evil ſpeaking among yourſelves on this account; but rather to forbear with one another in love, that though you cannot ſee alike in all things, yet you would ſtill follow the things that make for peace; for hereunto were ye called. Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Let not thoſe who are bound in conſcience to praſtiſe it, condemn thoſe who are not convinced it is a duty; nor thoſe who cannot ſee it duty, deſpiſe thoſe who are for praſtiſing it. Let all things, brethren, be done among you to edification. Unity is the great deſign God hath in view to accompliſh, Eph. 1:10. Unity among God's people is that which the devil hates, and labours to deſtroy, who is the ſower of diſcord among brethren.—With my hearty deſire for your proſperity, I am your's,

Philadelphia, Oct. 14, 1773.

ABEL MORGAN."

18. Agreed, that by reaſon of the diſtances of ſeveral of our ſiſter churches, to the Eaſtward, the Aſſociation ſhould meet twice in the year; once at New-York on the Wednesday after the fourth Lord's day in May, at Three of the clock, for the conveniency of ſaid Eaſtern churches; and at Philadelphia on Wednesday after the ſecond Lord's day in October. The ſermon to be preached at New-York by Rev. Samuel Jones, and in caſe of failure, by Rev. Abel Morgan. That at Philadelphia by Rev. Isaac Stelle, and in caſe of failure, by Rev. William Rogers.

19. Purſuant to a petition from Lyonsfarm, the following ſupplies were obtained for them:

Third Sunday in November, Rev. Nicholas Cox.

Laſt Sunday in December, Rev. Morgan Edwards, who is to be at Piſcatawa the Friday before, at Twelve o'clock.

Fourth in May, Rev. Ebenezer Ward.

20. The Aſſociation fund being again recommended, the following donations were added this year:

Church of Philadelphia	—	—	—	4	0	0
Church of York	—	—	—	2	0	0
Church of Newbritain	—	—	—	0	7	6
Church of Pennepek	—	—	—	0	12	6
Church of Montgomery	—	—	—	0	7	9
Rev. David Jones	—	—	—	0	7	6
Mr. Hugh Glasford	—	—	—	0	8	0

In all £ 8 : 3 : 3. which increaſed the capital to £ 118 : 14 : 5.

21. Voted



21. Voted that £ 18. arising from Mrs. Hubb's donation, be equally divided between Messrs. Peter Smith and Thomas Gier, they giving the usual obligations to the Trustees.

22. Voted that Messrs. John Gano and William van Horn be our messengers to the WARREN Association; and to the SOUTHERN Associations Mr. Gano only.

23. The circular letter to the churches.

The Ministers and Messengers of the several Baptist Congregations in Pennsylvania, the Jerseys, and Provinces adjacent, (met in Annual Association in Philadelphia, October 12, 13, 14, 1773.) to the several Churches we respectively relate unto,

Send CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

MUCH ESTEEMED BRETHREN,

ALMIGHTY GOD in his kind providence ^{had} ~~having~~ favoured us with another anniversary Association, ~~for which~~ it surely behoveth us to call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless and praise his holy and reverend Name.

Through divine goodness we met in peace, and preserved love and harmony. We have (as by our Minutes appear) endeavoured so to act, that the great Head of the church may be glorified, and much benefit redound to the several branches we stand respectively related unto. The particular accounts transmitted in many of your letters, together with those of other Associations, are truly very refreshing. Oh, help us to magnify the LORD for his rich favours and tender mercies, which are over all his works!

But, alas! that usual complaint of deadness and lukewarmness in the things of religion *still* prevails: It is much to be lamented that vital piety in many places decays, for the revival of which we have thought meet to appoint four days in the year ensuing as days of fasting and united prayer and supplication at the throne of grace, viz. the Fridays after the fourth LORD'S days in November, February, May and August. Prayer (you are sensible) has done wonders; it is the very breath of the new creature; yea, it is a command from CHRIST himself, "Ask, and it shall be given you, &c." Matth. 7:7. 8. Moreover, for our encouragement let us remember, that if any two or three of us shall agree to petition for any thing in the name of JESUS, it shall be granted unto us,

We entreat you therefore, unitedly to assemble together and to be instant with the LORD in prayer, wrestling with him for his blessing and those measures of his Spirit and grace, whereby our souls may be quickened, and religion more and more revived in our land.

JOHN GANO, Moderator,
MORGAN EDWARDS, Secretary.

* * The following Books may be had of Mr. Samuel Davis, Hatter, at the Corner of Christ-Church Alley, in Third-street, viz. Baptist Confessions of Faith, 1s. 1d. Norcott on Baptism, 4d. Catechisms, 3d. Materials towards a History of the Baptists, 4s. unbound 3s. Customs of Primitive Churches, 3s. 9d. Stennett's Sermons, 20s. &c. &c. &c.