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Baptists. Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Association, 1780.

**Minutes of the Baptist Association, held at Philadelphia,
October 17 and 18, 1780.**

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M I N U T E S

O F T H E

B A P T I S T A S S O C I A T I O N,

Held at PHILADELPHIA, October 17 and 18, 1780.

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Tuesday, October 17.

AT three o'Clock, P. M. Revd. SAMUEL JONES, pursuant to Appointment, preached the introductory Sermon from Matthew xvi. 18. "*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church; and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.*"

2. After divine Service, Revd. ISAAC STELLE was elected Moderator, and Revd. WILLIAM ROGERS, Clerk.

3. Letters from *Twenty-one* Churches were read, complaining in general of great Declension in Religion and vital Piety, also, of amazing prevailing Stupidity, which are such Tokens of the divine Displeasure, as do loudly call for deep Humiliation of Spirit.

N. B. The ASSOCIATION ardently wish to hear from *all* the other Churches in *Union*, who have, at this our annual Meeting, *neglected* writing to us—Likewise, request an EXACT RETURN of their full Number in Communion, to be forwarded to the next Association, in order that the State of our Churches may be published as formerly.

4. Revd. OLIVER HART of Charlestown, South-Carolina, and Revd. WILLIAM ROGERS of this City, being present, also our Brethren Thomas Fleson and John Pitman, *they were*, by the *Association*, admitted to the full Privilege of Members.

5. A Letter from the WARREN Association held the 12th Ult. brought by their Messenger Revd. ELHANAN WINCHESTER, was read—giving a most pleasing Account of the Work of God's Spirit in many Parts of NEW-ENGLAND.—*Seven Hundred and Sixty-five* Members were added to their last Association, and upwards of *One Thousand* had, within one Year, been baptized in Massachusetts's State only, who had not then joined that Body.

6. The

6. The Minutes of CHARLESTOWN Association held in November, 1779, were read.—Near *Three Hundred* were baptized among them that Year; *Two Hundred and Thirty-nine* in three Months, at PEDEE, by one Minister. God grant, that the several Churches of this our Sister Association may be speedily delivered from *British Oppression!*

Adjourned to nine o'Clock To-Morrow Morning.

Wednesday, October 18.

Met agreeable to Adjournment.

7. A Letter from *Cow-Marsh*, Kent County, on Delaware, was read—desiring *Supplies*, as they are destitute of a stated Ministry.—The *Association* approve the Request, and purpose helping them as much as possible.

8. The circular Letter prepared by the Revd. ABEL MORGAN was read, and unanimoously adopted. Revd. SAMUEL JONES appointed to compose one for next Year. Subject—GOD'S COVENANT.

9. Revd. WILLIAM VAN HORNE, who was requested to write to the *WARREN* Association, and Revd. JOHN BLACKWELL to that in *VIRGINIA*, brought in their Letters respectively, which, after Examination, were approved.

The Messengers appointed to visit the *former*, at their next annual Meeting, are Revd. Messrs. WILLIAM ROGERS and ELHANAN WINCHESTER, with Mr. JOHN PITMAN.—To the *latter*, Mr. THOMAS FLEESON.

10. The Members of this *Association*, on Consideration of the awful Declension in Religion in these *middle States*, and our *national Distresses*—recommend to *all* our Churches to continue the Observation of the *second Thursdays* in November, February, May and August, as Days of FASTING, HUMILIATION and PRAYER.

11. After some Conversation on the State of the *Association Library*, it was thought proper to nominate a LIBRARIAN: Accordingly having made Choice of Revd. WILLIAM VAN HORNE, he accepted, and full Power is hereby given him to collect *all* the Books *now out*, and distribute *them* with *those now on Hand*, as he sees proper—and render an Account thereof at our *next Meeting*.

12. Resolved, That our next Association be held in PHILADELPHIA the Tuesday after the third Lord's Day in October.

Sermon, at usual Time, by Revd. JOHN BLACKWELL.—On Failure, by Revd. NICHOLAS COX.

13. Revd. OLIVER HART was unanimoously requested to preach this Evening.

Thus, having through *divine Favour* enjoyed a comfortable Interview together, upon finishing *our Business*, we closed at one o'Clock in christian Love and Fellowship.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the several Baptist Churches, meeting at

Pennepack,	Brandywine,	Salem,
Middletown,	Montgomery,	Newtown,
Piscataway,	Southampton,	Dividing Creek,
Cohansey,	Philadelphia,	New Mills,
Tredyffrin,	Cranberry,	Upper Freehold,
Cape May,	Scots Plains,	Lyons Farms,
Hopewell,	New Britain,	Pittsgrove,

To the said CHURCHES send our christian SALUTATION.

Beloved Brethren,

AT the Close of our annual Association, we now address you, on the solemn Subject of the sixth Chapter of our Confession of Faith, which treats of the Fall of Man.

Such is the Excellency and Usefulness of divine Revelation contained in that sadly neglected Book, *the BIBLE*, that it affords us an infallible Certainty respecting Things past, present, and to come, which do so nearly concern us to know; among other Articles—Man's Creation—who was made upright, righteous and holy, after the Likeness, or Image of God—happy in the Favour of God, and Communion with him—endued with Power to fulfil the Law, given him for the Rule of his Obedience to his Creator, in that perfect State.

Moreover, by the same Word of Truth, we are assured of the *sorrowful Change* which befel our first Parents, by their acting contrary to the Command of God—beguiled by Satan, the Father of Lies; Man fell:—Lost his Creation Excellencies, his Honour, his God, his Favour, Knowledge of him, Communion with him, Fitness for his Service, and Ability to perform it: Lost his Life—his Life to God; even his natural, or animal Life being forfeited, he became subject to Death, the Sanction of the Law, the Penalty denounced in case of Disobedience.—Then the Consequents of his evil Deed immediately took Place, which are *Guilt* and *Depravity*, with all the Miseries which do accompany the same, both present and future. Thus Man became separated from God,—an Enemy unto him, to his Glory and Government, from the first Sin, even until now—obnoxious to the Curse of a just Law violated, and under the Wrath of God due to Transgressors:—Also, wofully polluted throughout Soul and Body: “We are all as an unclean Thing.” Isa. lxiv. 6. Man, by his Departure from God, is become idolatrous,—turned from the only true God unto *Self*, which is the grand Idol of the whole World ever since Adam's Revolt: Self was the very alluring Bait, wrapped up in the first Temptation: “Ye shall be as Gods.” Now it cannot be otherwise, but that He (who will not give his Glory to another) should always abhor and detest any one, and every one, that

