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Baptists. Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Association, 1787.
Minutes of the Baptist Association, held at New-York,
October 1787.

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AAS copy.

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 NEW-YORK, OCTOBER 1787.



T U E S D A Y, October 2d, 1787.

1. **A**T 3 o'clock, P. M. Sermon by brother WILLIAM VAN HORNE, from Isa. liii. 11. *He shall see of the travel of his soul, and shall be satisfied.*

2. Brother JAMES MANNING was chosen Moderator, and brother WILLIAM VAN HORNE, Clerk.

3. Proceeded to read the Letters from the Churches.

N. B. Ministers names in *Italics*. Those marked thus * not present. From the Churches marked thus † we received no letters. Dashes denote no settled Minister.

Churches.	Ministers & Messengers:	Pap- tized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excom- municated.	Decea- sed.	Number.
Lower Dublin, Per- nepeck,	{ <i>Samuel Jones,</i> <i>Thomas Webster,</i> <i>John Holme.</i>	2	1	0	0	0	69
Middletown,	{ <i>Samuel Morgan,</i> <i>John Cook,</i> <i>John Stillwill.</i>	1	0	0	0	4	104
Piscatawa,	{ <i>Reune Runyan,</i> <i>Jeremiah Manning,</i> <i>Abraham Monday,</i> <i>Hezekiah Smith, jun.</i> <i>George Drake.</i>	22	0	0	1	2	140
Cohansey,	<i>Robt. Kelsay.*</i>	0	0	1	4	0	95
Welch Tract.	<i>John Boggs.*</i>	15	1	0	3	0	70
Great Valley,	_____	27	1	2	2	0	54
† Cape May,	<i>Artist Seagrave.*</i>	0	0	0	0	0	72
Hopewell,	{ <i>Oliver Hart,</i> <i>David Snowden.</i>	0	3	2	1	2	185
Brandwine,	<i>Abel Griffith.*</i>	0	0	2	0	0	15
† Dolpehawkin,	_____	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery,	_____	0	0	2	0	5	30
Kingwood,	{ <i>Nicholas Cox,</i> <i>John Robinson.</i>	18	2	2	0	1	112
Southampton,	{ <i>David Jones,</i> <i>William Watts.</i>	3	1	0	0	1	53
Carried over,		88	9	11	11	15	999

Churches.	Ministers & Messengers.	ap- tized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excom- municated	Decea- sed.	Number.
	Brought forward	88	9	11	11	15	999
Philadelphia,	{ Thomas Ustick,* William Rogers.	7	3	2	0	2	111
Hights-Town,	{ Peter Wilson, John Morford, Abraham Freeling.	48	1	4	0	1	175
Scotch-Plains,	{ William Van Horne, Joseph Manning, Jacob Fitz Randolph	19	1	5	1	0	152
Horse-Neck,	{ Jof. Fitz Randolph.	0	0	2	0	1	14
Oyster-Bay,	{ Benjamin Coles, Albert Albertson,	0	0	0	0	0	9
Adjourned till half after eight o'clock to-morrow morning.							
Sermon this evening by brother William Frisloe, from 2. Cor. vi. 10. <i>As poor, yet making many rich.</i>							
Met pursuant to adjournment, Wednesday, October 3.							
1st. Morristown,	{ David Leefborough, John Brookfield,	8	2	1	0	1	85
Knowlton,	David Finn,	30	0	23	1	1	42
† Hartford,	John Davies,*	0	0	0	0	0	0
New-Britain,	{ Joshua Jones, Benjamin Matthews	0	0	0	1	0	20
Salem,	Peter P. Van Horne*	0	1	1	0	1	36
Newtown,	Silas Southward,*	0	0	0	0	0	74
Pawling's Precinct,	Samuel Waldo*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dividing Creek,	John Garrison*	0	0	0	1	0	43
	{ John Gano, Stephen Gano,						
1st. New-York,	{ Samuel Dodge, Thomas Longly, Thomas Slow, &c.	29	2	4	5	1	192
New-Mills,	_____	0	0	1	1	4	84
† Konoloway	_____	0	0	0	0	0	0
† Coram,	_____	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Freehold,	John Blackwell*	2	1	1	0	0	61
Mount Bethel,	{ Abner Sutton, John Manning,	13	0	3	0	3	113
Goshen, or Warwick	{ Thomas Jones, Jonathan Sylsby,	4	0	0	0	0	32
Lyon's Farms,	Ichabod Grummon,	0	0	0	0	0	13
† Philip's Patent,	_____	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pittsgrove,	{ William Worth* David Elwell	0	0	1	0	2	86
Carried over,		248	21	59	22	32	2341

Churches.	Ministers & Messengers.	Bap- tized.	Received by Lett ^r .	Dismissed by Lett ^r .	Excom- municated	Receaf- ed.	Number.
	Brought forward	248	20	59	22	32	2341
† Manahawkin,	_____	0	0	0	0	0	0
† Vincent,	_____	0	0	0	0	0	0
† Tukahoe,	<i>Isaac Bunnell, *</i>	0	0	0	0	0	63
† Cortlandt's Manor	_____	0	0	0	0	0	0
2d New-York,	{ <i>John Dodge,</i> <i>Francis Van Dyke.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	10
Stanford,	{ <i>Ebenezer Ferris,</i> <i>Elijah Hunter.</i>	24	6	20	2	0	64
† Cow Marsh,	_____	0	0	0	0	0	28
London Tract,	<i>Thomas Fleson,</i>	0	1	0	0	1	28
Hill-Town,	{ <i>John Thomas, *</i> <i>Enoch Thomas,</i> <i>David Jayne.</i>	0	2	1	0	0	100
Lower Smithfield,	_____	3	0	0	3	1	29
† Mispilion,	_____	0	0	0	0	0	16
Baltimore,	<i>Lewis Richards, *</i>	1	2	1	0	0	28
Duck Creek,	<i>Elihu Dancy, *</i>	5	0	0	0	1	55
Wilmington,	_____	21	0	0	0	0	55
Canoe-Brook,	{ _____ <i>Isaac Price.</i>	7	1	1	0	0	35
Jacob's Town,	{ <i>Margis Allison *</i> <i>James Cox,</i> <i>William Snowden.</i>	0	0	1	0	0	43
Staten-Island,	{ <i>Elkana Holmes,</i> <i>Anthony Fountain,</i> <i>Nicholas Cox.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	26
Pitt's Town.	<i>James Finn.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	32
Total,		309	32	83	27	35	2953

2. Voted, That the Brethren in the Ministry present, from distant parts, be requested to take a seat amongst us and give us their assistance.

3d. Received a very agreeable Letter from the Virginia Association, by their messenger our esteemed brother *William Frisloe*, in which we note two things particularly; First, That a happy union has taken place between the Regular and Separate Baptists in Virginia; of which we also had information by a letter from our brother *John Leland*, by order of the COMMITTEE of Regular and Separate Baptists. In this union we sincerely rejoice. Secondly, They warn us to beware of a certain *Duncan McClean*, late one of their Ministers, who has embraced the doctrine of universal salvation.

In a postscript, brother *Leland* informs us, that about 1200 persons have been baptized, and added to their Churches, within about two years.

4. A letter from the Charleston Association was received, with their minutes, containing very agreeable information of the state of Religion in some of their Churches.

5. A letter from the Warren Association was read, and their messenger, brother *Manning*, entered into a particular detail of the progress of the Gospel in various parts of New-England. Brother *William Wood*, of Kentucky, did the same with respect to the interest of religion in that place: and some of the Brethren present, gave us the like intelligence from Redstone and Georgia. By all which, we were made to rejoice in the prosperity of Zion throughout this Continent: and encouraged to believe that the purity of the doctrines and ordinances of the Gospel of Christ are prevailing more and more.

6. A Church on Staten Island, constituted 30th of December 1785, was received.
7. A Church at Pitts-Town, county of Luzerne, in the state of Pennsylvania, constituted 7th of August 1786, was received.
8. Query, from the Church at Lower-Dublin, Whether a person declining communion with the Church, be it for what cause it may, ought to be excluded, while his moral and religious character in other respects is unexceptionable?

Voted in the affirmative.

Adjourned to 3 o'Clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

1. The Circular Letter being read, it was moved, that a committee be appointed to revise it; brethren *Joshua Jones, David Jones* and *Elkana Holmes*, are hereby appointed, and to report thereon to morrow.

2. Brother *Samuel Jones* represented, that a real Estate in New-Castle county in the state of Delaware, had been demised by *Reese Jones* to the Ministers of this Association, for the education of young men.

Resolved, That this Association, will engage in the recovery of said Estate, and become amenable for the expences arising.

Voted, That our brethren, *Samuel Jones, Col. Samuel Miles, Samuel Davies, sen David Jones* and *William Rogers*. or any three of them be, and they are hereby appointed, and authorized, by every eligible method, to recover said Estate for the intention of the Testator; and to proceed therein with all convenient speed.

Adjourned to nine o'clock, to morrow morning.

Sermon this evening by Brother *John Stanford*, from Psalm 1. 2. *Out of Zion the perfection of beauty, GOD hath shined.*

T H U R S D A Y, October 4th.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

1. Agreeable to appointment yesterday, Brother *Samuel Jones*, produced a letter addressed to the COMMITTEE of the District Associations in Virginia: which being read and amended was approved

2. Pursuant to request yesterday, Brethren *Oliver Hart, William Van Horne, and Stephen Gano* brought in a draft of a letter addressed to the ASSOCIATIONS throughout America, which being read was approved. Ordered that ten copies be brought in this afternoon.

3. Brother *S. Jones* and Brother *John Stanford*. are requested to form proposals for printing an abridgement of *DOCTOR GILL's Exposition of the Bible*.

Adjourned to three o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

1. In answer to the query from the church at Goshen, we reply—If a man and wife should separate, be it for what cause it may, if either of the parties be innocent in the matter, and should apply for Baptism, such may be admitted; but may not marry to another without a legal divorce.

2. The

2. The first Church in New-York queried. Whether a person applying to one of our Churches for admission as a member, and satisfies the Church that he has been previously baptized by immersion, on a profession of his faith in Christ; but at the same time confesses, the person who administered the ordinance, was at the time, neither ordained to the work of the ministry, nor baptized himself by immersion, but only chosen and called by a religious society, to officiate as their teacher or minister—should be received.

3. Resolved, That the above query be held over on consideration till next Association, and that our Brethren *Holmes, Ferris, S. Jones, D. Jones*, or any of the Brethren, who chuse to engage in it, be requested to deliver their thoughts in writing upon the subject at the next Association.

4. Brother *Samuel Jones* informed the Association that the manuscript of the History of the Baptists in the State of New-Jersey, was lost, by the the depredations of the enemy in the late war, and that those who had advanced cash for putting it to the press, might call on Brother *Ustick* of Philadelphia, who will refund the same.

Adjourned to six o'clock to-morrow morning.

Sermon this evening by *Doctor Manning*, from John xvii. 21. *That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe thou hast sent me.*

F R I D A Y, October 5th.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

1. On application from Shelburne, in Nova-Scotia—after consideration, it was agreed that their request ought to be attended to; several of our ministers being in nomination, brother *William Van Horne* finally concluded to go, and pay them a visit, on condition the Church at the Scotch Plains, could be supplied during his absence, which was agreed to.

2. Agreed to the report brought in this morning by the committee appointed yesterday, viz. that our honoured Brother *Dr. Samuel Jones*, prepare for the press an abridgement of *Doctor Gill's Exposition of the Bible*, desiring our brethren in the ministry to give him all the assistance they can in the work. That subscription papers, with the proposals and conditions of printing said work be prepared immediately, to forward with our minutes, and that it be recommended to all our churches to promote said subscriptions.

3. The committee on the circular letter having presented the same, with some alterations, it was read and adopted.

4. Supplies for destitute places.

N. B. As the supply for Nova Scotia, is on further consideration postponed till next summer, on account of the short time before winter will set in at that place, the supplies for Scotch plains this fall, are also postponed.

Supplies for Coram.

<i>Brother Runyon</i>	2d	Lord's Day	in	November.
<i>Brother Cox,</i>	5d	do.	in	do.
<i>Brother Lee,</i>	4th	do.	in	do.
do.	1st	do.	in	December.
<i>Brother Coles,</i>	3d	do.	in	do.

5. Brother *David Jones* to write the Circular Letter for next year.

6. Messengers

6. Messengers to the ASSOCIATIONS are as follows: To New-Hampshire, brother *James Manning*: To Warren and Stonington, brother *William Van Horne*: To Woodstock, brother *Ebenezer Ferris*: To Vermont, brother *Elkana Holmes*: To Shaftsbury, brother *Stephen Gano*: To Redstone, brother *David Jones*: To Virginia, brother *David Loofbourough*: To South-Carolina and Georgia, brother *Oliver Hart*.

7. Agreed that brother *Rogers* be requested to write a letter to the Kentucky ASSOCIATION at his leisure, reserving a copy to be presented to the next Association.

8. Voted unanimously, That the ASSOCIATION be held next year at *Philadelphus* on the first Tuesday in October 1788. Introductory sermon to be preached at 3 o'clock P. M. by brother *John Dodge*, and in case of failure, by brother *Elkana Holmes*.

9. Brother *Stanford* and brother *Samuel Dodge* are requested to superintend the Printing the Minutes and forwarding them to the Churches and Associations.

(C I R C U L A R L E T T E R .)

The MESSENGERS of the several BAPTIST Churches, belonging to the Philadelphian Association, met in the city of New-York, October 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th, 1787.

To the Churches to which they are respectively related. Greeting.

DEAR BRETHREN,

WE beg leave to introduce our circular letter by informing you, that our souls have been refreshed at this meeting, by the glorious tidings brought from different parts, of the advancement of our Redeemer's cause. We congratulate you on this joyful event, portentous, we hope, of the speedy accomplishment of the promises made by the Father to Christ the King of Zion.—As also, on the kind interposition of divine Providence, visible in that happy union which obtained among the members of the late Federal Convention, to agree upon and report to the States in this union, a form of a Federal Government; which promises, on its adoption, to rescue our dear country from that national dishonour, injustice, anarchy, confusion and bloodshed, which have already resulted from the weakness and inefficiency of the present form; and which we have the greatest reason to fear is but the beginning of sorrows, unless the people lay hold on this favourable opportunity offered to establish an efficient government, which, we hope, may, under God, secure our invaluable rights, both civil and religious; which it will be in the power of the great body of the people, if hereafter found necessary, to controul and amend.

As we wish you to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we shall address you on the important subject of Sanctification. We are exhorted to contend earnestly for the faith, once delivered to the saints; and as there are some who deny the work of Sanctification, and too many who are little acquainted with it, we shall therefore consider the subject in the following order.

1. We shall explain the terms, Sanctification.
2. Give some reasons why Sanctification is necessary.
3. The happy effects in the subjects of it.

In a performance of this nature, brevity must be expected; yet enough may be said to display our sentiments on the subject. By searching the scriptures you will find the term hath various significations,

1. It is used to signify the setting apart a person or thing to the peculiar service of God. This is the general use of the word in the old Testament, and in this sense God is said to sanctify the Sabbath, Gen. ii. 3. And to the same purpose it is applied to the first born, Exod. xiii. 2. And thus the temple, the priests, the altar and sacrifices were sanctified under the law.

2. It is used for that holiness and purity of nature, which gives us a *meetness* for the inheritance of the saints in light; and, in some respects, may be distinguished from regeneration, tho' it is radically connected with it. The apostle, speaking of our salvation, said, "it was not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy, he saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost," Tit. iii. 5.

By washing of regeneration, we understand that great change, which is instantaneously made in us by the power of the Holy Ghost, when we are first made alive in Christ Jesus; and from that period we are new creatures, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. The word is used in the same sense in 1 Cor. vi. 11. where the Apostle says, "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified." In regeneration, the divine nature is begun in us by the power of the Holy Ghost, and without this work there can be no growth in grace. From these passages of Holy Scripture, we see that the Holy Ghost makes a distinction between regeneration and Sanctification; in regeneration we receive a new nature or principle, and Sanctification is the growing of that new nature to the stature of a man in Christ Jesus. The washing of regeneration is never repeated, but the renewing of the Holy Ghost is carried on through the whole life of a christian, till he ascends to be with Jesus, Phil. i. 6. It is the Holy Ghost which begins it, and it is his work to finish it; for in the great plan of salvation, the Holy Spirit is as firmly engaged to begin and finish this work, as the Son of God was to finish the work of redemption assigned him to do: The council of God has ordained this way to make us meet for that state of glory, to which we have a right by the adorable Redeemer's righteousness; and therefore we are said to be "chosen unto salvation through sanctification of the spirit," 2 Thess. ii. 13.

We now proceed to demonstrate the necessity of Sanctification.

1. We would first premise, that the necessity of Sanctification and Regeneration arise from the same cause—the fall of man. This has incapacitated us for communion with God; therefore, notwithstanding all our blessed Redeemer has done, we are represented to be in a lost state till this good work is begun. As Sanctification is a progressive work, the necessity of it arises from these considerations. 1. That we are at first only babes in Christ, and not compleat in holiness; for the best men have a body of sin and death. Every renewed soul must feel this to be his case; the great Apostle groaned under it, and the beloved disciple said, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves," 1 John, i. 8. The Holy Ghost is promised to dwell with us and remain in us as his temple, and ye know the temple of the Lord must be holy; and without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

2. Sanctification is necessary, because without it we cannot honor and glorify God. For this our blessed Lord prayed, and for this we should daily apply to the throne of grace—that we may understand the mysteries of his kingdom, and the glory of his grace—that we copy after his great example, and honor him in every dispensation of his providence.

3. It was the great design of Christ's coming into the world; therefore his name is called Jesus because he saves his people from the demerit and the pollution of sin; purifying a peculiar people unto himself, zealous of good works. This great end of the Redeemer's coming shall be fully accomplished in all God's elect by the effectual operations of his Holy Spirit; whose work it

is to glorify the Son of God, in applying his benefits to the heirs of glory, and to give them a meetness to that inheritance that fadeth not away.

We shall now attempt to consider the effects of Sanctification.

1. The effects of it appear immediately after regeneration; the first is a sincere and hearty detestation of sin. The Prophet having spoken of a new heart and a new spirit, adds, "Then shall ye remember your own evil ways and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight, Ezek. xxxvi. 31. No man can loathe himself till he is born of God, because the new man only sees the deformity of sin. After he is turned he truly repents after a godly sort, and is humbled in dust and ashes before God; firmly believing that nothing can deliver him from the guilt of it but the precious blood of the dear Redeemer.

2. Another effect is, we see more clearly our divorcement from the law, by the satisfaction of Christ, as the way by which life is to be obtained by the believing soul, who at the same time honors the law, by acknowledging that it is good, just and holy. It is the fatal mistake of all men in a state of nature, to expect acceptance with God, by the deeds of the law; but the renewed man knows that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. The great Apostle says, "I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God." What a display of infinite wisdom in the plan of salvation! Here we see the sinner saved by grace flowing consistent with all the perfections of God, and at the same time maintaining the honor of the divine law. Vain are the expectations of all who separate what God has joined together. Preserve divine truth in its own order, and it is glorious and harmonious. In the great plan of salvation God joined together Justification by the righteousness of Christ imputed unto us, by an act of grace, by which we have a right to eternal life; and Sanctification which gives us a meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light. One great error in religion is, separating what God has joined together, and joining together what God has separated. Beware of all who applaud the imputed righteousness of Christ, and at the same time either deny the work of the Holy Spirit in Sanctification, or speak lightly or reproachfully of it. He therefore who would either verbally or doctrinally, exclude the imputed righteousness of Christ, and at the same time make great professions of holiness and zeal for religion, ought to be considered as an inveterate enemy to the blessed Redeemer and his truth.

Now, dear Brethren, we take our leave of you by entreating you to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called. Watch over one another in love; and in humility seek a spiritual growth to glorify your Heavenly Father, and appear as lights in the world. And may the God of all grace sanctify you wholly, and preserve you blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

JAMES MANNING, Moderator.

WILLIAM VAN HORNE, Clerk.

A few sets of Dr. GILL on the New Testament, complete in 5 Vols. and on the Old, as far as the 132d Psalm, may be had of Rev. WILLIAM ROGERS, Philadelphia.

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