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Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association.

Minutes . . . in Exeter, M, DCC, LXXXIX.

New London, [1789]. 8 pp.

MHS copy.

M I N U T E S

OF THE

Stonington Baptist Association,

HELD AT

Elder SOLOMON SPRAGUE'S

MEETING-HOUSE

IN

EXETER,

M, D C C, L X X I X.

NEW-LONDON: Printed by T. GREEN. [1789]

MINUTES, &c.

TUESDAY, October 20, 1789.

1. **B**ROTHER Simeon Brown was chosen moderator, and brother Valentine W. Rathbun, clerk.

2. Brother Joshua Morse delivered the introductory Sermon, from Rev. iii. 11. "*Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*"

3. Letters from the churches were read, and the following account taken of the members who have been added, dismissed, excluded or who have died the past year, and the present number in each church.

N. B. Ministers names in *italic*. Those marked thus, * were not present. The churches which sent neither letters or messengers, stand as they did last year, and are distinguished by an †. — Dashes denote no settled minister.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	AD.	DIS.	EXC.	DIED	NUM.
1. Stonington,	<i>Eleazer Brown,</i> <i>Peleg Randall,</i>	2	0	0	0	103
2. Stonington,	<i>Simeon Brown,</i> <i>Simeon Brown, jun.</i> <i>Afa Spalding,</i>	1	1	2	0	128
3. Stonington,	<i>Valentine W. Rathbun,</i> <i>Sands Niles,</i>	1	0	1	0	45
1. Groton,	* <i>Timothy Wightman,</i> <i>Benadam Gallup, jun.</i>	1	0	1	1	153
† 2 Groton, Say-Brook, Exeter,	—————, <i>Eliphalet Lester,</i> <i>Solomon Sprague,</i> <i>Joseph Case,</i> <i>Rodman Sisson,</i> <i>William Hammond,</i> <i>Pardon Tillinghast,</i>	2	0	2	2	36 47 185
South-Kingston,	<i>Benjamin Weight,</i> <i>Caleb Tefft,</i> <i>William Stedman,</i> <i>James Gardner,</i>					36

Church

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Ad.	Dis.	Exc.	Died	Num
Church formerly of Sou. Kingston, now of Richmond	James Shelden, Benj. Barber, jun.	2	0	0	0	48
West-Greenwich,	<i>Elisha Green</i> , Benjamin Tillinghast, Benjamin Green,					46
† 1. Colchester, 2. Colchester,	* <i>Christopher Palmer</i> , <i>Abel Palmer</i> , Jabez Rogers,	3	0	0	2	64 49
Richmond,	—————, Gideon Babcock, William Perkins, Robert Champlin, Sands Perkins,	0	0	0	1	41
Hampton,	—————, Robert Baxter, Nehemiah Dodge, Jeremiah Fields,	3	6	0	0	73
		15	7	6	6	1058

4. Brother Joshua Morie, present, as messenger from Shaftsbury association; but on account of the failure of other messengers, we received no letter or minutes.

5. Received a letter and minutes from the Warren association; brother Biel Ledoyt, present, as their messenger.

6. Appointed our brethren James Shelden, and Nathaniel Perkins, to write the letter to the Warren association.

7. Our brethren Sands Niles, and William Hammond, were chosen to draw the letter to Shaftsbury association.

8. Our brethren Valentine W. Rathbun, and Sands Niles, were appointed to draw the letters to the Philadelphian

phian association, and the United Associations in the State of Virginia.

Adjourn'd till to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

Public worship attended this evening, in various parts of the vicinity.

Wednesday, October 21st.

Met according to adjournment.

9. Read and approv'd the letters to the Warren and Shaftsbury associations.

10. Read the minutes of the Philadelphian association ; by which, we were informed of their readiness to concur with us in maintaining a mutual correspondence.

11. Appointed our brethren Robert Champlin, and Benjamin Barber, jun. messengers to the Warren association ; brethren Solomon Sprague, Pardon Tillinghast, and James Sheldon, to Shaftsbury ; and brother Valentine W. Rathbun, to that at Philadelphia, and the United Associations in Virginia.

12. In answer to a question proposed by brother Joshua Morse, respecting the validity of baptism, administered by a person, who had never been baptized himself, nor yet ordained ; we reply, that, under the present circumstances of the Church, we deem such baptism null and void.

13. The circular letter was presented and read, and not being satisfactory, a committee was nominated, viz. our brethren Simeon Brown, Eleazer Brown, and Valentine W. Rathbun, who are desired to prepare one for the present year.

14. Our brethren Eleazer Brown, and Afa Spalding, are appointed to prepare the circular letter against next association.

15. Agreed to the following supplies for destitute churches.

Church, formerly of South-Kingston, now of Richmond,
Brother Simeon Brown, 3d Lord's-day in November.

Brother

Brother Valentine W. Rathbun, 2d Lord's-day in April.

Brother Eleazer Brown, 2d Lord's-day in June.

Brother Abel Palmer, 3d — in October.

Church of Richmond.

Brother Eleazer Brown, 4th Lord's-day in March.

Brother Simeon Brown, 4th — in April.

Brother Abel Palmer, 2d — in October.

Church of Hampton.

Brother Abel Palmer, 2d Lord's-day in April.

Brother Solomon Sprague, 4th — in May.

Brother Simeon Brown, 1st — in July.

Brother Eleazer Brown, 1st — in August.

16. Brother Valentine W. Rathbun is requested to superintend the printing of these minutes.

17. Voted that our next association be held at brother Simeon Brown's meeting-house in Stonington, the third Tuesday in October, 1790.

Brother Simeon Brown made the concluding prayer.

Now follows our circular letter.

Dearlly beloved,

THE great apostle of the Gentiles, in his epistle to Timothy, enjoins it upon him, to "hold fast the form of sound words," 2 Tim. i. 13. in which, doubtless, is contained the whole system of religion. The oracles of truth exhibit the whole of what we ought to believe, and practice. All we have to learn and know of God, in *his* divine character, is revealed in the scriptures; also, all that we have to do, is therein commanded. In a word, it is the duty and dignity of every christian, to believe and obey, just according to divine revelation, which is given for a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. This is the testimony of God *himself*,—of *his* sovereign rich grace and mercy,—

mercy,—of *his* good will to *his* church on earth. There are none, who receive this testimony, but such, who are sealed, and confirmed by the *Holy Spirit* of GOD ; as says Peter ; we are *his* witnesses of these things : as also is the *Holy Ghost*, whom GOD hath given to them who obey *him*.

None but those who are truly begotten of GOD, can any how hear or know *his* voice. The divine Redeemer says, “ my sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” John x. 27. They, who have, and keep *his* commandments, they, and they only, love *him* ; and *he* will manifest *himself* to them ; *He*, and *his Father*, will come unto them, and make *their* abode with them. True religion consists both in the knowledge of GOD, and conformity to *him*. Communion, and fellowship with GOD, is the great end and design of the gospel, and is the result of all christian progress : it is not only the greatest part of religion, but the very reward of it ; piety hath its reward of happiness, in its own bosom : it is that which perfumes and sweetens the soul with joy and delight, and creates holy affections, and a disposition towards GOD, so that the will is in a good degree swallowed up in the ocean of GOD’s divine sovereignty. When christians love GOD, and walk in *his* testimonies, they are not barren or unfruitful ; but they increase in unity one with another : which is a matter of such importance, and utility to the church of GOD, that our glorious *Redeemer*, just before *his* bitter sufferings, was engaged in prayer to ALMIGHTY GOD, that *his* people might be one, as *he* and the *Father* were one. Blessed be GOD, we trust we have enjoyed, in some measure, the effect of *his* fervent prayer, in our present Convention, while a measure of union and harmony subsisted among us ; we joyfully experienced the truth of the declaration in Prov. xxvii. 17. “ Iron sharpeneth iron ; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

We were much refreshed by the coming of our brethren
from

from various parts, which we deem a confirmation of our duty to continue our annual conventions, as thereby we hear from the churches, and learn their progress in religion. Surely they who fear the LORD, will often speak one to another. Heaven itself consists in union to GOD. The more divine union we have one with another, the more *heavenly* we are; therefore, let us be "endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph. iv. 3. Then will the GOD of peace be with you, and bless you.

"And now, brethren, we commend you to God, and to the word of *his* grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts xx. 32. "And the very GOD of peace sanctify you wholly: and we pray GOD your whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our LORD JESUS CHRIST." Amen and Amen.

Signed in behalf of the association.

SIMEON BROWN, Moderator.

VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, Clerk.

