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# MINUTES

OF THE

Stonington Baptist Association,

HELD AT

COLCHESTER,

At Elder Christopher Palmer's  
Meeting-House,

*October 15th, 1793.*



NORWICH: PRINTED BY THOMAS HUBBARD.



# M I N U T E S, &c.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 1793.

1. **E**LDER *John Leland*, from the Shaftsbury Association, delivered the introductory Sermon, from *Acts*, xvi. 17.

2. After worship proceeded to business.

Brother *Christopher Palmer* was chosen Moderator, and Brother *Afa Spalding*, Clerk.

3. Letters from the Churches were read.

N. B. Ministers names in *italic*. Those to whose names an † is prefixed, were not present. From the Churches marked thus \*, we received no intelligence. ——— Dashes denote no settled Minister.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers</i>	Add.	Dism.	Exclu.	Deceas.	Numb.
1. Stonington,	<i>Eleazer Brown,</i> <i>Henry Hewet,</i>				2	146
2. Stonington,	<i>Simeon Brown,</i> <i>Zebulon Brown,</i> <i>Robert Stanton,</i> <i>Afa Spalding,</i>	1	1	5	1	195
3. Stonington,	<i>Valentine W. Rathbun, †</i>		1			48
1. Groton,	<i>Timothy Wightman,</i> <i>Samuel Lamb,</i> <i>Benadam Gallup,</i>				2	152
2. Groton,	————— <i>Joseph Allyn,</i>					40
Saybrook,	<i>Eliphalet Lester,</i> <i>Joseph Carter,</i>					37

Churches	Ministers and Messengers.	Add.	Disch.	Exclu.	Deer. f.	Numb.
Exeter,	<i>Solomon Sprague, †</i> <i>Joseph Wells,</i> <i>James Lewis,</i> <i>Parson T. Ingalls,</i> <i>Benjamin Weight, †</i>	5	2	4	2	11
• South-Kington, Church formerly of South-Kington, now of Richmond.	} <i>Benjamin Barber,</i>	1		1	1	67
• West-Greenwich, 1. Colchester,						63
	<i>Eliha Green, †</i> <i>Christopher Palmer,</i> <i>Asa Randal,</i> <i>Jeremiah Rogers,</i> <i>Abel Palmer,</i> <i>John Chapel,</i> <i>Asa Rogers,</i>	18			1	63
2. Colchester,						83
Richmond,	-----, <i>Gideon Babcock,</i> <i>Sands Perkins,</i>	1				37
Hampton,	-----, <i>Noah Adams,</i> <i>Stephen Utly,</i>		1	1		65
Montville,	<i>Reuben Palmer,</i> <i>Jehiel Rogers,</i>			1		51
1. Chatham,	-----, <i>Solomon Wheat,</i> <i>Elijah Hodges,</i> <i>Ebenezer Harris,</i> <i>Amos Wells,</i> <i>Isaiah Lyon</i>	26				65
2. Woodstock,				6	2	51
2. Chatham,	-----, <i>Constant Welch,</i> <i>Randal Shattuck,</i> <i>George Gates,</i> <i>Zadock Darrow,</i> <i>Jasper Griffin,</i> <i>Charles Brown,</i> <i>John Rathbun,</i>	6	1			76
New-London,						198
2. Ashford,						53
3. Ashford,	-----, <i>David Bolles,</i> <i>Simeon Dickinson,</i> <i>Asa Hervey,</i> <i>Joseph Davis,</i> <i>Josiah Lyon,</i> <i>John Biggalow,</i> <i>Enoch Brockway,</i>					44
East-Haddam,						48
	<b>Total,</b>	56	6	16	11	1869

The three last mentioned Churches were received into our fellowship the present year.

4. Received a Letter and Minutes from the Danbury Association, by their Messengers, Elder Asabel Hooper, Elder Isaac Roots, and Brother Amos Tuttle.

5. Received a Letter and Minutes from the New-York Association, by their Messenger, Elder Charles Lohatt.

6. Received Minutes from the Shaftsbury Association, by their Messenger, Elder John Leland, but no Letter.

7. Received Minutes from the Philadelphia Association.

8. Appointed Elder John Leland, and Elder John Rathbun, to draw the Letter to the Corresponding Associations.

Adjourned till 9 o'Clock To-morrow Morning.

Public Worship this Evening in various parts of the Vicinity.



WEDNESDAY, *October 16th.*

Met pursuant to Adjournment.

9. Read the Letter to the Corresponding Associations and Approved.

10. Appointed our Brethren, Amos Wells, and Pardon Tillinghast, our Messengers to the Shaftsbury Association. Benjamin Barber, and Robert Stanton, our Messengers to the Warren Association. John Rathbun, Christopher Palmer, Solomon Wheat, and Benadani Gallup, our Messengers to the Danbury Association. Zadock Darrow, Valentine W. Rathbun, and Joseph Wells, our Messengers to the New-York Association. Also voted that the Brethren to the New-York Association, prepare and forward, Letters to the Philadelphia Association, and the Virginia General Committee, together with our Minutes.

11. Appointed the Clerk to draft coppies of our Corresponding Letters, to the several Associations, and set the Moderators' name to them, and convey them to the several Messengers.

12. Read the Circular Letter, and approved the same.

13. Agreed to the following Supplies for destitute Churches.

Church of Hampton.

Brother Abel Palmer,	3d	Lord's-day	in November.
———— Reuben Palmer,	3d	————	in December.
———— Eleazer Brown,	1st	————	in May.
———— Simeon Brown,	1st	————	in July.
———— Benjamin Barber,	3d	————	in June.

## Church of Richmond.

Brother Simeon Brown,	4th	Lord's-day	in	April.
—— Christopher Palmer,	3d	——	in	May,
—— Valentine W. Rathbun,	1st	——	in	August.
—— Amos Wells,	1st	——	in	September.

## Church of Exeter,

Brother Zadock Darrow,	1st	Lord's-day	in	July.
—— Simeon Brown,	1st	——	in	November.

## 2. Church of Chatham.

Brother Simeon Dickinson,	3d	Lord's-day	in	November.
—— Solomon Wheat,	3d	——	in	December.
—— Abel Palmer,	3d	——	in	May.
—— Zadock Darrow	3d	——	in	April.

14. Appointed Elders John Rathbun, and Amos Wells, to write the Circular Letter for next year.

15. Appointed the Clerk to superintend the printing our Minutes.

16. Our next Association, to be held at Elder Eleazer Brown's Meeting-House, in Stonington, the third Tuesday in October, 1794, 10 o'Clock A. M.

## (CIRCULAR LETTER.)

The Elders, and Brethren Messengers, from the several Baptist Churches which they represent. (Being met in Association.) Maintaining the important Doctrines, of three Equal Persons in the GOD-HEAD: Eternal Election: Original Sin: free Justification, by the Righteousness of Christ Imputed; Efficacious Grace, in Regeneration; Final Perseverance of Saints: the Resurrection of the Dead: the General Judgment, at the Last Day; and the Life Everlasting. With the Independence of the several Churches they represent; unto whom they send Christian Salutation.

## A FEW THOUGHTS ON CHARITY.

DEAR BRETHREN,

**W**ELL may we adopt the language of St. Paul: (notwithstanding all our attainments, whether speculative, or experimental:) without Charity we are nothing.—Charity defined is Love. Therefore considering man's true character, in his fallen estate, he is destitute of it. Nevertheless, the foundation is laid for a restoration, of that lost image: in that a Saviour is provided: which unspeakable Gift, originated, from that unfathomable fountain of Love in Deity: of which we must partake; in order to exercise that Grace described in I. Cor. xiii. 4, 5, 6, 7: where we have the properties of Charity at large.

Charity,

Charity, is that affection of Love, which moves us to hold our neighbours dear, and to desire, and seek their good in every thing, which is due unto them; and that for Christ's sake, according to the will of GOD. The habit of Charity infused, is not the Justification of a sinner before GOD. First, because one virtue, cannot be our whole Righteousness. Secondly, because it is the fruit of Justification.

Whereas, Charity is said, Rom. xiii. 10, to be the fulfilling of the Law: it is to be understood, of perfect, and complete Charity, which is contained in all parts, and precepts of the Law: as appeareth from Rom. xiii. 9, but it will not follow in any good consequence; that, because perfect Charity is commanded in the whole Law: therefore it is performed perfectly, by the Saints: for as our knowledge is in part; so is our Charity: we can Love no farther than we know. Nevertheless, the knowledge of our Saviour is perfect; so is his Love: for faith the beloved apostle John, GOD is Love, and again, inspiration saith, that he is the brightness of the Father's glory: and the express image of his person. Therefore, we are dependant on another, for Justification. Note also, that Charity is not always put for the affection of Love: but for the actions and duties of Love: as I. Tim. i. 5, 6. Now the end of the commandment is Charity, out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience; and of faith unfeigned: from which, some having swerved, have turned aside unto vain jangling: according to that in I. John iii. 18. My little children, let us not Love in word, neither in tongue, but indeed and in truth. See also James, ii. 15, 16; and as these duties, and actions, are commanded, and enjoined in the sacred scriptures: and are a criterion, by which we may try ourselves. Therefore let us pursue the subject a little farther.— Toward the people of the world, among whom you live, let your meekness, prudence, justice, and Love; be such as may obtain and preserve, in you, that important Character of a follower of the meek and lowly Jesus: let your Love to your carnal neighbours be seen, by a readiness to do them all the good in your power; but especially; in those things which may have a tendency, directly or indirectly, to bring their souls to GOD, through Jesus Christ. And as to Christians of other denominations, labour to shun that narrow, bigoted principle, which prevents, some, from either thinking, or hoping well of them who do not believe and practice just according to their views, of what is right, and scriptural, in matters of religion. Dare we say, we are right in every thing; that we understand, and obey every scripture exactly according to the design of its divine author? such confidence would not become

us; shall we presume to say, that professors of other denominations are right in nothing? GOD forbid: let us exercise more of that Charity which hopeth all things, &c. If want of Love to our neighbours, and Christians of other denominations, is so pernicious; how bad must it be to be deficient amongst ourselves? Christians, of the same Church, meet at one place, for worship, come round one table; and if it should ever be seen amongst yourselves and especially by the world that you do not love as brethren, how hurtful will this be? what a want of evidence to the world that we are Christ disciples? Oh Brethren: watch and pray against every thing that may have a tendency, to cool your Love toward one another: Oh how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in the exercise of that precious Grace. It brings in a witness, that we have passed from death unto life: which is comforting to the mind, it likewise gives evidence to others that we have been with Jesus. And as this is the Grace that never faileth, when we have done with other Militant Graces: therefore suffer us to address you in the language of St. Paul, have fervent Charity among yourselves: for Charity, shall cover a multitude of sins. Put on Charity, which is the bond of perfectness: 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 and Saviour. Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Signed by order of the Association,  
CHRISTOPHER PALMER, Moderator.  
ASA SPALDING, Clerk.

