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Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association, 1794.
Minutes . . . in Stonington, October 21st and 22d,
M, DCC, XCIV.

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ABHS copy.

MINUTES

C. Byles

O F T H E

Stonington Baptist Association,

H E L D A T

Elder Eleazer Brown's

MEETING-HOUSE,

I N

S T O N I N G T O N,

OCTOBER 21st and 22^d,

M, DCC, XCIV.



NEW LONDON:

PRINTED BY SAMUEL GREEN,

For the second Church in Ashford.



MINUTES, &c.

C. Byle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21st.

1. **E**LDER ISAAC BACKUS preached the introductory Sermon, from PHIL. iii. 15.—“*Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*”

2. After public worship, proceeded to business.

Brother CHRISTOPHER PALMER was chosen Moderator, and Brother VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, Clerk.

3. Read the letters from the several Churches, and took the following account of the members who have been added, dismissed, excluded; or who have died the past year, with the present number in each Church.

N. B. Ministers' names in capitals.—Licensed preachers in italic.—Those Ministers to whose names this mark * is fixed, were not present.—Dashes ——— denote no settled Minister.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	Add.	Dism.	Exclu.	Deceas.	Numb.
1. Stonington,	ELEAZER BROWN, <i>Peleg Randall,</i> <i>Joshua Babcock,</i> <i>Nathan Chapman,</i>	4		1	4	145
2. Stonington,	SIMEON BROWN, <i>Robert Stanton,</i> <i>Asa Spalding,</i> <i>Zebulon Brown,</i>	2		2	1	194
3. Stonington, Groton,	VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, *TIMOTHY WIGHTMAN, <i>Peter Avery,</i> <i>Benadam Gallup, jun.</i>	8			2	46 182
Saybrook,	ELIPHALET LESTER, <i>Benjamin Watrous,</i>	3	1		3	30
Exeter,	—————, <i>Thomas James,</i> <i>Joseph Wells,</i> <i>Pardon Tilinghast,</i>	2		1	3	249
Church formerly of S. Kingston, now Richmond.	BENJAMIN BARBER, jun.	2			2	67

Church	Ministry	dd.	Wm.	Xclu.	Decca	Sum.
West-Greenwich,	*ELISHA GREEN, Samuel Peckham, Griffin Lewis,		3	2		50
1. Colchester,	CHRISTOPHER PALMER, Afa Randall,				1	58
2. Colchester,	ABEL PALMER, James Rogers, Lemuel Minor,	7				90
Richmond,	_____ Sands Perkins,	1			1	37
Hampton,	PETER ROGERS, Moses Edmonds,		1	1		63
Montville,	REUBEN PALMER, Elkanah Comstock,	3		1	1	52
1. Chatham,	_____ Ebenezer Harris, Aaron Bell,			2		63
2. Woodstock,	AMOS WELLS, Robert Baxter, Aaron Barret,	25				76
2. Chatham,	_____ Constant Welch, John Welch,	5	4	2	3	72
New-London,	ZADOCK DARROW, Jethro Beebe, Charles Brown, Thomas Smith,	91			1	268
2. Ashford,	JOHN RATHBUN, Philip Potter,	2				54
3. Ashford,	_____ Edmund Chamberlin,		5	1		38
East-Haddam,	*SIMEON DICKINSON, Joseph Davis, John Bigelow,					47
Plainfield,	NATHANIEL COLE, William Clark, Thomas Smith.					87
Total,		155	14	13	23	1968

N. B. This last Church was received the present year.

4. Received and read Letters from our sister Associations. From the Philadelphian, we received no Accounts. From the Danbury, a Letter and Minutes, by the hand of their Messengers, Elders Epaphras Thompson, and Rufus Babcock. From the Shaftsbury, a Letter and Minutes, by their Messenger, Elder Eber Moffatt. From the

Warren, a Letter and Minutes, by their Messengers, Elder Isaac Backus, and Elder Peter P. Roots. Also Minutes from the New-York, Charleston, and Bowdoinham Associations.

5. Appointed Elders Isaac Backus, Peter P. Roots, and Amos Wells, to prepare a Letter against to-morrow Morning to the several corresponding Associations.—Concluded with Prayer by Brother Abel Palmer.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock the following Morning.

Sermon in the Evening by Brother Peter P. Roots, from 2d TIM. iii. 16.—“*All scripture is given by inspiration of God.*”

WEDNESDAY, October 22d.

Met agreeable to adjournment.

1. The business of the day was opened with prayer by the Moderator.

2. Read and accepted the letter to the several corresponding Associations.

3. Invited Elder Solomon Wheat, and other brethren present to sit and advise with us in the Association.

4. Read the Circular letter—appointed to revise the same, our brethren Eliphalet Lester, Reuben Palmer and Abel Palmer.

5. Chose the following as Messengers to our sister Associations: To the Warren, brother Pardon Tillinghast. To the Shaftsbury, brethren Eliphalet Lester and Thomas Smith. To the Danbury, brethren Eleazer Brown, Peter Rogers and Joseph Davis. To the New-York, brother Valentine W. Rathbun.

6. Brother Valentine W. Rathbun, is requested to forward a letter and minutes to the Philadelphian Association.

7. Received by the hand of Elder Isaac Backus, the minutes of the General Committee of Warren, Shaftsbury and Bowdoinham Associations, convened at Sturbridge, September 16th, 1794. And chose brethren John Rathbun, Peter Rogers and Valentine W. Rathbun, to attend their next proposed Convention, at Charlton, the third Wednesday in June next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

8. The Circular letter, as amended was again read, and accepted.

9. Agreed upon the following supplies for destitute Churches:

RICHMOND.

Brother Simeon Brown, 4th Lord's-Day in Nov. and 4th in April.

———— Peleg Randall, 4th in May.

———— Reuben Palmer, 4th in August.

EXETER.

Brother Simeon Brown, 3d in November.

———— Peleg Randall, 1st in April.

———— Reuben Palmer, 1st in May.

———— Zadock Darrow, 1st in July.

2d CHATHAM.

Brother Simeon Dickinson, 3d in November.

———— Solomon Wheat, 3d in December.

———— Reuben Palmer 2d in March.

———— Zadock Darrow, 3d in April.

———— Abel Palmer, last in May.

3d ASHFORD.

Brother John Rathbun, 3d in Nov. and 3d in April.

———— Reuben Palmer, 1st in December.

———— Amos Wells, 4th in February.

———— Peter Rogers, 3d in March.

———— Peleg Randall, 2d in September.

10. Appointed brother Peter Rogers, to write the Circular letter for next year.

11. Voted, To hold our next Association, at Elder Amos Wells's Meeting-House in Woodstock, the third Tuesday in October, 1795.

12. Brother Valentine W. Rathbun, is requested to superintend the printing of the minutes.

Concluded with prayer by brother Rufus Babcock.

N. B. As it is the request of some of the members of the Shaftsbury Association, that the several Associations, corresponding with them, would print their annual minutes in sizeable octavo, by which, they judge a valuable end might be answered. Agreed.

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

THE STONINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, TO THE CHURCHES
WITH WHOM THEY ARE CONNECTED.

Grace be unto you, and peace from God our FATHER, and the LORD
JESUS CHRIST.

BELoved BRETHREN,

IT hath pleased the Supreme *Governor* of the Universe, to indulge us with another agreeable interview.

The prosperity of some of our Churches, and the steadfastness and harmony among our brethren generally, afford us great pleasure. The invaluable purposes of our associating together have, we humbly hope, been answered.— And as we are about to close the present session, we would (in conformity to our usual practice) circulate among you a letter of advice, touching those things which respect your PEACE. The great *head* of the Church, who is “the *prince* of PEACE,” directed *his* followers to “*have* PEACE *one with another.*” Mark ix. 50. “*Be at* PEACE *among yourselves,*” was the Apostolic injunction, 1st Thess. v. 13. “*Let us therefore follow after the things which make for* PEACE.” Rom. xiv. 19. “*Great* PEACE *have they which love thy law.*” Psal. cxix. 165. Churches that practice according to the laws of *Christ*, have PEACE. We are directed to “*follow* PEACE *with all men.*” Heb. xii. 14. And we are exhorted, also, as we have opportunity, to do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Gal. vi. 10.

What shall we say then, brethren, are they not culpable, who do not observe the *divine* rule; who, by their ignorance of the rules of discipline and right government of the Church of *Christ*, cause discord in Churches, particularly, when they are offended, instead of going to the offender, to tell him his fault, they divulge it disorderly to another member, and that member divulges it to another, and so a number of members become tattlers and talebearers, which is a black character, see Lev. xix. 16. Prov. xi. 13.—xviii. 8.—xx. 19.—xxvi. 20, 22. and 1st Tim. v. 13.

Again, Is he not also culpable, who, when his brother hath trespassed against him, instead of acting according to the rules of *Christ*, he concealeth the matter from the offender and every body else, lest he should be looked upon as a contentious person, and thereby suffer sin upon his brother, and is become guilty of other men’s sins; and thereby, also, suffer the name of *GOL*, his holy profession, and the Church to lie under a reproach by his neglect. All which, is contrary to the express rule given by our *LORD JESUS CHRIST*. Matt. xviii. 15, 16, 17. “*Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell*

him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall bear thee, thou hast gained thy brother; but if he will not bear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established, and if he shall neglect to bear them, tell it unto the Church: but if he neglect to bear the Church, let him be unto thee as an beaten man and a publican."

But lest you should fail in your attempt to restore a brother who is an offender, by lacking a suitable frame of mind, see that you are in present possession of love, meekness, zeal, carefulness, fear, vehement desire, &c. "*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one anothers burdens, and so fulfil the law of CHRIST.*" Gal. vi. 1, 2. read, also, Col. iii. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. May you, dear brethren, be of that character, and enjoy the blessing pronounced in *Matt. v. 9.*

We wish that brotherly love may continue; we therefore "*beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called; with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*" Eph. iv. 1, 2, 3.

We will with Israel's King, *Psal. cxxii. 6, 7.* "*Pray for the PEACE of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. PEACE be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.*"

"*Now the Lord of PEACE himself give you PEACE always, by all means.*" "*Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in PEACE; and the GOD of love and PEACE shall be with you.*"
AMEN.

Signed, in behalf of the Association,
CHRISTOPHER PALMER, Moderator.
VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, Clerk.