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Minutes ... at Richmond, October 16th and 17th, 1798.
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MINUTES

OF THE

STONINGTON ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT RICHMOND, OCTOBER 16th and 17th,

1798.

TUESDAY, October 16th.

THE Elders and Brethren, Messengers of the Churches, met at the Meeting House occupied by the Church at Richmond, and

1. Brother Joseph Grafton delivered an introductory Sermon, from Psal. L. 5.

2. After public worship, the Association proceeded to business, and chose brother Christopher Palmer, Moderator, and brother Valentine W. Rathbun, Clerk.

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

N. B. The names of ordained Ministers are in Roman letters, Those with this mark † were not present. From Churches marked thus *, we had no letters. Vacant churches distinguished by a dash.

Churches.	Ministers & Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss.	Exclud	Dead.	Numb.
1st. Stonington,	Peleg Randal, Jabez Gallup, Joshua Babcock,	12	3		1	149
2d. Stonington,	Simeon Brown, Zebulon Brown, Asa Spalding,	no number ascertained.				
*3d Stonington,	—————,	3				46
Groton,	—————, Benadam Gallup, jun. John G. Wightman,	28	1	1	2	239
Saybrook,	† Eliphalet Lester,	3	2			38
Exeter,	—————, George Nichols, Matthew Clark, Jonathan Dean,	2		3	3	220

Church formerly of
South-Kingston
now of Richmond.

James Shelden,
John Webb,
Samuel Barber,
Amos Palmer,
Caleb Barber, jun.
Comfort Record,

West-Greenwich,

John Tillinghast,
Samuel Peckham,
Stafford Green,
Christopher Palmer,

1st. Colchester,
*2d. Colchester,
Richmond,

—, —,
—, —,
Gideon J. Babcock,
William Perkins,

Hampton,
Montville,

+Abel Palmer,
+Leuben Palmer,
Samuel Bolles,
Gansstock Chapel,

1st. Chatham,

—, —,
Jonathan Wetherel,

2d. Woodstock,

Amos Wells,
Robert Baxter,
John Barrett,

2d. Gatham,

—, —,
Saire Gaff,

New-London,

Tedock Barrow,
Nathanial Dodge,
Francis D. ...

*2d. Ashford,

+John Rathbun,

*3d. Ashford,

East-Hudson,

—, —,
Simon Dickinson,
Joseph Annabic,

Plainfield,

+Matthaniel Cole,
William Clark,

Killingly,

Peter Rogers,
Jonathan Herrington,
Levi Aldrich,
Isaac Carter,

Thompson,

—, —,
Larson Crosby,

South-Kingston,

Uriah Bates,
Benjamin Weight,
William Statman,
Caleb Tipt,
Enoch Statman,

Added.	Dismit.	Exclud.	Dead.	Numb.
3		1	5	64
27			1	75
7	1		1	65
	2			84
		1		30
4	3			66
6		1		110
11				
		1		68
		1		66
19	4	2		79
1	1	7	6	251
				56
1	1	1		31
				50
			2	70
				65
				33
				24
127	10	20	21	1989

N. B. The two last Churches were received the present Session.

4. Received and read letters from the following Affociations, viz. From the Shaftsbury, a letter and minutes, by their messenger, Brother Amasa Brown. From the Warren, letter and minutes, by their messenger, Brother Joseph Grafton. From the Danbury, letter and minutes, but no messenger.

5. The circular letter, drawn by Brother Reuben Palmer; and the corresponding letter prepared by Brother Valentine W. Rathbun; were read, and referred to the inspection of Brethren Wells, Grafton, Dodge, and V. W. Rathbun.

6. Brethren Philip Jenkins and William Northup, messengers from a number of Baptist Churches called the Groton Conference, introduced a request that we would open a correspondence with them.

7. Appointed a Committee, viz. Brethren Simeon Brown, Zadock Darrow, and Benjamin Weight, to confer with the messengers from the Groton Conference, and to make report of their doings to-morrow.

Adjourned until eight o'clock to morrow morning.

Prayer by Brother Jenkins.

Public worship this evening at sundry places in the vicinity.

WEDNESDAY, October 17th.

Met according to adjournment: and after prayer by Brother Wells, proceeded to business.

1. The Circular letter, as revised by our Committee, and the corresponding letter, were read and accepted.

2. Attended to the report of our committee appointed to confer with the messengers from the Groton Conference; and, after a long and candid examination of circumstances,—Voted, that we receive those Churches into our fellowship. That we correspond with them as with our other sisters Affociations: and that their messengers be invited to sit and act with us in our present session.

3. Appointed Brother Nehemiah Dodge to write the circular letter for next year, and Brother James Shelden to prepare the corresponding letter.

4. Chose the following brethren to visit our sister Affociations, viz. Squire Goff and Nehemiah Dodge, to the Danbury. To the Shaftsbury, Amos Wells and Simeon Dickinson. To the New-York, Valentine W. Rathbun and Nehemiah Dodge. To the Warren, Amos Wells and Valentine W. Rathbun. To the Groton Conference, Zadock Darrow, Christopher Palmer and Peter Rogers.

5. The Clerk is requested to forward our minutes to their Philadelphia Association. 6. Agreed upon the following supplies:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 2d. Catham, | { | Brother _____ Lock, 3d. Lord's Day in January. |
| | | _____ Samuel Northup, 3d. in March. |
| | { | Brother Valentine W. Rathbun, 3d. and 4th. |
| | | Lords day in October. |
| | | _____ William Gardner, 1st. in November. |
| | | _____ John G. Wightman, last in Nov. |
| 3d. Stonington, | { | _____ Peleg Randal, 1st. in December. |
| | | _____ Nehemiah Dodge, 3d. in January. |
| | | _____ William Northup, 1st. in April. |

7. Voted, That it be recommended to the Churches of this Association, that they unite with our brethren of different denominations, in supplicating the throne of grace, the first Tuesday in January, April, July, and October, at two o'clock, P. M. for the outpouring of the Divine Spirit.

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

9. Voted, to hold our next Association at the Meeting-House occupied by the first Baptist Church in Colchester, the third Tuesday in October, 1799.

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

The Elders and Messengers of the several Churches met in Association at Richmond, October 16th and 17th, 1798.

To the Churches whom they represent, send Christian salutation.

B E L O V E D B R E T H R E N,

YOU may recollect, that in our last address, you were reminded of the sickness and mortality which prevailed in some parts of our Country; but since that period, it hath pleased Almighty God to permit the destroying Angel to put on a more formidable appearance, and to spread devastation and death in a number of our most populous cities—Persons of all ages and characters have fallen victims to his fatal shafts—Surely there is no discharge in this war. Seeing these things are so, and that our earthly house of this tabernacle shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought we to be, in all holy conversation and godliness? From a consideration of these things, and the importance of our holy profession, how does it become Christians of every class, to be watchful, prayerful and faithful? Ministers, who are more particularly set as the defence of the gospel, should let their light shine. How important is it, that the gospel should be faithfully preached, and that those who preach to others, would themselves live in conformity to the principles and precepts they inculcate—That they should be examples to the flock of God? Soon, dear brethren, shall we destroy that we wish to build, if our lives are not agreeable to our profession and ministerial character. How awful is the consideration, and how disagreeable the effect, of unfaithfulness in the professed minister of the gospel? But how pleasing the prospect, and how comfortable the situation, of him, who, from an upright heart, can say, I am clear from the blood of all men? Let us, brethren, keep in view, the great high-priest and apostle of our profession, who hath said, “to him that overcometh, will I give to set down on my throne, as I overcome and am set down on my father’s throne.”

If ministers should thus preach and live, (to which all agree) Let the Churches be careful to maintain discipline and sound doctrine with a continued watch over each other in brotherly love and Christian humility, by which, you will strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts of your ministering brethren. Let the gifts of the brethren be improved under proper regulations: Thus will the Church arise, and we shall know, by happy experience, “how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” And though we have afflictions and trials, yet, through the grace

of our Lord Jesus Christ, we shall come off conquerers and more than so. Be encouraged, dear brethren, to persevere in well doing, and you shall at last set down in the kingdom of God, with Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and all them that are now inheriting the promise. And when we are released from the bonds of mortality and our sinful affections; then we shall see as we are seen, and know as we are known. Finally, brethren, That you all may be found in Christ in peace, is the earnest prayer of your brethren in the Lord, Amen.

The Stonington Association, met in Richmond, October 16th and 17th, 1798, to the corresponding Associations, sendeth greeting.

DEARLY BELOVED,

THE kind Lord having indulged us with another anniversary interview we rejoice in the opportunity of informing you that we have met in Christian love and harmony. Our minutes will inform you of the present state of our Churches. It is with peculiar pleasure that we correspond with our brethren of the same faith and order with us—We rejoice when you rejoice, and mourn when you mourn. Melancholy and truly alarming situation of these United States, has not failed to excite our lamentation. But while we lament the prospect of war; The variety of political sentiments: The destruction of our fellow citizens in the city and country by epidemical diseases—and above all, The cause of these calamities, The prevalence of infidelity and immorality. We rejoice that many of our brethren of different denominations have united in a concert of prayer, and do meet at stated seasons, to offer up their fervant supplications, that God would avert his Judgments; prevent the spread of error and iniquity—and pour out his Spirit in plentiful effusions on our guilty land. And we are happy in having it in our power to announce to you the pleasing information, that a religious revival has (of late) taken place amongst the Baptists and Congregationalists. in a number of our towns, particularly in Mansfield, Attisford and Hampton, in Connecticut. We are informed. it is believed that in one of these towns, there are three hundred persons under serious impressions—There are frequent meetings for fasting and prayer—And we believe that the Lord is gathering his chosen. We also notice with peculiar satisfaction, the recent smiles of Divine Providence on our brethren the other side of the Atlantic, who have been enabled, by voluntary contributions in their respective Societies, to send abroad, and to support, a considerable number of faithful missionaries among the heathen, and who have successfully forced those barriers, that have opposed the planting of Christianity among those of our fellow beings, who, till lately were involved in superstition and Idolatry. May the good Lord crown their efforts with yet more abundant success—May the light of the glorious gospel extend its happy influence from the rising to the setting sun—May civil and religious liberty be established among all the nations of the Earth—May discord universally cease. The instruments of war be turned into implements of husbandry—May Antichrist be effectually destroyed—and may the knowledge of the

glory of God cover the whole earth, as the waters cover the seas. Finally, Brethren, pray for us. May our correspondence be blessed to our mutual advantage; and may you enjoy the presence of God, henceforth and forever, men.

Signed in behalf of the Association,

CHRISTOPHER PALMER, *Moderator.*

VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, *Clerk.*