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Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association, 1799.

Minutes . . . at Colchester, October 15 and 16, 1799.

Norwich, Ct., Sterry, 1799. 8 pp.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

STONINGTON

# ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT COLCHESTER,

OCTOBER 15 and 16,

1799.

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NORWICH:

PRINTED BY JOHN STERRY

1799

TUESDAY October 15.

THE Elders and messengers of the churches, met at Eld. Christopher Palmer's Meeting-house in Colchester, and

1. Brother Thomas Balding delivered an introductory sermon, from Psal. cxxxii. 15, 16.

2. Chose brother Reubin Palmer moderator, and brother Amos Wells clerk.

3. Letters from the several churches were read, and the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, and that have died the year past.

N.B. The names of the 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	Dismissed.	Exclud.	Dead	Numb.
1st Stonington	Peleg Randal, Jabez Gallop, Walter Brown.	6				15
2d Stonington	Simeon Brown, Beriah Lewis, Asa Spalding, Thomas Wells, Ashur Miner.					181
*3d Stonington	—————					46
Groton	————— Benadam Gallop jr. John G. Witman.		5	2	1	231
Saybrook	Eliphalet Lester. William Welsh, Benj. Watrous.					38
Exeter	————— Richard Boon, Jonathan Dean.	2	4	4	1	212
Richmond, formerly S. Kingston	————— Clark Kinyon.	1			1	64
W. Greenwich	————— John Tillinghast, William Gorton,	39		1		113
1st Colchester	Chris. Palmer, Asa Randal, Abiel Stark, Abram Randal.	2	2			60

		Ad.	Dif.	Ex.	D all	Num 36
2d Colchester	<hr/> Eben. Rogers James Rogers, David Fairman, Alpheus Rogers.	2				
Richmond	<hr/> Will. Browning, David Clark.		1			27
Hampton	Abel Palmer, William Eliot, Thomas Grow, James Grow, Stephen Webb.	21		3	1	83
Montville	Reubin Palmer, Jehiel Rogers, Jabez Stebbins, Samuel Bolls, Comstick Chappel.	1	1	2	1	107
1st Chatham	<hr/> Caleb Tennant, Solomon Chapman.		1			68
2d Woodstock	Amos Wells, Robert Baxter. Ijaiab Lyon.	2		4		64
2d Chatham	<hr/> Squire Goff, Constant Welch, Samuel Arnold, John W. Parker, George Gates.	8		1	1	35
New-London	Zadock Darrow, Lemuel Darrow, George Atwell, Budge Smith.	11		1	2	256
3d Ashford	<hr/> David Bolls.		3			29
East-Haddam	Simeon Dickinson, Jesiah Hungerford, Daniel Williams.	1		1		50
Plainfield	Nathaniel Cole, John Burges, Abel Franklin.	2	5	2		65
Killingly	Peter Rogers, Nicholas Aldrige, Edward Chuse.	4		5		64
Thompson	Parson Crosby, Jonathan Converse	9	2			40

	Ad.	Dif.	Ex.	Dead	Num
†S. Kingston					
Joseph Tonn.					
Benjamin Weight	5		2	1	26
Caleb Tift,					
William Stedman.					
Total	117	24	29	12	2060

4. Receiv'd & read letters from the following Associations, viz. From the Shaftsbury, a letter and minutes, but no messengers: From the Warren, a letter and minutes by thier messenger brother Thomas Balding: From the Danbury, letter and minutes by their messengers brethren Nehemiah Dodge and Rufus Babcock: From the Groton Conference, a letter and minutes by their messenger brother Jason Lee.

5. The circular letter drawn by brother Nehemiah Dodge, and the corresponding letter prepared by br. James Shelden, were read and refered to a committee for inspection, viz. brethren, John Rathbun, Parson Crosby, and Benadam Gallop jr.

6. Adjourned until to-morrow-morning, 9 o'clock, prayer by brother Lee. Publick worship this evening in several places in the vicinity.

### WEDNESDAY, October 16.

Met according to adjournment, and after a sermon preached by brother Jason Lee, from Gen. xxiv. 27, attended to business.

7. The circular and corresponding letters were again read, and with some amendments were accepted.

8. Appointed brother Asa Spalding to write the circular letter, and brother Simeon Dickinson the corresponding letter for next year.

9. Chose the following brethren to visit our sister Associations. viz. to the Danbury, Samuel Arnold and George Gates: The Shaftsbury, Nehemiah Dodge and Simeon Dickinson: To the New-York, Nehemiah Dodge: To the Warren, Abel Palmer and Nathaniel Cole: To the Groton Conference, Nathaniel Cole and Peter Rogers.

10. Voted, that the clerk forward our minutes to Philadelphia Association.

11. Query from the church at Hampton, whether a man has a right to Baptize, if he has not a dispensation of the gospel committed to him, neither ordained according to Apostolic order: Answered in the negative.

12. Voted, that whereas the churches are subject, or liable to be imposed on by pretended ministers of the gospel: That the Association recommend to the churches that they pay particular attention to candidates for the min

istry : That they recommend none as gospel ministers, but such as have been proved in the church, & when about to recommend said candidates to go forth as preachers of the gospel, to endeavour to have the fellowship of some of the neighboring ministers ; and that they do not receive or encourage candidates for the ministry, to improve by preaching among them without proper credentials.

13. Voted, that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes.

14. Voted, that our next Association be held at Hampton, at Eld. Abel Parmer's Meeting-house, on the third Tuesday in October, 1800.

By a letter from the 2d church in Ashford, to the Association, we learn that they, as a body, have voted to hold communion at the Lord's table with all such as give evidence that they are born again, provided they are in regular standing in any church. The Association having this information under the signature of the church, thought fit to drop them (the 2d church in Ashford) out of the minutes, considering them as gone out from us, and of course, not in our fellowship as a church.

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## 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 Colchester, October 15 and 16. A. D. 1799. To the churches whom they represent, send Christian salutation.*

Christian friends, Beloved in the Lord.

**T**HE entertaining information which we get from many parts of the world, of the increase of Christ's gospel kingdom, and the downfall of satan's empire, confirms our hopes that the desire of all nations is at hand ! and strengthens our belief, that the time is rapidly hastening, when the prediction of Isaiah, li. 11. will be seen fulfilled. Where this inspired Prophet saith. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth ; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. While God so visibly presides over many parts of his vineyard, and is manifesting so many tokens of love to his people, by turning many from darkness to light, and from the power of sin and satan to God, we recommend unto you the grace of patience, whereby you may be enabled meekly to endure injuries, and with a continued calmness of temper and submission of spirit to

The divine will of God, bear afflictions and humbly wait for the accomplishment of his promises Rom. v. 3. With propriety it is said that we are in a militant state, engaged in a spiritual warfare. In Rev. xii. 7. it is said, and there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels; which no doubt alluded to a militant state of the church. Jesus and his angels are manifestly destroying the works of the devil and his angels, and notwithstanding the spiritual peace, the gospel harmony and christian friendship which now appears in many parts of Zion, where God is displaying the victory of his gospel; yet as there is often some hard struggles between contending parties, but just before consummate victory is manifested, it is possible that we may be called to endure more severe hardships, sufferings and tryals than we have ever yet experienced, before we shall be admitted to join in the triumphant song of Moses and the Lamb. Let no one dream of exemption, for if any be without chastisement, they are bastards and not sons. If need be ye are in heaviness for a season through manifold temptations. But think it not strange concerning these fiery trials which are to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice in as much as ye are made partakers of Christ's sufferings; if we suffer with him we shall also reign with him; in your patience therefore possess ye your souls so as not to faint under any trouble; if thou faint in the day of adversity thy strength is small. Be careful never to murmur against God, and ye shall hear the blessing of them that are not offended in Christ. God orders the world, and disposeth of every thing in it. As he gives comforts, so it is he too that gives troubles. As we are to moderate our affections to the pleasures, so we are to moderate them to troubles too, the first is temperance, the other is patience. Let us therefore never retain any malice, or revengeful thoughts against his instruments, but be always ready to bear any trouble like St. Paul, who said he was not only willing be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. Yea let us rejoice for whatsoever we here meet with, believing as David said, the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. If we are feble he will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able to bear, but will also with the temptation make a way for our escape. Therefore take to yourselves the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand in an evil day; and having done all that ye may stand. Rejoice in the Lord for these light afflictions which are but for a moment, shall work for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

All things shall work together for good to them that love God. Although we are ready, many times, with Jacob to say all these things are against me; yet surely it shall be well with the righteous; in due time ye shall reap if ye faint not. Let us, with Moses, choose rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. That we may all be found coming up to the help of the Lord against the mighty, let the ministers of the sanctuary say, in joyful unison, for Zion's sake, I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. Let nothing hinder the redoubling of ministerial exertions; may ministers and people consider the prophets and apostles as examples of patience and piety, especially our Lord Jesus Christ who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself; lest ye be weary and faint in your minds, and e'er long ye shall overcome through the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony.

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*The Stonington association met in Colchester, State of Connecticut, October 15 and 16, A. D. 1799.*

*To the corresponding associations sendeth greeting.*

DEARLY BELOVED,

**I**NASMUCH as our Divine Lord and master, has been pleas'd in his Infinite mercy to furnish us with the means of grace for our furtherance and growth therein, and for the declarative glory of his great and holy name. And one of these means is the assembling of ourselves together. With heart felt gratitude we rejoice that once more we have an interview with a number of our dearly beloved brethren, with whom we have taken sweet council, at this annual association of the churches by their messengers, that by hearing of the welfare of each other and conferring together upon matters pertaining to the church militant whilst in this imperfect state. Exhorting each other to a steadfastness in the faith, and addressing each other upon the important doctrines of grace, that the Redeemer's cause and interest might be promoted in the world, and Zion built up on the foundation laid in the gospel. (It is with peculiar pleasure that we correspond with our brethren of the same faith and order with us, and desire that thereby we may be instrumental in the hand of the Lord in building up one another in our most holy faith.)



Through the goodness of God we have met in peace and though some of the churches complain of luke-warmness ; yet we rejoice to hear that in a number of churches there has been revivals, and numbers added thereto, of such as we believe will be saved with an everlasting salvation. (No doubt you will remember, that in last year's minutes, you observ'd the admission of the Groton conferance into our fellowship, and to correspond with them as with our other sister associations ; we have, and do rejoice in finding by happy experiance, of thus uniting in fellowship with them, and they likewise express great satisfaction in the same.) Our circular letter and minutes will be connected with this to give you more and particular information ; we expect to receive from our sister associations an annual return.

And now beloved brethren, suffer the word of exhortation, guard against the numerous errors that are in the world. Many have departed from the faith, and turned aside and embraced false doctrines. We are under solemn obligation to contend in love earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. Be careful to maintain good gospel discipline in the churches, it being of great consequence to their purity and glory. (Maintain therein brotherly love.) May the kind Lord bless us as a nation with wise and virtuous rulers, both of the general and particular goverments, such as fear God and hate covetousness ; and that our land may be favor'd with peace, (and that peace may be extended to our fellow beings beyond the Atlantic ocean ; which are involv'd in war.) May the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the communion and indwelling of the Holy Ghost, be and abide with the whole Israel of God. Amen.

REUBIN PALMER, *Moderator.*  
 AMOS WELLS, *Clerk.*