

38565

Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association. 1800.
Minutes ... at Hampton, October 21 and 22, 1800.
Norwich, Sterry, 1800. 8 pp.
ABHS copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

STONINGTON

ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT HAMPTON,

OCTOBER 21 and 22,

1800.

00000000

+++++

0000

+++

9

NORWICH:

PRINTED BY JOHN STERRY.

1800.

MINUTES &c.

TUESDAY October 21.

THE Elders and messengers from the several churches met at Eld. Abel Palmer's Meeting-house in Hampton.

1 Brother Hezekiah Gorton delivered an introductory Sermon from Psal. lxxxix. 15.

2 Made choice of brother Amos Wells Moderator, and brother John Sterry Clerk.

3 Letters from the several churches Were then read and the following account taken of the number 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	Dismiss.	Exclu.	died	Numb.
1st Stonington	Peleg Randal, Jabez Gallop, Gershom Palmer	23		2		176
2d Stonington	Simeon Brown, Beriah Lewis, Joshua Robinson, Thomas Wells, Asbur Miner, Asa Spalding.	3		13		71
Groton	† John G Whitman Benadam Gallop, Timothy Whitman.		2	1	4	224
Saybrook	† Eliphalet Lester, William Welch, Israel Douglass, Samuel Church,	18				58
Exeter	James Clark, Pardon Tillinghast.	4		1	3	204
Richmond* formerly	}					64
S. Kingston						
W. Greenwich				1		2
1st Colchester	Nathaniel Pulman, Pardon Tillinghast. Christo. Palmer, Asa Randal, Elias Palmer,	9	1			170

		Alders	Deacons	Ex. M.	Par.	Numb.
2d Colchester	_____					44
	<i>Ebenezer Rogers.</i>					
Richmond*	_____					27
Hampton	Abel Palmer, <i>William Eliot,</i> <i>Stephen Webb,</i> <i>Nathaniel Bennet,</i> <i>Asa Bennet.</i>	16				98
Montville	Renben Palmer, <i>Jabish Stebbens,</i> <i>Samuel Boles,</i> <i>Nathan Champlin.</i>	3	1	10		10
1st Chatham	_____					66
	<i>Frederick Goodrich,</i> <i>Jonathan Witherel,</i> <i>Ebenezer Harris.</i>	1	1	1		
2d Woodstock	Amos Wells, <i>Robert Baxter,</i> <i>Jesse Bolles,</i> <i>Artemus Bruce.</i>	5		2	1	66
2d Chatham	_____					103
	<i>Solomon Wheat,</i> <i>Constant Welch,</i> <i>John Parker,</i> <i>Benajah Billings.</i>	21			4	
New-London	Zadock Darrow, <i>Ebenezer Maynard,</i> <i>Budg Smith,</i> <i>Francis Darrow.</i>	4	1	2	2	262
3d Athford	_____					26
	<i>David Bolles,</i> <i>Edmond Chamberlin.</i>		2			
E. Haddam	† <i>Simon Dickinson,</i> <i>Joshua Hungerford.</i>	1		1		52
Plainfield	<i>Nathaniel Cole,</i> <i>Thomas Smith,</i> <i>Jinks Mason,</i> <i>Abel Franklin.</i>					63
Killingly	† <i>Peter Rogers,</i> <i>Nicholas Aldridge,</i> <i>Jeremiah Herington,</i> <i>Edward Chase.</i>	2			2	64
Thomson	<i>Parson Crosby,</i> <i>John Bracket,</i> <i>Elijah Bates,</i> <i>Joseph Town jun.</i>	3				42

S. Kinglton † Benjamin Weight,
William Stedman,
Enoch Stedman,

Total. 114 | 9 | 35 | 20 | 2013

Adm'd.	Dismiss'd.	Exclu.	Died	Numb.
1	1	1	1	25

By a letter from the 2d Church in Ashford to this association, we learn that they have recalled their vote to hold communion with persons not baptized according to Apostolic order, by which vote they went out of our fellowship; and having revoked the same, we do therefore receive them into our fellowship, as a Church.

4. Received letters from the following associations (viz.) From the Shaffsbury, a letter and minutes by their messengers brethren H:zekiah Gorton, and Amasa Brown: From the New York, a letter and minutes: From the Danbury, a letter and minutes by their messengers brethren John Hastings, Nehemiah Dodge, Stephen S. Nelson and Daniel Bestor: From the Groton conference, a letter and minutes by their messengers brethren Elet Lock and John Sterry: From the Warren, a messenger brother Valentine W. Wrathbun.

5. The circular letter drawn by brother Asa Spalding, was read and refered to a committee, viz. brethren John Wrathbun, Valentine W. Wrathbun and Ephraim Robins. Brother Simeon Dickinson having failed in preparing the corresponding letter, the above committee were requested to write the same.

6. Received a letter from the Danbury association, which was read and refered to a committee (appointed to take the same into consideration) viz. brethren Zadock Darrow, Christopher Palmer, Amos Wells, Asa Spalding, and David Boles junr.

7. Adjourned until to-morrow-morning 9 o'clock, prayer by brother Reubin Palmer. Public worship this evening in several places in the vicinity.

WEDNESDAY Oct. 22

Met according to adjournment, and after a sermon delivered by brother John Hastings from John xxi, 17 attended to business.

Brother Ephraim Robins and others invited to take seats with us in the association.

8. The circular and corresponding letters were read, and after some amendments were received.

9. The committee appointed to examine the letter from the Danbury association, after examining the same, brought forward a petition to be presented to the general assembly of the State of Connecticut, to be holden at Hartford on the second Tuesday in May A. D. 1801 which was read and received.

10. Appointed a committee of brethren, Ephraim Robins, Stephen S. Nelson, Daniel Bestor and John Halting to present the above petition to the general assembly aforesaid, and to transact all other business respecting the same.

11. Voted that brother Amos Wells write the circular letter, and brother Nehemiah Dodge the corresponding one for the next year.

12. Voted that brother Nehemiah Dodge and Solomon Wheat be messengers to attend the Danbury association, brethren Stephen S. Nelson, Abel Palmer, Amasa Brown and Nehemiah Dodge to attend the Shafisbury, brother Simeon Dickinson, the N. York, brethren John Wrathbun, Valentine W. Wrathbun, Amos Wells and Abel Palmer, to the Warren, brethren Simeon Brown, Peleg Randal and Amos Wells to the Groton conference.

13. Voted that brother John Sterry be appointed to superintend the printing of these minutes.

14. Voted that the clerk forward the minutes to the N. York and Philadelphia associations.

15. Voted that our next annual association be held at Eld. Gano Whitman's meeting house in Groton, on the third Tuesday in October 1801.

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 Hampton, October 21st and 22nd, 1800, to the churches whom they represent, send christian salutation,

BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD,

WE once more address you and cheerfully call on you with our own souls, to bless and praise Almighty God, the Father of mercies, for his favours to a dying world : For the preservation of our lives, while many are gone to their long home : For the blessing of health in general, 'tho some of our neighbouring towns and cities have been some-what afflicted with the pestilence that walks in darkness and wastes at noon-day : For the continuation of our liberties and privileges, and especially those of the gospel ; that God has been pleased to give us rulers, and we trust inspired them with a good degree of wisdom to form a constitution for these united states, which was finally adopted, and wherein our privileges are preserved inviolable : For the blessings of peace in our land that the Indian tribes are not suffered to molest us, and that we are not involved in war with the European nations ; 'tho it is to be feared there are many in both countries that are haughty and tyrannical, and through sinister views, are using many devices, arts and intrigues to involve us in that cruel, bloody & distressing calamity ; but brethren let us make our appeal and send our fervent cries and intreaties, incessantly to him who hath the hearts of all men in his Almighty hand, and can wield the sword, & put a hook in the nose of our enemies ; and can pull down haughty tyrants from seats of authority and rule ; and can detect iniquity and bring to light the hidden things of unrighteousness. Let us call on him who can give us rulers that fear him and work righteousness ; men after his own heart, that they may be such as interceed with God for our guilty land, in this critical time of our national affairs : Let us praise him for general plenty of supplies, both for the former and latter harvest, that God is graciously fulfilling to man his faithful promise of seed-time and harvest ; that the labour of the husbandman doth not altogether fail.

We have had a pleasing interview at this time, and have heard good news from several parts of Zion, of her prosperity. But dear brethren, we would call on you,

with ourselves, to lament the prevalency of vice, the decay of religion in many places, the increase of infidelity and Deism; while many societies and connections are forming in our land, which are alluring to our youth, and destructive to vital religion. Oh let us take heed to ourselves, be watchful unto prayer, and endeavour to shun every appearance of evil, and joyfully press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus; maintaining Gospel discipline, and fulfilling covenants one with another.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

The STONINGTON ASSOCIATION, met at Hampton, October, 21 and 22. 1800. To the Corresponding ASSOCIATIONS, send Greeting.

DEAR BRETHREN,

WE have been indulged with the smiles of heaven in our present annual meeting, and have had pleasing occasion to adopt the language of Israel's King, "two are better than one, and a three fold cord is not quickly broken." We have received agreeable intelligence from some of our churches, and very welcome tidings from a number of our sister associations. We rejoice in the displays of divine grace, the last, and the present year is a memorable aera in the christian history. It is abundantly evident that the divine Redeemer hath supported his church and cause in all ages of the world, and we may rest assured that it is our "Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom." But while we rejoice in prosperity, let us guard against the many snares of the enemy; for, "in the last days perilous times shall come, when many shall depart from the faith." And that the last day draweth nigh is obvious, from the following expressions of Christ. "When ye see the fig-tree putting forth its leaves, and all the trees, then know that the summer is nigh." The flattery of the enemy is dangerous, as it is ensnaring, "watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." While errors and delusions prevail in our world, and many and various religious systems are propagated, of what importance is it that

the ministers of Christ attend strictly to the principles of the doctrine of Christ, and that every disciple of the Redeemer "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." As we profess to be the subjects of the King of kings, let us carefully attend to all his injunctions in his word, imitate his examples, and follow the guidance of his Spirit: For "these are they that follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth."

The fulfilment of scripture prophecies demand our serious, grateful and prayerful attention, the kingdom of antichrist is falling, and we rejoice in the destruction of the man of sin—Let us unite our exertions, and meet at the throne of grace, for the advancement of our Redeemer's kingdom—Dear brethren, pray for us, we wish you prosperity, and subscribe ourselves very affectionately Yours, in Gospel bonds.

Signed, in behalf of the association.

AMOS WELLS *Moderator.*

JOHN STERRY *Clerk.*