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Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association, 1805.
Minutes ... at Montville, October 15 and 16, 1805.
Norwich, [Ct.], Sterry & Porter, 1805. [8] pp.
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MINUTES

OF THE

STONINGTON

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD AT

MONTVILLE,

OCTOBER 15 AND 16,

1805.

TOGETHER, WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR & CORRESPONDING

LETTERS.

NORWICH :

PRINTED BY STERRY & PORTER.

1805.

MINUTES, &c.

THE Elders and Brethren from the several Churches being met, Elder Asahel Morse from the Danbury Association, delivered the introductory Sermon, from *Rom. ii. 7.*

2. Chose Brother Samuel West, Moderator and Asa Spalding, 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, with the present number in each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained Elders are in *Italic letters*, those with this mark † were not present. From Churches marked thus * we had no letter. Vacant Churches distinguished by a dash—

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers & Messengers.</i>	Add.	Diss.	Excl.	Died.	Num.
Ist. Stonington	<i>Peleg Randal</i> <i>Elias S. Palmer</i> <i>Jabez Gallup</i> <i>Gershom Palmer</i> <i>Walter Brown, jun.</i>	17	0	0	1	188
2d. Stonington†	<i>Simeon Brown</i> <i>Asher Miner</i> <i>John Stanton</i> <i>Jedediah Randal</i> <i>Asa Spalding</i>	34	0	0	0	151
Groton.	<i>John G. Whitman</i> <i>Amos Culver</i> <i>James Gallup</i>	0	6	3	0	195
Saybrook.	<i>George Atwell</i> <i>Eliphalet Lester</i> <i>Michael Spencer</i> <i>Timothy Warner</i> <i>Nathan Douglass</i>	2	0	0	1	124
Exeter.	————— <i>Matthew Clark</i>	0	0	0	4	189

<i>Churches. Ministers & Messengers.</i>	Add.	Diss.	Excl.	Died.	Num.
Richmond for- } S. Kingston. }	0	0	2	1	71
W. Greenwich. _____	0	0	0	2	90
1st. Colchester. _____	0	3	3	0	121
2d Colchester _____	0	0	0	0	44
Richmond* _____	0	0	0	0	86
Hampton. <i>Abel Palmer</i>	6	1	0	0	100
Montville. _____	1	0	1	1	100
Chatham. _____	0	2	0	3	110
Waterford† _____	4	0	3	4	186
East-Haddam† _____					
Plainfield† _____	14	0	0	1	69
	2	2	0	1	87
Killingly* _____	0	0	0	0	113
South Kingston† <i>Benjamin Weight</i>	1	0	0	0	32
3d Stonington _____	0	0	0	0	50

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers & Messengers.</i>	Add.	Diss.	Excl.	Dead.	Num.
	<i>Thomas Spooner</i>					
	<i>John Hudson</i>					
New-London	<i>Samuel West</i>	2	0	0	2	60
	<i>John Lewis</i>					
	<i>Joseph Anabal</i>					
Lebanon.	<i>Nehemiah Dodge</i>	0	0	0	0	31
	<i>Jona. Goodwin, jun.</i>	—	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL,	83	14	12	22	2197

4. Received a Letter & Minutes from the Warren Association, by their Messenger Elder Bradley. — Received a letter & minutes from the Danbury Association, by their Messengers, Elders Morse, Green, and Blakesley, from the Groton Conference, a letter & minutes, by their Messenger Elder Sterry.

5. Appointed Brethren, Nehemiah Dodge, Abel Palmer & John G. Whitman, a Committee to examine our Circular & Corresponding Letters.

6. As the Church at Killingly, have not attended with us, or represented themselves with us these three years, the Association appointed Brethren, Abel Palmer, Asher Miner and Jedediah Randal a Committee to visit said Church, & make Report to our next Association.

7. Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16.

8. Met according to Adjournment, and read the Circular and Corresponding Letters and accepted them.

9. Appointed Elder Abel Palmer to write the Corresponding and Elder Nehemiah Dodge the Circular Letters.

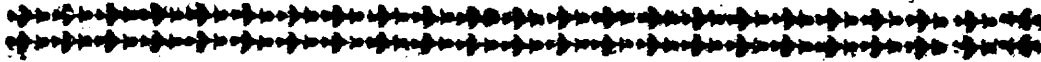
10. Appointed Brothers Abel Palmer and Nehemiah Dodge messengers to the Danbury Association. Brs. John Lewis, Peleg Randal, to the Warren Association. Brs. Peleg Randal and Asher Miner to the Groton Conference. Brs. West and Morse to the New-York Association. Brs. J. Gano, Whitman, Elida Blakesley to the Sturbridge. Brother Spalding to forward our Minutes to the Leyden Association. Brs. Goodall, Willcox, Whitman and Welch to the Otsego Association, and likewise to forward our Minutes to the Ransaleorville Association. Br. West to forward our Minutes to the Philadelphia Association. Br. J.

Gallup our Messenger to the Shaftsbury.

11. Appointed Br. Asa Spalding to superintend the Printing our Minutes.

12. Voted that our next Association be held at Waterford at Elder Darrow's Meeting-house, the third Tuesday in Oct. next, at 10 o'clock A. M.

13. Voted Br. David Bolls jun. of Hartford, be continued as our Agent to present the Baptist Petition to the General Assembly.



CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE Brethren from the several Churches that compose the Stonington Association; to the Churches whom they represent, Send GREETING.

BELOVED BRETHERN,

ACCORDING to our former practice in our annual meetings, we now address you by Letter, which we Earnestly wish may be for your Edification, Strengthening and Furtherance in the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in which are contained great and precious Promises, solid Joy and Comfort, and strong Consolation, to all that love his appearing, and endure unto the End, for the same shall be Saved.

AND as we live in a day wherein Iniquity is abounding & the love of Many waxing cold, many delusive Doctrines propagated, some crying lo here and others lo there; and the Enemy of Souls and of the Cause and Kingdom of the dear Redeemer, going about seeking whom he may devour; while we see Sin and Abominations increasing in the Earth; while many grow bold in their Iniquities, likewise it appears to be a day of great National struggles in the world which is predicted in Scripture that should take place in the last days; previous to the second coming of the SON of MAN. As distress of Nations, with perplexity, men's Hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the Earth.

BUT Dear Brethren, be not discouraged or dismayed

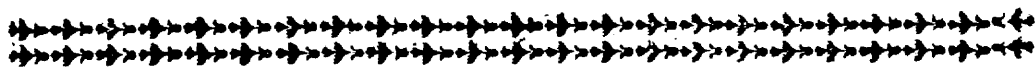
since we have such great precious and faithful promises, ensuring our perseverance through all adverse providences until the Judgement day, "when he shall send his Angels with a great sound of a Trumpet, & they shall gather together his Elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other."

AND "blessed is that servant, whom his lord, when he cometh, finds faithful," let us therefore be careful and take heed that we let none of these things slip. And be not *too much* engaged (as we fear, too many are) in Political disputes, and State politics: but let us earnestly commit the affairs of all things both Spiritual and Temporal to him with whom we have to do, who sees and knows all things in Heaven & Earth; and doth his pleasure and none can hinder: who hath the hearts of all men in his hand, and can turn them, as the Rivers of water are turned; and while others are perplexing themselves in those disputes, let us retire to our closets and with earnest and unfeigned desires wrestle with God for his Divine interposition for our good, and his Glory; that he would graciously turn the hearts of the children of men to himself, and purify a peculiar People, zealous of good works; and dispose the hearts of Kings, Rulers and all men to peace, and that he would purge our land from the many growing and gross Evils and Abominations, which call aloud for Judgements on the sinful inhabitants of the Earth. O Brethren can we not do more in a few moments with God through Jesus Christ than all the vain disputes:—all the laborious Assemblies of States and Empires without him, in bringing about those great and desirable objects; that our land may become Emauel's; and the wilderness blossom like a Rose.

Dear Brethren notwithstanding it is a day of great adversity in many places, and on many accounts; yet we have reason to rejoice at the good News from many parts, where new Churches are erected, old ones enlarged, and large accessions made to the Redeemer's Kingdom, notwithstanding all the efforts of Satan to overthrow.

Finally, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation of the Apostle Peter, give all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge Temperance; and to Temperance patience; and to patience Godliness; and to Godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness

Charity : For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see far off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old Sins. Wherefore the rather, Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure : for if ye do these things ye shall never fall : for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST.—*Amen.*



CORRESPONDING LETTER.



THE Elders & Brethren of the Stonington Association, convened at Montville, October 15 & 16, 1805, to the Associations with whom they correspond, send Christian Salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN,

IT is with joy that we receive information from you by your Minutes, & messengers, our souls rejoice to hear of the prosperity of Zion, by the out pouring of the divine Spirit, on the inhabitants of a number of our Atlantic Towns ; as well as on the interior settlements ; yet the Church of Christ is in a State of warfare, her foes are many, and their modes of warfare are various ; yet all are aiming to rob God of his glory, and saints of their happiness. Hence we perceive the necessity, of putting on the whole armour of God. Whilst on one hand the painted hypocrite marked with the veil of *State Religion*, attempts to wrest the government of the Church from the hand of Christ. The open infidel, the licentious and profane on the other : are despising the Laws of God, and the faith of the Gospel. Yet the saints of God, believing the Church to be founded on JESUS CHRIST, redeemed by his own blood, and conquered by grace divine, have reason to rejoice, even in tribulation, believing, that our warfare will terminate in the glory of God and the best good of his people. Wherefore, dear brethren, let us stand with our loins girt with truth, and

our lamps trimmed and burning, and we as men waiting
for the coming of our Lord **JESUS CHRIST.** *Amen.*

SAMUEL WEST, *Moderator.*

ASA SPALDING, *Clerk.*