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Baptists . Connecticut . Stonington Association, 1809.
Minutes ... at Lebanon, October 17th, and 18th,
1809.

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MWA copy.

MINUTES

OF THE

Stonington Baptist Association,

HELD AT

LEBANON,

October 17th and 18th, 1809.



WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR & CORRESPONDING

LETTERS.



NEW-LONDON :

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1809.

MINUTES, &c.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1869.

1. THE Elders and Messengers being met, Elder Abel Palmer preached the introductory Sermon from Psalm lxxxiv. 4.

2. Chose Elder Samuel West, Moderator—and Elder Asa Spalding, Clerk.

3. Received and read Letters from the Churches.

N.B. The names of Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; those with this mark (†) were not present; from Churches marked thus (*) we had no letter; vacant Churches distinguished by a dash:—

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Adm.	Missn.	Facult.	Deod.	No.
1st. N. Stonington.	PELEG RANDALL, Gideon Ray, Walter Brown,				1	192
2d. N. Stonington.	SIMEON BROWN,† ASA SPALDING, JEDIDIAH RANDALL, ASHER MINER, John Stanton, Thomas Wells, Saxton Miner,	5				181
1st. Groton.	JOHN G. WIGHTMAN,† Benadam Gallop,	35	1			197
Saybrook.	————— Michael Spencer,	1	1	5	2	89
Exeter.	GERSHOM PALMER, Joseph Case,	3	1	5	3	246
Richmond.	PHINEHAS PALMER,† Christopher Johnson,	2				101
West-Greenwich.	————— Stafford Green, Joseph Tillinghast,	5				120

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Adm.</i>	<i>Comm.</i>	<i>Miss.</i>	<i>Doct.</i>	<i>Ass.</i>
<i>1st. Colchester.</i>	ELIADA BLAKESLEY, Thomas Smith, Jabez Hough, James Lamb, Abel Lathrop,	1	1	1		119
<i>2d. Richmond.</i>	————— William Browning,			1		80
<i>2d. Colchester,</i>	ASA WILCOX, Elphalet Hilliard Joseph Powers,	1	1			100
<i>Hampton.</i>	ABEL PALMER, Thomas Grow, Elijah Bibbins, Stephen Webb, William B. Palmer, Israel Hicks,	7	7		1	92
<i>Montville.*</i>	REUBEN PALMER,† Ebenezer Dart,					186
<i>Chatham and Haddam,</i>	————— George Gates, Stephen Ackley, Dudley Brainard, David Warner,	28	11		2	168
<i>Waterford.</i>	ZADOCK DARROW,† FRANCIS DARROW, Hezekiah West, Isaac Crocker, Thomas Manwaring,	3	1	2		172
<i>East-Haddam.</i>	SIMON DICKINSON,† John Bigelow, William Carter,	21	1			113
<i>Plainfield.</i>	NATHANIEL COLE, John Bennet, John Strubahan,		3	1		71
<i>South-Kingston.</i>	BENJAMIN WAIT,† ENOCH STEDMAN,	5				36
<i>Stonington.*</i>	—————					53
<i>New-London.</i>	SAMUEL WEST, Jonathan Sizer, Thomas West,	1	1	2		103
<i>Lebanon.</i>	NEHEMIAH DODGE, Jonathan Goodwin, John Hayward, Abel Goodwin,	3	3		1	84

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	Add.	Disch.	Exp.	Num.
<i>Mansfield.</i>	JOSHUA BRADLEY, Nathaniel Bennet, Asa Bennet, William Bennet, Daniel Tillinghast,				38
Total,		118	31	15	12481

4. The Church at Mansfield, was received into the Fellowship of the Association this year.

5. Received a letter and Minutes from the Warren Association, by their messenger Elder Stephen Gano. Received a letter and minutes from the Danbury Association by their messenger Elder Joshua Bradley. From the Groton Conference a letter and minutes by their messenger Elder John Sterry. From Ransseilaerville no intelligence, from Sturbridge Elder Asa Niles messenger, from Shat'sbury no intelligence, from Otsego none, from New-York, none, from Leyden none, from Philadelphia a letter and Minutes by Elder Gano.

6. Voted to open a correspondence with the Warwick Association by letter and minutes.

7. Appointed Brethren Peleg Randal, Abel Palmer, Jedediah Randal and John Sterry, a Committee to examine the Circular and Corresponding letters—Appointed Brother William Palmer to write a Corresponding letter as we had none presented.

8. As there were queries from the Churches of Exeter and West-Greenwich, respecting Brethren joining and frequenting Free Mason Lodges—Appointed Brother Josiua Bradley to write a letter to each of those Churches, to be presented to the Association to-morrow morning for their approbation. Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning—Preaching at several places in the vicinity this evening.

9. Brother Gano preached in the evening, from Jer. xiv. 9.

WEDNESDAY, 18.

Brother Elliot preached from Heb. xiii. 1.

10. Read and approved the Circular and Corresponding letters.

11. Read the letter prepared by Brother Bradley, to the Church in West-Greenwich, and approved of the same, and also to the Church in Exeter.

12. Appointed Brother Francis Darrow, to write the Circular, and Brother John Gano Wightman, the Corresponding letter for the next year.

13. Appointed Brethren Nehemiah Dodge and Gershom Palmer our messengers to the Warren Association—To the Danbury, Brethren Asa Wilcox, Asa Bennet, Jonathan Goodwin, jun. and Nehemiah Dodge—To the Groton Conference, Brethren Abel Palmer, Enoch Stedman and Benadam Gallop—To the Sturbridge Association, Brethren Nathaniel Cole and Abel Palmer—To the Shaftsbury, Brethren Jedediah Randal and Hezekiah West—Appointed Brother Joshua Bradley to write a letter and forward it together with our minutes to the New-York Association; likewise to forward our minutes to the Philadelphia—Brother Abel Palmer to forward our minutes to the Otsego and Renssellaerville Associations—Brother Asher Miner to forward our minutes to the Leyden, and Brother Samuel West to forward our minutes to the Warwick Association.

14. Appointed our next Association to be holden with the Church at New-London on the third Tuesday in October next.

15. Appointed Brother Samuel West to superintend the printing and distributing our minutes.

16. Voted to recommend to the Churches whom we represent, to subscribe at least for one set to each Church of Dr. Gill's Exposition of the Bible.

The Association being closed, Brother Gano preached to the assembly at 3 o'clock P. M.

Circular Letter.

THE elders and Messengers of the several churches, who compose the Stonington Baptist Association, met in the town of Lebanon, state of Connecticut, on the 17th and 18th of Oct. A. D. 1809 ; holding the doctrine of three equal persons in the Godhead, personal election by grace to holiness here and eternal life hereafter, the original guilt and depravity of all mankind, eternal redemption and free justification by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, regeneration, the final perseverance of the saints in grace, water baptism by immersion, on a profession of repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and the eternal punishment of the wicked :

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN—

IT having pleased God in the course of his Providence once more to permit us the members of this Association to assemble with their Brethren from sister Associations, which gives us great satisfaction, and ought to kindle in us a spirit of humiliation and prayer to Almighty God for the union of the saints to Christ and one another, which is their strength. Brethren, the subject that we now address you upon, is Love, it is a fountain inexhaustible, and will remain so to eternity. Can we by searching find out God who is Love, can we find out the love of God to perfection. God's love is as high as heaven, deeper than hell, longer than the earth, broader than the sea, yet God's love may be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, so that we may comprehend with all saints, what is the length, breadth, height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. How wonderful is the love of God to sinful man ! The love of creatures to one another is founded on some real or supposed goodness, but there was nothing in us to excite the love of God, but on the contrary his displeasure and wrath. Yet, hear, oh heavens ! and be astonished, O earth ! for when we were enemies to God by wicked works, God sent

his dear son, the darling of heaven, the wonderful Councilor, the Prince of Peace, who came forth from the Father and was born of a virgin, God-Man, Mediator, condemned at Pilate's bar, and that by false witnesses, crucified on the tree of the cross, and was laid in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead for our justification, ascended on high to the Father again, and sent the Holy Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, to reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. Brethren, we love God, because he first loved us ; this is love that never could have been expected. We have been arrested by the spirit of God's grace, Christ revealed in us the hope of glory, and brought to see and feel the justice of his righteous law, and made willing subjects in the day of his power, to serve and obey Him ; rejoicing in the God of our salvation, and having a desire to contemplate the perfections of that God whom we cannot comprehend, whose power none can limit, whose justice is inflexible, and whose mercy is boundless. Love makes the saints drink into one spirit, unites every kindred tongue to join in solemn praises to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.—It animates the servants of the most high God to stand fast upon the walls of Zion, and to blow the trumpet of the everlasting gospel. It produces openness of heart, free communication one to another. From it hospitality flows, covetousness ceases, merit by works is renounced, God honored and obeyed, ministers of the gospel supported, vacant churches supplied, the distressed relieved, the sick consoled. It is this love that unites Christians together in the bundle of eternal life, and they are called in scripture children of the light, seed of Abraham, the lot of God's inheritance, sons and daughter, the elect of God, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, the temple of God, the spouse of Christ, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people, the salt of the earth, and a city set on a hill.

Dear Brethren, let us live in love, let us adorn our profession by a well ordered life, and a chaste conversation. Let us submit ourselves unto every ordinance of man, for the Lord's sake. Let us honor the fathers in the gospel, and contribute to their necessities, love the brotherhood, watch and be sober. Be careful not to run after fabulous teachers, for with feigned words they would deceive the

hearts of the simple ; their coming is after the working of satan, with lying wonders, speaking great swelling words, filthy dreamers, who despise dominion, speak evil of dignities, and run after the errors of Balaam ; these are clouds without water, raging waves, foaming out their own shame, wandering stars speaking for filthy lucre's sake.

Now, may the God of Peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Corresponding Letter.

THE Stonington Baptist Association, to the Associations with whom we correspond.

Beloved in the Lord,

BEING assembled in one place; and in a good measure of one accord, it seemed good unto us to write unto you, and to renew our correspondence with you, as churches of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We rejoice at the opening prospect of the Redeemer's cause and kingdom, that our God is spreading the triumphs of the cross in erecting monuments of his victorious grace, in the benighted branches of the human family. Let it be our united cry to the throne of Almighty Grace, that the glorious work may spread, till every knee shall bow to the peaceful sceptre of Prince Immanuel.

You will see by our minutes, what accessions have been made to our churches. We thank God, that he is doing his marvelous work in some of them, and pray that it may be an increasing shower. Our present session has been pleasing, and we trust for the upbuilding of Jesus' kingdom. We wish you to continue your friendly correspondence with us, and may the Great Head of the Church cause his blessings to descend to you as the members of his body and branches of his kingdom.

SAMUEL WEST, Moderator.

ASA SPALDING, Clerk.