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Baptists. Connecticut. Stonington Association,  
1810.

Minutes of the ... at New London, October, 16th  
and 17th, 1810.

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MWA copy.

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**STONINGTON**

***BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,***

**HELD AT**

**NEW-LONDON,**

**OCTOBER, 16th and 17th,**

**1810.**

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**HARTFORD :**  
**PRINTED BY HUDSON AND GOODWIN.**

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**1810.**

## Tuesday, October 16th.



1. **T**HE Elders and Brethren being assembled at 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother Goodwin preached the introductory Sermon, from John vi. 29.

2. Chose Brother J. Gano Wightman, Moderator, Brother N. Dodge, Clerk.

3. After prayer by the Moderator, proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the number added, dismissed, excluded, died, and the present number in each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained Ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; those not ordained in *italic*; those to which an (†) is affixed were not present; from churches marked thus (\*) we received no information—vacant churches are distinguished by a dash.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st N. Stonington	PELEG RANDALL Elias S. Palmer Elisha Palmer	13	2		2	204
2d N. Stonington	SIMEON BROWN † ASA SPALDING † ASHER MINER John Stanton Thomas Wells Saxton Miner John Spalding	104	1		3	281
1st Groton	JOHN G. WIGHTMAN Benadam Gallop Sands Fish Amos Culver.	13		1	1	208
Saybrook	ELIPHALET LESTER <i>William Witter</i>	7	3		3	90
Exeter	GERSHOM PALMER George Tillinghast Jonathan Lillebridge	11		3	6	248
Richmond*	Matthew Clarke					101
West-Greenwich	————— Joseph Tillinghast John D. Convis	1		3		118
1st Colchester	————— Asa Randall			2		117

<i>Churches</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	John Scott Jabez Hough, junior.					80
2d Richmond*	<hr/>				2	98
2d Colchester	Ebenezer Rogers Eliphalet Hiliard Azal Otis Alpheus Rogers					
Hampton	ABEL PALMER Thomas Grow	5	3	1		93
Montville	REUBEN PALMER Oliver Comstock Samuel Bolles	1		3	4	180
Chatham and } Haddam }	<hr/> Constant Welch Joseph Arnold	1	1	3		105
Waterford	ZADOCK DARROW FRANCIS DARROW Jason Darrow	7	15	1	1	162
East-Haddam	SIMEON DICKENSON Lemuel Dickenson John Waterhouse William Carter	17	9	7		114
Plainfield	NATHANIEL COLE John Bennet	4				75
South Kingston	BENJAMIN WAIT ENOCH STEDMAN Gardner Tift	7				43
Stonington	ELIHU CHESEBROUGH Elnathan Fellows					57
New London	SAMUEL WEST Henry Harris Jonathan Sizer George Rogers Jeremiah Tinker Nathaniel Harris, junior	2	6	5		94
Lebanon	NEHEMIAH DODGE John Hayward	3	5			82
Mansfield	JONATHAN GOODWIN JOSHUA BRADLEY Asa Bennet	1				51
<b>Total</b>		<b>209</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2598</b>

4. Received from Sister Associations, as follows :

<i>From the</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>
Warren	JOSEPH CORNELL.

Danbury	Letter and Minutes	JOSHUA BRADLEY HENRY GREW
Groton Union } Conference }	Letter and Minutes	ASA WILCOX
Rensselaerville	_____	_____
Sturbridge	_____	ABEL PALMER
Shaftsbury	Letter and Minutes	_____
Otsego	_____	_____
New-York	Letter and Minutes	_____ WILLIAMS
Leyden	_____	_____
Philadelphia	_____	_____
Warwick	Letter and Minutes	_____

5. Appointed Brethren Bradley, Wilcox and Goodwin a committee to examine the Circular and Corresponding Letters.

6. Whereas it has been the practice of our churches to present queries to this Association, which relate to the discipline of Christ's house, and concerning which a diversity of opinion exists, Voted, that Brethren Reuben Palmer, Abel Palmer, and Asher Miner be a Committee to deliberate and consult together what may be the most eligible plan of conduct concerning this subject, to preserve the independence of the Churches and the peace of this Association.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Brother Williams, from New-York, preached in the evening from Luke xv. 10. Preaching at different places in the evening.

*Wednesday, October 17th.*

Met according to appointment ; united in praise and prayer.

7. The Committee appointed to consider the subject of queries, recommended to the Brethren to appoint a Committee to present the constitution of the Association at our next annual meeting, that we may obtain an understanding of the same, before any more queries are attended to. Voted to accept the same, and appointed Brethren Weicher and Miner for this purpose.

8. Voted that we recommend to the Churches of this Association to authorize their Messengers the next year to consult together on the nature of the Constitution of this Association, and to make any alterations which may be deemed expedient.

9. Read and accepted the Circular Letter prepared by Brother Francis Darrow, and the Corresponding Letter by Brother Wightman.

10. Appointed Brother West to write the Circular Letter, and Brother Dodge to write the corresponding Letter for the next year.

11. Appointed to sister Associations.

To the

Messengers.

Warren

N. Dodge and Jonathan Goodwin.

Danbury

Blakesly, Wilcox and Goodwin

Groton Con- ference } Sturbridge Shaftsbury New-York	} Brother Gersham Palmer, Elder N. Cole J. G. Wightman, Eld. A. Palmer, Eld. N. Cole Elder Dickenson and J. G. Wightman Elders Dodge and Bradley
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Appointed Brethren Dodge and Bradley to forward the Minutes to the Philadelphia and Warwick Associations.

Appointed Brother Abel Palmer to forward our Minutes to the Otsego and Rensselaerville Association.

Appointed Brother Miner to forward the Minutes to the Leyden Association.

12. Appointed Brother Dodge to superintend the printing and distribution of our Minutes.

13. Appointed to hold our next Association with the 2d Church at North-Stonington, on the third Tuesday in October next, at ten o'clock A. M.

14. Appointed Brother Nehemiah Dodge to preach the introductory Sermon, and in case of failure Brother Josh. Bradley.

Concluded with prayer by Brother Reuben Palmer.



## CIRCULAR LETTER.



*The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the STONINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, convened at New-London, October 16 and 17, 1810, to the several CHURCHES they represent; Grace to you, and peace from GOD our Father, and the Lord JESUS CHRIST.*

**BELOVED BRETHREN,**

**A**MONG all the virtues of christainity, none is of more evident consequence to visible religion, than union amongst the followers of Jesus; none ever more pleasing to the Christian's heart, or declarative of the glory of God. Permit us to suggest a few ideas to you on this important subject. Union consists in a similarity of sentiment, and a oneness of objects. The real Christian is one whose heart has been changed by grace, become acquainted with experimental religion: who has viewed the grace of God, flowing to sinners through Jesus Christ, and applied by the Holy Spirit, who acknowledges God, with all his adorable attributes, and divine perfections, as the object of his supreme love; and while with holy pleasure he worships the God he adores, it is with the most profound satisfaction that he beholds his kindred saints engaged with him in the same employment, and as each having drunk into the same spirit, the heavenly flame of holy love and gospel union kindles upon the altar of every heart; and song of praise resounds from

every tongue to Jesu's name : and while we contemplate that God has not only formed hearts for, and disposed them to the most friendly interviews with each other ; but likewise has appointed that we should covenant together, under the most solemn obligations, to live in newness of life, and walk in all the laws and ordinances of Christ's House ; and while we thus with ardent love, and holy affection, seek to please him who hath called us to be soldiers ; we find ourselves encircled in the arms of everlasting love ; and the Church is thus impregnable against every foe ; and when the enemy comes in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him ; the saints having their affections thus placed on God, and their sentiments predicated upon his word, have a foundation laid for Gospel Union. When we prayerfully attend to the scriptures of truth and spiritually understand them, they afford us an exhaustless fountain of rich grace. Yet although the word of God affords us all necessary instruction, for the rule of our faith and practice ; and the spirit of God accompanying, leads us into all truth ; we are not altogether ignorant of Satan's devices, who as a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour ; whose rage has been manifested against the Son of God, and the faithful sons of Zion. Yet brethren, rejoice, he is a conquered foe ; and the God of peace shall bruise him under your feet shortly.

Dear brethren, while we are called to resist so potent an enemy, who is unwearied in assaulting the camp of Israel, of what importance is it that we enjoy the strength of union, not only one with another, but with Israel's king. Let us attend strictly to his orders from day to day, and not to neglect the gift within us ; take to ourselves the whole armour of God, and like a band of brothers, witness our discipleship by pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand, and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report : as deceivers, and yet true ; as unknown, and yet well known ; as dying, and behold we live ; as chastened, and not killed ; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing ; as poor, yet making many rich ; as having nothing, yet possessing all things.

And may the Lord give us hearts to do our duty, each in his particular station, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The STONINGTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the ASSOCIATIONS with whom we correspond :*


**BELOVED BRETHREN,**

**B**ELIEVING our joy to be the joy of you all, we feel it our interest and happiness to diffuse and receive useful information, for the strengthening of each others hands in the Lord, and guarding against any innovation that may cause confusion among the Churches of Jesus, or mar the union and harmony of any of the members of his mystical body. If it be for the declarative glory of God our Saviour, and for the perfecting of this body, which is the Church, that saints should be gathered together in one, is it not necessary for our edification, that we should be united by one spirit, in one cause ; striving together for the faith once delivered to the saints ? Union is the order of Heaven. It makes the Church on earth appear "beautiful as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem and terrible as an army with banners." Union is the bond of society, and happiness of the domestic circle : But no union on earth is like the bond of divine love, uniting kindred souls ; making us one in Christ, and fellow heirs of the same grace here, and of an eternal inheritance reserved for us in Heaven. We are stimulated to maintain this union from the nature of our holy religion.—Since by scattering we are increased—By receiving we are made rich. Whatever God enableth us to do, lays us under new obligations to love him ; and whatever reward of his love we receive, lays us under new obligations to obey.

We desire to be employed in this joyful work, and may our united prayers ascend the hill of God, until he make Zion a joy and a praise in all the earth.

We acknowledge your brotherly kindness manifested by your messengers and letters, and feel to make the like returns, wishing a continuance of brotherly correspondence.

JOHN G. WIGHTMAN, *Moderator.*  
NEHEMIAH DODGE, *Clerk.*

 *JOSHUA BRADLEY* wishes to inform the Churches of this Association, that *Dr. Gill's Exposition* is now in the press, and he can supply any Church who will send to him.—Also that he hopes to send the first volume of the *N. S.* to his subscribers, the last of December or first of January.