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Minutes of the ... at North-Stonington October 15th  
and 16th, 1811.

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**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**STONINGTON**  
**BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,**  
HELD AT  
**NORTH-STONINGTON,**  
*OCTOBER 15th and 16th, 1811.*

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J. BYRNE and SON, Printers, Windham.

# MINUTES, &c.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15.

1. THE Elders and Brethren being assembled, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother WELLS preached the introductory Sermon, from I Corinthians, vi. 11.

2. Chose Brother REUBEN PALMER, Moderator; and Brother JONATHAN GOODWIN, 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 Italick; those to which an † is affixed were not present; from Churches marked thus (\*), we received no information; vacant Churches distinguished by a dash —

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>ad. dis. ex. dd. No.</i>				
1st. <i>N. Stonington,</i>	PELEG RANDALL, Elias Palmer, Nathan Chapman, Samuel Peabody, Stephen Chapman, Nathan Chapman, jun.	1	12	1	4	185
2d. <i>N. Stonington,</i>	SIMEON BROWN, JEDEDIAH RANDALL, ASHER MINER, Thomas Miner, John Stanton, Thomas Wells.	3	5	1	4	276
1st. <i>Greton,</i>	JOHN G. WIGHTMAN, Samuel Lamb, Sands Fish, Joseph Culver.	0	0	0	1	208

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>ad.</i>	<i>dis.</i>	<i>ex.</i>	<i>dd.</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>1st. Saybrook.</i>	WILLIAM WITTER, Asa Brooks. Timothy Warner.	6	0	0	1	95
<i>Exeter.</i>	GERSHOM PALMER, Joseph Case, George Sisson, Clark Sisson, John Gardner, George Tillinghast.	11	1	2	3	253
<i>Richmond,</i>	PHINEHAS PALMER, Samuel Barber, Caleb Barber.	2	1	0	2	100
<i>W. Greenwich,</i>	Joseph Tillinghast, Samuel Peckham.	4	0	1	0	120
<i>1st. Colchester,</i>	William B. Palmer, Asa Randall.	0	0	0	4	109
<i>2d. Richmond,</i>	Weeden Clark, Thomas Webster, Joshua Card.	1	0	1	2	77
<i>2d. Colchester,</i>	Samuel Morgan, Eliphalet Williard, Lemuel Maynard.	0	0	5	0	93
<i>Hampton,</i>	Thomas Grow, James Elliot.	3	8	0	2	86
<i>Montville,</i>	REUBEN PALMER.	1	3	2	3	163
<i>Chatham and Haddam,</i>	SOLOMON WHEAT, Constant Welch, Elisha Niles, George Gates.	5	2	1	0	107
<i>Waterford,</i>	ZADOCK DARROW, FRANCIS DARROW.	2	0	5		158
<i>East-Haddam,*</i>						
<i>Plainfield,</i>	NATHANIEL COLE, Benjamin Suller, John Stranaham.	0	2	1	0	72
<i>S. Kingston,</i>	ENOCH STEDMAN, Caleb Tift, Gardner Tift.	1	0	0	0	44
<i>Stonington,</i>	ELIHU CHESEBROUGH, Elnathan Fellows.	8	0	0	0	65
<i>New-London,</i>	SAMUEL WEST, Braddick Dart.	1	5	1	1	90

		<i>ad.</i>	<i>dis.</i>	<i>ex.</i>	<i>dd.</i>	<i>No.</i>
<i>Lebanon,</i>	{ John Hayward, Abel Goodwin.	0	0	0	0	82
<i>Mansfield,</i>	{ JONATHAN GOODWIN, Asa Bennet, Eliphalet Bennet.	21	2	0	2	72
<i>2d. Saybrook,</i>	{ Sala Post.	0	0	0	0	62
<b>Total,</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2517</b>

4. Received from sister Associations, as follows :

<i>From the</i>		<i>Messengers.</i>
<i>Warren,</i>	Letter and Minutes.	Volintine W. Rathbun.
<i>Danbury,</i>	— — — — —	Oliver Tuttle.
<i>Groton Union } Conference, }</i>	Letter and Minutes.	{ Roswell Burrows, Matthew Clark.
<i>Renssellaerville,</i>	— — — — —	— — — — —
<i>Sturbridge,</i>	Letter and Minutes.	— — — — —
<i>Shaftsbury,</i>	Letter and Minutes.	— — — — —
<i>Otsego,</i>	— — — — —	— — — — —
<i>New-York,</i>	Letter and Minutes.	— — — — —
<i>Leyden,</i>	— — — — —	— — — — —
<i>Philadelphia,</i>	Letter and Minutes.	— — — — —
<i>Warwick,</i>	— — — — —	— — — — —

5. Appointed Brethren A. Goodwin, Palmer, and Wightman, a Committee to examine the Circular Letter.

6. Appointed Brother A. Goodwin to write the Corresponding Letter for this year, to be examined by the same Committee.

7. Appointed Brethren Fellows, and J. Randall, a Committee to look up and bring forward the Constitution of this Association, at our next session.

8. Appointed Brother Jonathan Goodwin, to write the Circular Letter, and Brother William Witter, the Corresponding Letter for the next year. Adjourned 'till 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. Brother Baker preached in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16.

Met according to adjournment; united in praise and prayer.

9. Read and accepted the Circular Letter prepared by Brother West, and the Corresponding Letter by Brother Goodwin.

10. Appointed to sister Associations :

<i>To the</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>
<i>Warren,</i>	Samuel West, and Nathaniel Cole.
<i>Danbury,</i>	Jonathan Goodwin, and Asa Bennet.
<i>Groton Conference,</i>	Stedman Tillinghast, and Chesebrough.
<i>Sturbridge,</i>	Jonathan Goodwin, and Asa Bennet.

*Shaftsbury,  
New-York,*

John G. Wightman, and J. Randall.  
William Witter.

Appointed Brother Witter to forward our Minutes to the Philadelphia and Warwick Associations.

Appointed Brother Jedediah Randall to forward our Minutes to the Otsego and Rensselaerville Associations.

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

Appointed Brother William Palmer to open Correspondence with the Boston Association.

Voted to Correspond with the Madison Association, by Letter and Minutes.

11. Appointed Brother Jonathan Goodwin to superintend the printing of the Minutes, and send them to Brother Dewey Brumley's at Norwich Landing.

12. Appointed to hold our next Association in Groton, at the meeting-house occupied by Elder John G. Wightman, on the 3d Tuesday in October next, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

The Association closed by prayer by Brother Lamb.

Brother Goodwin preached to the Assembly, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

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*Note.* Agreeable to the request of the Shaftsbury Baptist Association, we insert a part of the 21st vote of their Minutes, as follows: "That the Churches of our order be cautioned against one *John W. Carey*, who says that he is from North-Carolina. He has been guilty of a variety of immoral conduct, since he has been in these parts. We consider him as an impostor, and request our sister Associations throughout the United States, to publish his character, as he appears to take an extensive range of travelling."

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## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The ELDERS and BRETHREN, met in ASSOCIATION, to the CHURCHES  
whom they represent, send Christian salutation.*

Dearly beloved Brethren,

WHILE we are travelling through this vale of tears, it highly becomes us, to have our minds firmly fixed on God, who is a Rock of defence, unto all his saints; for we are surrounded by enemies, which we are (of ourselves) utterly unable to withstand. But the name of the Lord, is a strong Power.—In him there is safety; because, all those who are in him, are free from condemnation—have become new creatures; being renewed in the spirit of their minds by the Holy Ghost—are chosen out of the world—redeemed from among men—and made partakers of an Holy Fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ, by the Holy Ghost. Being thus united unto God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Christian can say, if God be

for us, who can be against us; it is God who justifieth; it is Christ who died, arose and ascended; it is the Holy Ghost that quickeneth, enlighteneth, and cleareth the soul from sin, through the sprinkling of the Blood of Jesus.—What strength and comfort, joy and peace, dwells in the believing soul, whilst meditating on the foundation of his hope, and his high and holy calling.

Dear Brethren, are we called with this holy calling?—Then holiness is our profession. Is our conversation holy?—Our lives and conduct holy?—Then the world will take knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus. It was holiness of heart, and life, that emboldened primitive christians, before their cruel persecutors. They joyfully suffered, for righteousness sake; we have them for an example; let us follow them, even as they followed Christ, for we are still in the midst of enemies; this vain world is unfriendly to holiness, and our adversary the devil, is yet seeking whom he may devour; so, that if we do not feel the sword of persecution, as our Fathers did, it is not because our enemies have grown better; but through the tender mercy of our God toward us. He restrains them from such acts of violence. Nor are the instruments of satan less vigilant, nor their methods of attack on the saints less detrimental to the peace of the Church of God, than the sword of persecution. By how much the instruments of unrighteousness are used, with cunning craftiness to deceive and beguile our souls, and lead us to err from the way of holiness—by so much the more should we be careful to maintain holiness of life towards God, amongst ourselves, and before the world.

By holiness of life toward God, we mean a firm belief of the doctrine of the gospel, and a faithful walk in all his commandments and ordinances of divine worship. By holiness of life amongst ourselves, we mean that faithful regard for, and charitable walk towards one another which the gospel requires; keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. By holiness of life before the world, we mean an honest, sober and chaste behaviour, in all our transactions of life and conversation, amongst mankind. Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. And now may the God of peace bless you, and us your servants, and all in every place, that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth; with love, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all 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.

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**CORRESPONDING LETTER.**


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

Beloved Brethren,

WITH joy and satisfaction, we embrace this opportunity of addressing you by Letter, wishing you grace, mercy and peace, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

When we call to mind the many advantages we enjoy of worshipping our God agreeable to the dictates of our own consciences, having none to molest or make us afraid, we have too much reason to mourn, and to lament our own unfaithfulness, in the cause of our Lord and Master, whom we profess to love and obey. When we turn the sacred pages over, and view those precious promises therein contained, as so many expressions of God's distinguishing goodness unto us poor sinners, and feel the love of God, shed abroad in our hearts, we can say with the psalmist, that a day in thy courts, is better than a thousand.

We are still wishing to continue our correspondence with our sister Associations, and are rejoiced with the information we have received through the medium of your Messengers and minutes, and feel it our duty to give you ours in return.

REUBEN PALMER, *Moderator.*

JONATHAN GOODWIN, *Clerk.*

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