

13064

Baptists. Rhode Island. Warren Association.
Minutes of the Proceedings [Sept. 8-9, 1773].
Boston, Thomas, 1773. 8 pp.
AAS copy.

M I N U T E S

OF THE PROCEEDINGS

O F T H E

WARREN-ASSOCIATION,

I N T H E I R M E E T I N G

A T M E D F I E L D,

S E P T E M B E R 7th to 9th, 1773.

B O S T O N :

Printed by ISAAH THOMAS, at his Printing-Office, near
the MILL-BRIDGE. MDCCLXXIII.

1773

M I N U T E S
O F T H E

Proceedings of the WARREN-ASSOCIATION,

In their Meeting at MEDFIELD, September 7th to 9th, 1773.

ACCORDING to appointment the messengers of our respective churches met at *Medfield, September 7, 1773*, and elder *Ebenezer Hinds*, delivered a suitable sermon from Psalm cxxiii. 1. After which he was chosen moderator, and brother *William Williams*, clerk; and the following elders and brethren appeared as messengers, with letters from their churches, *viz.* From the first baptist church in *Boston*, elder *Samuel Stillman*, *Philip Freeman* and *Henry Plimpton*; second *Boston*, *Nathan Plimpton* and *James Morse*; *Warren*, elder *Charles Thompson*, *William Williams* and *Ichabod Cole*; *Haverhill*, elder *Hezekiah Smith* and *Samuel Harriman*; *Charlton*, elder *Nathaniel Green*, *Jacob Warren* and *Ebenezer Davis*; first *Middleborough*, elder *Isaac Backus*, deacon *Nathaniel Shaw*, *Elijah Coddington* and *Job Macomber*; second *Middleborough*, elder *Ebenezer Hinds* and *Ezra Clark*; third *Middleborough*, elder *Aja Hunt*, *Caleb Cushman* and *William Shurtleff*; *Bellingham*, elder *Noah Alden*, *Samuel Darling, jun.*
Ebenezer

Ebenezer Holbrook and Elbanan Winchester ; Ashfield, elder Ebenezer Smith ; Wrentham, Nathaniel Robinson and Ebenezer Guild ; Sutton, Aaron Eliot and Nathaniel Wetmore ; South-Brimfield, Anthony Needham ; Royallton, elder Whitman Jacobs ; Attleborough, Joshua Everett and Joseph Guild ; Enfield, Jonathan Purchase ; Montague, Richard Montague. We also received letters, though no messengers from the churches of *Wilbraham* and *Richmond*. And elder *Samuel Waldo* came with an agreeable letter from the association of *Philadelphia*.

Meeting adjourned till eight in the morning.

Wednesday, September 8. Met according to adjournment.

And *First*, The baptist church in *Woodstock* was received into the association; elder *Biel Ledoyt*, *Elnathan Walker* and *William Grove*, messengers.

Second, The baptist church in *Chelmsford* was received, *Elisha Rich*, *Mark White* and *Alaph Fletcher*, messengers.

Third, The baptist church in *Barnstable* was received, *Seth Clark*, messenger.

Fourth, A letter from the baptist society in *Frammingham* was read, and captain *Ebenezer Marshall* their messenger was received to act with us.

Fifth, A letter from *London* was read, wherein we are informed, that the much esteemed gentlemen whom we had made choice of to take the charge of our affairs there, have accepted of the same, and " will cheerfully unite in every measure that

that may from time to time be thought right and prudent, to promote the cause of truth and liberty in general, and that of our denomination in particular." And the same agent here, and committee for advice and counsel about the affairs of our churches were continued as we had last year.

Sixth, This association wrote a letter to that of *Philadelphia*.

Seventh, They appointed elder *Thompson* and brother *Williams* to go with a letter to the *Rhode-Island* association.

Adjourned to eight in the morning. Elder *Waldo* preached a suitable sermon in the evening.

Thursday, *September 9*. Met according to adjournment.

Eighth, Voted that this association recommend it to their several churches to contribute and send to the care of the reverend *Samuel Stillman*, of *Boston*, as soon as they can, such sums as they may think proper to reimburse our agent here for his personal expence in the prosecution of this business.

Ninth, Agreed upon the following supplies for destitute churches; *Chelmsford*, elder *Hezekiah Smith* the fourth Lord's-day in this month; and elder *Hunt* the last Lord's-day in *May*; *Sutton*, elder *Ebenezer Smith* next Lord's-day; elder *Green* the last in *November*; elder *Alden* the last in *January*; Mr. *Jones* the second in *April*; Mr. *Codding* the second in *June*; *Barnstable*, elder *Hinds* the last in *October*; elder *Backus* the first in *December*

ember ; elder *Hunt* the last in *February* ; Mr. *Seamons* the last in *July* ; *South Brimfield*, elder *Hinds* the second in *June* ; *Montague*, elder *Jacobs* the last in *November* ; elder *Smith* the first in *February* ; elder *Hinds* the third in *June* ; elder *Thompson* the second in *July* ; Mr. *Coddington* the last in *August* ; *Sturbridge*, elder *Ledoyt* the second in *January* ; elder *Alden* the last in *May* ; Mr. *Coddington* the last in *July*.

The next association is to be held at *Medfield* the Tuesday after the first Wednesday in next *September*. Elder *Hezekiah Smith* to preach the sermon, or in case of failure, elder *Thompson*.

And now before we conclude this assembly, we would address the churches to which we stand nearly related, in the following manner :

Dearlly beloved Brethren;

WE have the satisfaction of informing you that eighteen of our churches, now met by their delegates, and three churches more were added to our number ; and we received very comfortable tidings from many of our churches, and also from several who have not as yet joined with our association, that conviction and conversion work has been revived among them in months past, so that large additions have been made to a number of churches, we trust of such as shall be saved. But we are sorry to tell you, that some of our dear brethren are denied the free enjoyment of that choice blessing, LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE, especially in this province ; having many of them had their
goods

goods violently taken from them to support a way of worship contrary to their conscience, while others in the year past have been imprisoned for the same purpose in a manner that was very inhuman. The spirit of opposition from the carnal world, against the church and people of God, has more or less expressed itself ever since christianity was professed, but it is great matter of grief to find that in such a land of light and liberty as *New-England*, there should be any countenance given to such unchristian measures as are taken, with those who soberly dissent from their neighbours, upon the positive institutions of *Jesus Christ*, while they give others no interruption in practising their duty.

However, brethren, *think it not strange concerning the fiery trial that is to try you*, but keep your glorious Redeemer ever before you. Endure as seeing him who is invisible; mark his holy and peaceful steps, and cultivate that spirit of meekness and humility which shines so conspicuous in the character of *Jesus*. Let your conversation be as becometh the gospel, and be in nothing terrified by your adversaries. Attend closely to the duties of the closet, family and the church of *God*, that you may adore the doctrine of our Saviour in all things. Strive together in prayer for your dear ministers and pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth labourers, and give all due encouragement to gifts which promise usefulness, while you properly discountenance such as pay no due regard to the order and government which

Christ

Christ has established in his church. And may the Great Head of Influence abundantly bless you and make you meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Signed by order of the whole assembly,
EBENEZER HINDS, Moderator.
WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Clerk.

An account of the number that have been added, died, admonished, excluded and dismissed from our several churches in the year past, and of the whole number of their present members.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS.	ad.	di	ad.	ex.	dis	wh.
1 Boston,	Samuel Stillman,	14	2		1		141
2 Boston,							40
Bellingham,	Noah Alden,	1					40
Haverhill,	Hezekiah Smith,	8		1			148
Warren,	Charles Thompson,	2					77
1 Middleborough,	Isaac Backus,	3					70
2 Middleborough,	Ebenezer Hinds,	45	1			1	77
3 Middleborough,	Afa Hunt,	1	1				60
Charlton,	Nathaniel Green,	6		1			46
Wilbraham,	Seth Clark,	4					39
Enfield,	Joseph Mecham	1				3	30
Ware,							16
Ashfield,	Ebenezer Smith,	3	1	1			46
Montague,		1					25
Sutton,		1					46
Royalston,	Whitman Jacobs,	1				1	27
Richmond,	Matturean Belau,	11			4		52
Wrentham,							10
Attleborough,		7					23
South-Brimfield,							12
Sturbridge,			2	3			24
Woodstock,	Biel Ledoyt,						48
Chelmsford,							53
Barnstable,							11
		109	7	6	5	5	1161