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Warren Association of Baptists, 1774.

Minutes of the Proceedings ... at Medfield, September 13th
and 14th, 1774.

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M I N U T E S

OF THE PROCEEDINGS

O F T H E

WARREN-ASSOCIATION,

IN THEIR MEETING

AT MEDFIELD.

SEPTEMBER 13th and 14th, 1774.

B O S T O N :

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M I N U T E S

O F T H E

Proceedings of the WARREN-ASSOCIATION;

In their Meeting at MEDFIELD, September 13, 14. 1774.

ACCORDING to appointment the messengers of our respective churches met at *Medfield, September 13.* when Elder *Hezekiah Smith*, preached a suitable sermon from *Exod. xx. 22.* Then elder *John Gano* was chosen moderator, and elder *Hezekiah Smith*, clerk; after which letters from the churches were read, which describe their state to be as follows.

Ministers with this mark † were not present. Churches with this mark * sent no letter.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	ad. by	ad. by	dead.	Exclu.	admon	dimit.	whol. num.
1 Boston.	† Samuel Stillman, Henry Plimpton, Ephraim Chenery, Philip Freeman,	bap.	9	1	2			47.
2 Boston,			3		1			42.
Bellingham,	Noah Alden, Samuel Darling, Eliphalet Holbrook, Jun Elkanan Winchester, Jun		5			2		43.
Haverhill,	Hezekiah Smith, Edmond Pillsbury,		1		1		1	140.
Warren,	† Charles Thompson, * Wm Turner Miller, Esq; Amos Fish,		3	1		1		79.
1 Middleborough,	Isaac Backus, Job Macomber, Theophilus Crocker, Benjamin Leach,						4	64.

2. Middle.

2 Middleborough,	{ Ebenezer Hinds, Levi Rounleveld,	28	2	1	3	2	104.
3 Middleborough,	{ Afa Hunt, Moses Thomas, Samuel Purington, † Nathaniel Green,	52		1		1	90.
Charlton,	{ Daniel Bacon, Ebenezzer Davis, * Wilbraham, * Enfield, Ware, Ashfield, Montague,						46. 39. 30. 16. 49. 25.
Sutton,	{ Samuel Rich, Daniel Harwood, † Whitman Jacobs, Royalston,						46. 45.
Richmond,	{ Isaac Elly, Eliphalet Moor. Matturean Belau, Wrentham,	18					72. 16.
Attleboro',	{ Ebenezer Guild, Obediah Allen, Job Seamans, Joseph Guild, Amos Stanley, South Brimfield,	3	3				29. 16.
*Sourbridge *Woodstock	{ † Elijah Coddington, Nathaniel Monger, Biel Ledoyt, Elisba Rich, Chelmsford,	3	1				24. 48. 59.
Barnstable,	{ Mark White, Oliver Prescott, Thomas Lombard.	6	1			1	9.
		146	9	6	2	6	10 1275.

Then we proceeded. 1. To read a letter from Newport association, wherein they express their readiness to assist us in any prudent measures to obtain full religious liberty.

2. Received a letter from the Philadelphian association, wherein our beloved brethren, elder *John Gano*, and elder *Williams*

William Van Horn, were appointed their messengers to us. Also a letter from the association in South Carolina.

3. Upon an application made by the church in New-Salem, and examination into their standing, they were received into this association, with their messengers, elder *Samuel Bigelow*, and *David Pierce*; the number of their members is 16.

4. The church in *Gaston*, in like manner, was received with their messengers, *Joseph Rice*, and *Jacob Whipple*; their number is 22.

Adjourned to next Morning.

Sept. 14. Met at 8 in the morning.

5. A baptist church in *Liecester*, was received with their messengers, *Thomas Holman*, and *Joseph Bartlet*; their number 12.

6. Application was made to the association by the church in *Thompson*; but as the messengers from *Royalston*, objected against it because of a difficulty that lay between them, it was judged expedient not to receive said church at this time; but both parties were advised earnestly to labour for a reconciliation.

7. Elder *Smith* was appointed to draw the circular letter to the churches.

8. Elder *Isaac Backus*, was appointed our messenger to the *Philadelphian* association, and elder *Van Horn*, was desired to draw up a letter from us to them; also to the association of *Swanzey* and *South Carolina*.

9. A request was made to the association from our suffering friends of *Warwick*, for help in their distresses on account of their late sufferings. Voted to recommend a collection for them among all our churches.

10. Con-

10. Considered a request from the church of *Ware*, and appointed elder *Hunt*, to draw up an answer to it.

11. Adopted the plan proposed by the association in *Charlestown South Carolina*, to raise a fund for *Rhode-Island* college, viz. By recommending to every member to pay *six pence* sterling annually for three years success-fully to their elder, or some suitable person: This money to be paid to the treasurer of the college.

12. The same agent and committee for the baptists in this province, who served the last year, were continued.

13. Agreed upon the following supplies for destitute Churches, viz. For *Framingham*, elder *Seamans*, the second Lord's day in *October*.—Elder *Rich*, the second in *November*.—Elder *Alden*, the second in *December*. For *Asford*, elder *Warren*, the second Lord's day in *December*.—Elder *Hicks*, the third in *October*.—Elder *Seamans*, the second in *November*.—Brother *Jones*, the second in *January*.—Elder *Coding*, the second in *March*.—Elder *Belau*, the fourth in *April*.—Elder *Alden*, the second in *May*. Supplies for *Grafton* church.—Elder *Alden*, the second Lord's day in *November*.—Elder *Seamans*, the second in *March*.—Brother *Jones*, the second in *April*.—Elder *Hicks*, the second in *June*. Supplies for *Liecester*. Elder *Martin*, the last Lord's day in *November*.—Elder *Rich*, the second in *May*.—Elder *Alden*, the second in *June*.—Elder *Hunt*, the first in *September*. Supplies for *Montague*. Elder *Bigelow*, the first Lord's day in *November*, and the first in *March*.—Elder *Hicks*, the third in *June*.—Elder *Belau*, the second in *August*.

Concluded to hold the association next year at *Warren*, the Tuesday after the first Wednesday in *September*, at two o'clock afternoon.—Elder *Natbaniel Green* to preach the sermon; or in case of failure, elder *Hunt*.

A Circular Letter to the CHURCHES.

Beloved Brethren,

WITH this letter we send you our christian salutations, wishing you grace, mercy and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ. Our sister churches in general met at this place according to agreement ; and we have the pleasure to find that they are in peace among themselves ; though obliged to complain of, and mourn over the low state of religion.—Yet, blessed be God, this is not universally the case : From some of the churches we have good tidings. The Lord hath not forsaken them ; but has visited them with the outpouring of his Spirit. In consequence of which there has been an ingathering of souls : Additions of such, we trust, as shall be saved. In this twofold view of things, we are called to mourn with those who mourn, and to rejoice with those who do rejoice.

It is the advice of your brethren now met in association, To stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free : Be careful not to imbibe and nourish a spirit of bondage. Endeavor to walk with God as did *Enoch*, and to promote vital piety at all times ; labor that your light may shine before men, that they seeing your good works, may glorify your Father who is in heaven. Encourage promising and useful gifts amongst you ; and guard against those strangers who appear under the character of ministers of Christ, but bring no credentials with them ; for many deceivers are gone out into the world. And as it is a day of great affliction, when our civil rights are invaded, and our religious privileges also in danger, we have concluded to recommend to you four days in the course of the ensuing year for fasting
and

and prayer. The first on *Friday* before the last Lord's day in *November*.—The second on *Friday* before the last Lord's day in *February*.—The third on *Friday* before the last Lord's day in *May*.—The fourth on *Friday* before the last Lord's day in *August*. Now wishing you much of the divine presence, and a spirit of grace and supplication, so much needed in this day of great calamity, we subscribe,

Yours in the fellowship of the gospel,

JOHN GANO, Moderator.

HEZEKIAH SMITH, Clerk.
