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**Baptists. Rhode Island. Warren Association, 1804.  
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# MINUTES

OF THE

*Warren Association,*

HELD AT THE

Second Baptist Meeting-House

IN

BOSTON,

SEPTEMBER 11 and 12,

1804.

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1804.

# MINUTES, &c.

TUESDAY, September 11, 1804.

1. **A**T half past two o'clock, agreeably to appointment, Brother Stephen Gano delivered the introductory sermon from 2 Cor. viii. 23. — "*Or our brethren be inquired of, they are the Messengers of the Churches, and the glory of Christ.*" After which collected for the widows and children of ministers deceased.

2. Chose Dr. Stillman, *Moderator*, and Brother Thomas Baldwin, *Clerk*.

3. After Prayer by the Moderator, proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the members added, dismissed, excluded, or who have died the past year, and the present number in each church.

*N. B.* The names of ordained ministers are in *small capitals*; licensed preachers in *Italic*. Those ministers with this mark \* were not present. Churches marked thus † we had no information from this session. Vacant churches distinguished by a dash —.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st Boston,	SAMUEL STILLMAN, John Wait, Daniel Wild, James Loring.	83	2	1	3	342
2d Boston,	THOMAS BALEWIN, Jacob Holland, Richard Smith, Thomas Badger, Parker Emmerson, Thomas Kendall.	128	2	3	2	333
Haverhill,	HEZEKIAH SMITH, Timothy Jackman, John Chase, David Sawyer.	1		1	2	183
Warren,	LUTHER BAKER, John Croade, Edward Kelley.	5	1	1	1	64
1st Middleborough,	ISAAC BACKUS, Joseph Ames, Sylvanus Leanard, Asael Shaw.	4			3	91

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2d Middleborough,	<hr/> Peter Hoar.	33				64
3d Middleborough,	SAMUEL NELSON, Elisha Clarke, David Jacobs.	4			2	91
Wrentham,	WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Joseph Miller, Joseph Guild, Samuel Blofs.	3	1		1	73
Attleborough,	JAMES READ, William Everett, Cyrus Cheaver, Nathan Robinson.	2	4	2	4	87
Chelmsford,	*JOHN PECKENS, John Spaulding, Samuel Brown.			1		95
Barnstable,	*JOHN PEAK, Thomas Scudder, Edward Hallet, David Hallet.	4				70
Medfield,	<hr/>	1			2	27
†Harwich,	*ABNER LEWIS.					58
Harvard,	GEORGE ROBINSON, Benjamin W. Willard, Abraham Gates, John Hawkes.		4			76
Newton,	JOSEPH GRAFTON, Jeremiah Richardson, Samuel Holt.	4				95
Salem, (N. H.)	<hr/> Israel Rowell.			1		40
†Northbridge,	*JOHN COOPER.					48
†Ashburnham,	<hr/>					10
Woburn,	<hr/> Josiah Convers, Jacob Richardson.	70	72	2	1	115
Providence,	STEPHEN GANO, ASA MESSER, John Davis.	7	7		10	245
Templeton,	ELISHA ANDREWS, Silas Cutler, Samuel Simons, Ephraim Myrick.	5	2	1		102

|| The following note was communicated to the Association in the Letter from Woburn.

"N. B. This day, September 10, 1804, Voted to withdraw the hand of fellowship from Elias Smith."

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Rowley,	SHUBAEL LOVELL, Joseph Goddard.	2	1		2	46
Bridgwater,	VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, <i>Ephraim Willis,</i> Thomas Pratt, Alpheus Leach.	2	1			82
Weston,	<hr/> Samuel Train.					15
Randolph,	JOEL BRIGGS, Jonathan Wales, Jonathan Stetson, Jacob Goldthwait.		1		2	77
Carver,	<hr/> Gershom Lane, Jacob Ward.	1	1			39
Hollis,	<hr/> David Brown.	1		1		69
Marshfield,	BARNABAS PERKINS, William Curtis, Abner Curtis.	1				56
2d Sutton,	*WILLIAM BACHELDER, William Bachelder, jun.	11	1	1	1	50
Danvers,	<hr/> Samuel Dutch, Israel Hutchinson, jun.	8				46
Londonderry,	<hr/> Thomas Senter.	22	1		1	105
2d Freetown,	*JOB BORDEN.	1				35
†Marshpee,	*JAMES FREEMAN.					40
Newport,	JOSHUA BRADLEY, Eph. Macumber, Samuel Barker, Jason Sprague, William W. Vernon.	7	5	2	3	169
Charlestown,	WILLIAM COLLIER, John Carter, David Goodwin, Oliver Holden, James Harrison.	17	1		1	47
Rehoboth,	JOHN PITMAN, John Brown.	3	1			57
Beverly,	ELISHA WILLIAMS, Eleazer Wallice, Nicholas Dodge.	46			1	96

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders &amp; Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Grafton,	James M'Clalen.			1		30
Reading,	EBENEZER NELSON, Jacob Eaton, Lilly Eaton, David Smith, jun.					78
Taunton,	<i>Jonathan Smith,</i> Noah Clap.					70
New Boston, (N.H.)	*ISAIAH STONE, Livermore Langdal.					45
Malden,	HENRY POTTLE, Samuel Wait, jun. Samuel Wheeler, Eben Harnden, William Parker.					100
Somerfet,	Afa Pierce, William Barton.					28
4th Middleborough,	SAMUEL ABBOTT, Abiathar Briggs.					30
Total,		475	108	17	42	3729

Adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. Our aged brother Backus being present, concluded by prayer. Sermon in the evening by brother Pitman, from Mark vi. 12.

### WEDNESDAY, September 12.

At 6 in the morning the people met, and brother Hooper preached to them from Isaiah xxxv. 10. And at 8, the Association met according to adjournment. After prayer introductory to business, proceeded to finish reading the letters. The six last mentioned Churches were admitted into our fellowship at this time. It may be proper here to state, that some of these Churches have shared remarkably in the late revival of religion. In Malden, 95 out of 100 have been baptized since last October. Forty have been added to the church at Reading in the same time. The church at Somerfet was constituted last November. The members have been principally baptized within eighteen months.

4. From our sister Associations received

	<i>Letters,</i>	<i>Minutes,</i>	<i>and Messengers.</i>
From the			
Charleston,	Letter,	Minutes,	_____
Philadelphia,	_____	Minutes,	_____
New-York,	Letter,	Minutes,	J. CHAPLIN.
Stonington,	Letter,	Minutes,	A. PALMER, S. Webb.

New-Hampshire,	Letter,	Minutes,	WM. HOOPER, WALTER POWERS, HENRY SMITH.
Shaftsbury,	—————	—————	JOSEPH CORNELL.
Woodstock,	Letter,	Minutes,	WM. ELLIOTT.
Bowdoinham,	Letter,	Minutes,	ISAAC CASE.
Groton Conference,	Letter,	Minutes,	DANIEL HIX.
Sturbridge,	Letter,	Minutes,	Z. L. LEONARD.
Leyden,	Letter,	Minutes,	Samuel Osgood.

5. The brethren who were appointed last year to prepare the Circular and Corresponding Letters being both prevented by sickness, brother ANDREWS, agreeably to a vote of yesterday, brought forward a Circular Letter, which was read and accepted. It was then voted, to request the Clerk to prepare a Corresponding Letter to accompany the Minutes.

6. Appointed brother E. Williams to write the Circular Letter for next year; and brother Gano the Corresponding.

7. The Association requested to know the state of the Education Fund. The Secretary not being present, the Treasurer gave the following brief statement. That at the last annual meeting the Rev. Dr. Smith, Col. Dana and Mr. James Harrison gave ten dollars each. Mr. Oliver Holden presented a note of 100 dollars; and Deacon Wait one of 75 dolls. The interest to be paid annually. Fifty dollars have since been received from a worthy friend to this institution, and communicated by Dr. Stillman to the Treasurer. After this statement, Dr. Smith presented a letter from Nicholas Brown, Esq. of Providence, including a draught for 100 dols. for the fund. Capt. D. Goodwin of Charlestown presented a note of the same amount, the interest to be paid annually. Eight dollars were also received from the church at Harvard. Whereupon, voted, that the thanks of the Association be given to each of the gentlemen above noticed, who have so liberally contributed to our *funds*; and that Dr. Smith and Dr. Stillman present the same to the gentlemen whose benefactions they communicated.

8. Voted, to recommend it to the churches of this Association which have not had collections for the Education Fund, to request a contribution for that purpose, on the 2d Lord's day in April next.

9. Chose Dr. Stillman, Dr. Smith, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Grafton and Mr. Briggs, a committee to whom persons taxed to other denominations may apply for advice.

10. Appointed the following brethren, Messengers to Corresponding Associations. To New-York, Brethren Pitman, Collier and Bradley. To the Stonington, Brethren Gano and Grafton. To the Woodstock, Brethren Baldwin and Bradley. To the New-Hampshire, Brethren Hez. Smith, Baldwin, E. Nelson, and Lovell. To the Bowdoinham, Brethren E. Williams, Robinson,

and Dyer. To the Shaftsbury, Brethren Andrews and Bradley. To the Groton Conference, Brethren Cornell, Gano, and Abbot. To the Sturbridge, Brethren Gano and Rathbun. To the Leyden, Brother Andrews.

11. Query from the church at Chelmsford. "We ask an explanation of Luke xvii. 3, 4. particularly these words, *"If he turn again to thee, saying, I repent, thou shalt forgive him."* Answer, It is our opinion that the words "turn again," fully imply that the offender must exhibit evidence of contrition of heart to those whom he hath offended, in order to entitle him to forgiveness.

12. Query from the Church at Charlestown. "When a church, after long forbearance and painful discipline, have deposed their pastor, and suspended his privileges for immoralities; can they consistently join him, at his request, in a mutual council?" Voted the following answer, That it is the opinion of this Association, that it is not inconsistent with divine rule for a church, if they see fit, to unite with a person who has been excluded from them in a mutual council.

13. Several of the Churches having made collections for the Missionary Society presented the same to the Treasurer.

It is still recommended to the Churches to aid and encourage this evangelic institution, by subscribing or contributing to its Funds.

14. Voted, that Brother Baldwin, Brother Gano, and Brother Pitman, be a committee, to apportion and distribute, as they may think proper, the money collected yesterday for the widows, &c. amounting to 135 dols. 55 cents.

15. Agreed to the following supplies. For Medfield, Brother Perkins, 4th Lord's day in September, and the 1st in October, November and December. Brother Reed 1st in April and last in May. For Weston, Brother Briggs, last Lord's day in November; Brother Robinson 2d in April.

16. Voted to hold our next Association at Warren, to meet the Tuesday after the first Wednesday in September next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

17. Appointed Dr. Stillman to preach the introductory Sermon; in case of failure, Brother Williams of Beverly. Business being finished, Dr. Smith concluded by prayer.

At 3 o'clock the people again assembled, and Brother Rathbun preached to them from Hab. iii. 2.; and in the evening Brother Andrews preached at Dr. Stillman's meeting-house, from John viii. 31. after which a collection was made of 45 dols. to assist a young brother in his education.

Thus terminated this solemn, pleasing, profitable interview; and we feel constrained to say, *Hitherto the Lord hath helped us.*



# Circular Letter.

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*The WARREN ASSOCIATION to the several CHURCHES  
in this connexion, wishing Grace, Mercy, and Peace to be multiplied  
unto you.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

**A**S it has pleased God to disappoint our expectations, by laying a dangerous sickness upon the brother who was appointed to prepare the Circular Letter to you; our address must necessarily be brief and simple. We can, however, with heartfelt satisfaction inform you, that our present meeting has been attended with special tokens of the divine favour. We have received good news from many of our churches; and we may, with the ancient Leader of God's people, "Sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously." The blessed cause of our Redeemer is evidently, and rapidly gaining ground, notwithstanding the violent opposition, and strenuous efforts of the enemies of God and truth. But the consideration that we have voluntarily engaged in the cause of religion; that we are in a militant state; and, that we have enemies to combat with, who are powerful, alert, and virulent; should always impress our hearts with that friendly, affectionate, and necessary caution of our Saviour: "What I say unto you, I say unto all; watch." The duty of Christian watchfulness will lead us to pay our first, and most assiduous attention to ourselves; to guard our own hearts with the most scrupulous caution, and unwearied diligence. We find by unhappy experience, that our own remaining corruptions are our most dangerous foes. Our hearts are naturally deceitful, and versatile; prone to forget God, and to lightly esteem the Rock of our salvation. If we, therefore, trust such hearts as these, we shall, with the greatest possible propriety, bear the appellation of fools. It was in this view, that the benevolent Apostle exhorted Christians, saying, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." We ought to bear it always in mind, that God has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light, that we might be the faithful, active, and courageous soldiers of Jesus Christ; the firm, decided, and inflexible witnesses for God, and vindicators of his truth. Elaborate vindications of Christianity, although written with all the beauty of style, neatness of manner, and cogency of argument, will by thousands

never be read at all ; and by many who *do* peruse them, will not be understood. But the lives and conversations of professed Christians, are books, which will be read and understood by all. We are not our own. God has bought us with an invaluable price. How reasonable, then, that we should glorify him with our bodies, and spirits which are his ! In order to this, we must “ keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of them are the issues of life.”

The duty of Christian watchfulness will teach us not to be ignorant of the devices of Satan. We have an adversary, who is strong, subtil, and malignant : “ who goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” There is nothing, which gratifies the diabolical malevolence of his heart, more, than to lead Christians to walk contrary to the duties of their holy profession ; because, it dishonours that holy Being, whom he perfectly hates. But if our hearts possess one sentiment of gratitude to that divine Friend, who has redeemed us with his blood, and saves us by his grace ; will they not rise with a holy indignation against his implacable enemy ? And shall we not, consequently, avoid his snares, and watch against his temptations ? “ We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places.”

The watchful Christian will find, that the fascinating charms of this world are not among the least of his enemies. The riches, the honours, and the pleasures of the world, lay a dangerous, and but too often successful siege to our hearts. How often do these troublesome intruders force themselves upon our thoughts, when we should be gathering up the manna of divine truth, and feeding upon the bread of life ? How often do they entwine themselves about our souls, and hang like dead weights upon us, while we are attempting to rise in devotion before God ? How often do they enervate our strength, enfeeble our resolutions, pollute our joys, and render us unfit for the great business of religion ? And yet we, like infatuated creatures, foster these poisonous serpents in our bosoms !

Would we always bear in mind, that we are not of the world, our blessed Lord having chosen us out of the world, that heaven is our home, and that God is our portion ; and, could we be persuaded to live as these high privileges justly demand of us, we should certainly be on our guard against the snares, with which this bewitching world surrounds us. Surely, the professor of religion must tremble to find his heart glued to earthly enjoyments, when he reads in his Bible, the solemn declaration ; “ He that loveth the world, and the things of the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

The advantages of Christian watchfulness are too numerous to be particularized, too great to be calculated. Whatever blessings the believer enjoys in communion with God, in useful

ness to the church, and in the diffusion of blessings to mankind are connected with it. What motive more powerful could possibly be adduced to stimulate you to watch? The watchful Christian is conversant much with his own heart; knows its corruption and imbecility; has an affecting sense of his danger, and *feels* his dependence. He will, of course, be frequent, fervent, and importunate in prayer to God. He will feel that lowly, lovely, and unassuming spirit of meekness and brotherly kindness, which cements the hearts of Christians together, and which is the most powerful defence against the baneful influence of the demon of discord. Then, brethren, if you would honour God; if you would be useful to the church; if you would do good to the souls of your fellow men; or if you would enjoy the soul-satisfying comforts of religion; receive and practise the caution of your blessed Redeemer, *Watch*.

Our present session has been refreshing to many of our hearts. The good news received from a considerable number of churches has been like cold water to a thirsty soul. What astonishing triumphs has our Emmanuel gained in the course of the last year! What encouragement for Zion to lift her head and rejoice, that her redemption draweth near! impressed with this animating thought, that when Christ who is the believer's life shall appear, that then we shall also appear with him in glory. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

AMEN.

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## *Corresponding Letter.*

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*The WARREN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, met at the 2d Baptist meeting-house in BOSTON, Massachusetts, September 11 and 12, 1804, to the ELDERS and BRETHREN of our SISTER ASSOCIATIONS, sendeth Christian salutation.*

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

**T**HE pleasures and advantages resulting from our correspondence with you, we are far from considering as the least of our Christian privileges; for much of that unanimity of sentiment and practice, which prevails in the churches of our denomination, may be traced to this source. By your Minutes and Letters we are informed of the state of religion in general, and of your churches in particular. What great things God has done for his American Israel within a few years past! What extensive and glorious revivals have been experienced in various

parts of these United States ! About nine years ago, God was pleased to stir up a number of Christians of different denominations, to unite in a quarterly meeting for special prayer. And must it not be manifest, *our enemies themselves being judges*, that the God we worship is a prayer hearing, and a prayer answering God ? In these revivals our denomination has shared largely, for which we have the greatest reason to be humble and thankful. If we look back little more than half a century, we shall find that our churches were then like *a handful of corn in the earth, upon the top of the mountains*. In 1741, there were but nine Baptist churches in the whole of this Commonwealth ; and none in New-Hampshire, nor what is now called Vermont. But such has been their increase, notwithstanding the opposition they have had to encounter, that now there are nearly three hundred churches in these three states ! *This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes*. We are far from thinking, however, that our strength consists in our numbers, or that the rectitude of our sentiments is to be argued principally, from our rapid increase : yet believing as we do, that our distinguishing sentiment is apostolic, we can but rejoice in its prevalence.

The whole number of communicants in the churches of our denomination, throughout these States, has lately been computed to be an hundred thousand. This calculation is probably short of the real number. Connect these in your minds, dear brethren, with the many thousands of real Christians of other denominations throughout this land, and what a noble army will arise to your view ! O that the time may soon come, when the whole earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. When there shall be acknowledged, *One Lord, one faith, one baptism*. Then shall his people be *one* and his praise one.

You will perceive by our Minutes that God has done great things for us, whereof we are glad. Unusually large additions have been made to some of our churches. Others, by the power of sovereign grace, have been raised out of the ruins of the apostacy. In general the churches in this associated body appear to stand fast in apostolic doctrine ; and are endeavouring to maintain the order and discipline of God's house. Brethren, pray for us, that we may be kept from error, both in principle and practice, and that we may abound in the fruits of love and holiness.

We wish the continuance of your friendly correspondence, either by Letters or Messengers as you can make it convenient. Devoutly praying that the great Head of the Church may bless you collectively and individually, we subscribe ourselves your brethren in the same Faith and Order of the Gospel.

In behalf of the Association,

SAMUEL STILLMAN, *Moderator*.

THOMAS BALDWIN, *Clerk*.