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Baptists . Rhode Island . Warren Association, 1806 .

Minutes . . . Newport, September .

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MINUTES

OF THE

Warren Association,

HELD AT THE

Second Baptist Meeting-House

IN

NEWPORT,

SEPTEMBER 9 and 10,

1806.

BOSTON:

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1806.

MINUTES, &c.

TUESDAY, September 9, 1806.*

1. **A**T half past two o'clock, agreeably to appointment, Brother Thomas Baldwin delivered the introductory sermon from 1 Thessalon. v. 12, 13. *And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.* After which collected for the widows and children of deceased ministers.

2. Chose Brother Stephen Gano, *Moderator*, and Brother Thomas Baldwin, *Clerk*.

3. After prayer by our esteemed Brother Dr. Rogers, 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 & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st Boston,	*SAMUEL STILLMAN, Eben. L. Boyd, Prince Snow.	12	2	4	2	384
2d Boston,	THOMAS BALDWIN, Thomas Badger, William Bentley.	20		5	5	399
Haverhill,	WILLIAM BATCHELDER, Johnson Chase.	53			3	260
Warren,	LUTHER BAKER, Nathan M. Burr, Edward Kelley, Thomas Grant.	12	2		2	162
1st Middleborough,	*ISAAC BACKUS, Joseph Ames, Asabel Shaw, Sylvanus Leonard, Lewis Leonard.	31	8	4		121

* At 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother Wilson, from New-Jersey, preached from Matt. xvi. 18. *Upon this rock I will build my church, &c.*

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2d Middleborough,	SIMEON COOMBS, Peter Hoar, Barnabas Clark, William Ashley.	4			1	68
3d Middleborough,	SAMUEL NELSON, Elisha Clark, David Jacobs, Gilbert Pierce.	1	5		1	91
Wrentham,	WILLIAM WILLIAMS.	1	1			75
Attleborough,	JAMES READ, William Blackinton, William Everett.	8	1	1	3	111
1st Chelmsford,	_____	3			2	61
Barnstable,	_____		2		2	62
	<i>Joshua Brooks.</i>					
	William Scudder.					
Medfield,	_____	3			1	30
†Harwich,	*ABNER LEWIS.					50
Harvard,	*GEORGE ROBINSON, Jeremiah Dyer.		2	2	2	70
Newton,	*JOSEPH GRAFTON, <i>Charles Train,</i>	6			2	99
Northbridge,	*JOHN COOPER.		1	1	1	45
Woburn,	_____	3	3	2	1	120
	<i>Barnabas Bates,</i>					
	<i>Josiah Convers,</i>					
	Samuel Holden.					
Providence,	STEPHEN GANO, Asa Messer, Joseph Martin, Joseph Jencks.	52	7	2	4	353
Templeton,	ELISHA ANDREWS, William Everett.	7		1		132
†Rowley,	*SHUBAEL LOVELL.					45
Bridgewater,	VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, Alpheus Leach, William Bassett, Israel Alger, jun.	21	3			96
Weston,	_____	2		1	2	15
Randolph,	JOEL BRIGGS, William Blanchard, Joseph Alden.					72
Carver,	DAVID BURSEL, Benjamin Ward, Alden Manter, Ichabod Dunham.	7	2	1	1	71
Hollis,	_____	1		2	1	65

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Exclud.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Marshfield,		1	17			40
2d Sutton,	*WILLIAM BACHELDER, William Bachelder, jun.	1				52
Danvers,	*JEREMIAH CHAPLIN.	8	1		1	48
Londonderry,	<hr/> <i>Benjamin Paul.</i>	9	3			104
Troy,	JOB BORDEN, Jonathan Brownell, Enoch French.	26	1		1	60
†Marshpee,	*JAMES FREEMAN,					40
Newport,	JOSHUA BRADLEY, Ephraim Macomber, Samuel Barker, Gideon Babcock, Richard Card, William Card.	96	5	1	6	259
Charlestown,	*WILLIAM COLLIER, Samuel G. Sargent.	20				73
Rehoboth,	JOHN PITMAN, Joseph Bucklin, Samuel Brown.		3	1	1	55
Beverly,	ELISHA WILLIAMS,	9			2	108
Grafton,	<hr/> <i>James M'Clellan.</i>					31
Reading,	EBENEZER NELSON.	2			1	81
Taunton,	<i>Jonathan Smith,</i> Bethuel Field.	73			1	154
New Boston, (N. H.)	*ISAIAH STONE.	7		1		59
Malden,	HENRY POTTLE, Samuel Paine.	31	32	3	1	110
Somerset,		4	3			35
4th Middleborough,	SAMUEL ABBOTT, Abiather Briggs, Dean Briggs.	1	1			33
Salem,	LUCIUS BOLLES, William Herrick.	29		2	1	98
2d Providence,	<hr/> <i>JOSEPH CORNELL,</i> David Peck, William West.	36		1	2	79
2d Chelmsford,	JOHN PECKENS. Eliakim Hutchins	3				42
†Weare, (N. H.)	<hr/>				2	26
Patucket,	<hr/> <i>David Benedict,</i> Oliver Starkweather, Ichabod Taber.	24				65

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders & Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i> Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Kington,	EZRA KENDALL, David Beal, Samuel Everion.	43				82
Nottingham West,	Nathaniel Currier.	3		2	2	70
African Church in } Boston,	THOMAS PAUL.	24		1	2	49
Hanover,	*BARNABAS PERKINS, William Curtis.					30
Greenwich,	ASA NILES, Barnabas Green, Samuel Green.					61
Iswich,						62
Total,		69	10	3	4	561

N. B. The three last churches were received the present session.

4. Appointed Brethren Baldwin, Gano, and Baker, to count and distribute the money collected for widows, &c. Adjourned until half past 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. Brother Dodge concluded by prayer. Sermon in the evening by Brother Clay, from Amos iv. 12. *Prepare to meet thy God!*

WEDNESDAY, September 10.

At six o'clock met for public worship. Brother Andrews preached from Jude ver. 21. *Keep yourselves in the love of God.*

4. Met according to adjournment. Prayer introductory to business by Brother Wilson.

5. Appointed Brethren Maffer, Andrews, and Boyd, a committee to consider and report an answer to the several questions proposed in the letters.

6. The circular letter, prepared by Brother Bradley, was read and accepted. The corresponding letter prepared by Brother Ellis was also read and accepted. Appointed Brother Bolles to write the circular letter for next year, and Brother Collier the corresponding.

7. From sister Associations received

<i>From the</i>	<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Ministers and</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>
Charleston,	Letter,	Minutes,	
Philadelphia,	_____	Minutes,	PETER WILSON.
New-York,	_____	_____	_____
Stonington,	Letter,	Minutes,	_____
Woodstock,	Letter,	Minutes,	Dea. Ralph.
Bowdoinham,	Letter,	Minutes,	JOHN TRIPP.
Groton U. Con.	Letter,	Minutes,	WM. NORTHUP.
Sturbridge,	Letter,	Minutes,	Z. L. LEONARD.
New-Hampshire,	_____	_____	_____
Leyden,	Letter,	Minutes,	TH. PURRINGTON.
Vermont,	Letter,	Minutes,	_____
Danbury,	Letter,	Minutes,	_____

8. Received a communication from the Secretary of the Education Society, giving a statement of the Treasury in May last, by which it appears that there was then in the Treasurer's hands, in Bank stock, and other securities, 2023 dollars 35 cents. Donations were presented by Messrs. Gano, Sawyer, and Starkweather. Voted, to recommend to the churches of this Association to contribute to the fund of the Education Society.

9. Whereas several churches have already had contributions for printing the scriptures in the Eastern languages ; Voted, to recommend the same to all the churches in our connexion, and that the monies be forwarded to Dr. Stillman.

10. Appointed the following brethren Messengers to corresponding Associations. To the New-York, Pitman and Bradlee ; Stonington, Cornell and Bradlee ; Woodstock, Andrews ; New-Hampshire, E. Nelson, Baldwin, and Batchelder ; Shaftsbury, Cornell ; Bowdoinham, E. Williams, and J. Convers ; Groton Union Conference, Gano, Rathbun, E. Nelson, and Eddy ; Sturbridge, Gano, Cornell, Rathbun, Abbott, and Jencks ; Leyden, Robinson, Andrews, and J. Dyer.

11. Received the following collections and donations for the Missionary Society. From a friend 6 dollars ; from another 10 dollars ; from the Second Church in Newport 26 dollars ; from the Second Baptist Church in Providence, 6 dollars 50 cents ; from Attleborough Church, 26 dollars 32 cents ; from a Brother, 5 dollars ; from two females, 2 dollars ; from the First Church in Chelmsford, 7 dollars ; from the First Church in Hanover, 7 dollars ; from Deacon Tilly, 10 dollars ; from three others, one dollar each ; from a female friend in Connecticut, 2 crowns. Total, 111 dollars 2 cents. It is still recommended to the Churches to aid and encourage this evangelic institution, by subscribing or contributing to its funds.

12. The Committee to whom was referred a question of advice, from the Second Church in Chelmsford, reported as their opinion, "That it is expedient for the Association to appoint a Committee to repair to the place, and investigate the matter as far as they can, and report at our next meeting." This report was read and accepted ; and Brethren Baldwin, E. Williams, E. Nelson, Batchelder, and Bolles, appointed for the above purpose.

13. Query from the Church in Londonderry respecting the lawfulness of *instrumental music*, in the worship of God, was referred to the same Committee, who reported the following as their opinion : "That the New Testament neither expressly sanctions nor prohibits it ; and therefore, that each Church should act in the case according to its own views of duty." Read, and accepted.

14. Voted to appoint a Committee to prepare and report a Catechism, which they may judge proper to be taught our children, and that the same be brought forward at the next meeting of this Association. Appointed for the above purpose, Brethren Stillman, Baldwin, and Bolles.

15. Supplies for Medfield ; Elder Clark, 1st Lord's day in November, and 3d in April ; Brother Read, 1st in April, 1st in June, and 3d in July.

16. Voted to hold our next Association at the Baptist meeting-house in Salem, on the Tuesday after the first Wednesday in September next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

17. Appointed Brother Gano to deliver the introductory sermon ; in case of failure, Brother Rathbun.

The business being finished about 1 o'clock, the Moderator closed the meeting by a very impressive exhortation to the Ministers and Brethren, and concluded by solemn prayer.

N. B. Agreeably to the vote of last year, the Churches are requested to present their money for the Minutes, when they present their letters.

At 3 o'clock, Dr. Rogers, of Philadelphia, preached again to the people, from Isa. xxviii. 16. And in the evening, Brother Batchelder of Haverhill, from Eccl. xii. 13. The attention of the people continued to the last, without the least perceivable abatement. During this interview we have enjoyed much heart-felt pleasure ; and finally parted with mutual wishes for each other's happiness, and for the general prosperity of the Redeemer's kingdom.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The MINISTERS and MESSENGERS of the WARREN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION to the CHURCHES they represent, send Christian salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE have been favoured with another opportunity of sitting in one place, of hearing the glorious gospel of Christ, of receiving many interesting accounts of the prosperity of Zion ; and of unanimously looking unto God for the stretching forth of his almighty arm, to remove the veil spread over all nations, that his sons may come from far, and his daughters from the ends of the earth.

Though we have taken sweet counsel together, and have been refreshed from the presence of the Lord, yet our tender regards for you are not forgotten. You undoubtedly expect, that some important subject, though briefly considered, should be laid before you as a testimony of our brotherly love and increasing fellowship.

As many, within a few years, have professed to be new creatures, and as revivals still continue among the churches in our connexion, we view it necessary to send you a few remarks upon Regeneration and some of its happy effects.

Regeneration is wrought instantaneously in the heart by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit being the agent, the heart, or man, must be the subject, and consequently is completely passive, and

does no more towards assisting the Spirit, than Adam did towards his creation. This is confirmed by John, who said concerning those who believe, John i. 13. *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.* James is very bold and faith, i. 18. *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth.* The sinner discerns not the things of the Spirit, neither does he love the holy and amiable character of God, till this unseen and internal work is effected.

Though God displays great, glorious, and irresistible power upon the subject in doing this work, yet he feels no possible abridgment of his free agency, or the least perceptible impediment thrown in the way of his will, to obstruct its choosing freely. For the Spirit's entrance into the heart is so quick and powerful, that the will is immediately turned from a state of opposition to God into a state of reconciliation to him, without feeling at the same time any reluctance, or being deprived of its freedom. "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power." Psa. cx. 3. "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it." Isa. lv. 10, 11.

When the inspiration of the Almighty giveth the sinner life, he perceives no intermediate space, or time, in which he was neither dead nor alive; neither for, nor against God; neither in the broad way to hell, nor the narrow way to heaven. "You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. ii. 1. "For the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live." John v. 25. These passages fully illustrate, that there is no possible medium between death and life; therefore, it must inevitably follow, that regeneration is an instantaneous work or operation of the Spirit in the heart.

Though this work is so great, and astonishing to angels and men, yet it adds no new faculties to the soul; but turns them all from selfishness, wicked debasement, and fixed rebellion, to serve the living and true God with unspeakable satisfaction. This assertion will appear clear and consistent, if we consider the state of those whom the Spirit regenerates. They are sinners, who are in darkness, bondage, and spiritual death; children of wrath, haters of God, and hating one another. The grand enemy of all righteousness has deceived, blinded, and led them away captive; they have voluntarily bowed their necks, and become heartily engaged in his service, and actively industrious to support and extend his kingdom. They are so full of selfishness, uncleanness, lasciviousness, pride, wrath, strife, envy, murder, and all unrighteousness, that Jesus said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." John viii. 44. "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damna-

tion of hell?" Matt. xxiii. 33. These passages, surrounded and strengthened with the whole circle of revelation, together with the history of all ages and the experience of all nations, unquestionably demonstrate, that man, with all his faculties, is in a state of alienation, shame and condemnation: that from the crown of his head even to the sole of his foot, there is no moral soundness in him.

In regeneration, he is raised up from this state of enmity, quickened, made free, brought out of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. The wisdom, power, justice, grace, holiness, goodness, faithfulness, and unchangeable veracity of God, all consistently harmonize in Christ, and open before the new creature a fountain of everlasting life.

Here we may notice some of those happy effects which the regenerate enjoy. The heart being turned to God, breaks with contrition, melts with love, believes with joy, expands with benevolence, bows to the feet of Jesus, with unreserved submission, and beholds in him every thing suitable to overwhelm with astonishment, and entertain with infinite delight, the vast throng of angels and saints in the everlasting kingdom of God.

Old things pass away, all things become new; repentance, unto life, flows; faith stretches forth her hand and takes hold on Jesus; and the soul all alive receives him, and can say, with an holy boldness, "This is my Beloved, and this is my Friend. He is fairer than the sons of men. He is the chief among ten thousands and altogether lovely."

The soul being conformed to the image of God's dear Son, is justified. For whom the Son makes free, is free indeed. Christ is made unto the new-born soul, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Where is boasting then? It is excluded by faith, which works by love, purifies the heart, and overcomes the world. The soul having this faith, looks back upon itself, and views with shame and confusion its awful opposition to God, its total depravity, and the justice and glory of that law which concludes all under sin and threatens them with endless punishment. Approving heartily of this holy law, it looks up to Jesus, who has fulfilled it, and by suffering and dying according to the determinate counsel of God, has become the end of it for righteousness to every one who believeth. Self-sufficiency and creature righteousness sink into insignificance; and self-emptying, self-abhorrence, and self-denial, find a residence in the heart. The doctrine of Christ, which discloses his beautiful, amiable and perfect character, his God-head fulness, and all things appertaining to his kingdom and glory, afford a pleasing theme of contemplation, thanksgiving, and boundless happiness.

The soul feels that union to Christ, which neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to destroy. In fine, those who have been regenerated hunger and thirst after righteousness, and do often feel so strongly

attached to Christ and his kingdom, that they earnestly desire to drop their sinful bodies in the dust, and rise above the skies, and live forever among the blood-washed throng, in the refreshing presence of the Lord. O Brethren, come and learn of Jesus, who can do all things well. May he spread his infinite arms of compassion around you, make you useful, persevering, triumphant, and finally crown you with an everlasting and eternal weight of glory. Amen.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The WARREN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, assembled at NEWPORT, State of RHODE-ISLAND, September 9 and 10, to the ELDERS and BRETHREN of our SISTER ASSOCIATIONS, sendeth Christian salutation.

DEARLY BELOVED IN THE LORD,

AS respects the kingdom of Immanuel upon earth, prospects are truly encouraging. The covenant of grace is, indeed, ordered in all things and sure. Even in the darkest times, the child of God has this consolation, "The Lord knoweth them that are his."

We live at an eventful period. Jehovah has been, and is still doing great things among the nations of the earth. And though all wars and fightings have their origin in the ungoverned lusts of men, and though the effects are truly dreadful, the believer can still sing, "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice, let the isles be glad."

But while we have seen distress of nations, and perplexity, we have also seen the glory of the Lord arise and shine. The light of the gospel is even now diffusing still more extensively its genial influences, while thousands of poor perishing sinners, both in our own land, and among the benighted heathen, with joy draw water out of the wells of salvation.

The people of these United States have been peculiarly favoured of Heaven. Upon these western shores have been as great displays of redeeming love, as in almost any quarter of the globe. All orders and ranks of men have largely shared in the blessings of the new covenant. In the fold of Christ, rich and poor meet together; master and servant become brethren in the Lord, and equally indebted to bleeding love; while all unite to sing, "Worthy is the Lamb." The Lord has showed to us, and to the world, that all hearts are in his hands, and that he is able to turn them as the rivers are turned. Whom he will, he calls by his grace; and whom he will, he ordains and thrusts forth as the heralds of salvation. The judge from the bench, and the servant from his labour, both equally indebted to sovereign grace, and both

equally "strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus," are made the humble and successful ministers of the Prince of Peace.

Much yet remains to be done ; many lands yet lie in darkness ; and multitudes there is reason to fear, are constantly dying in a state of impenitence. What then becomes us, both as preachers of the gospel, and as private Christians ? Two things we cannot but recommend. Let us be united in prayer ; let us be of one accord, and of one mind, contending for the faith of the gospel.

When Zion travails, there is the promise that she shall bring forth children. When any particular church is importunate at the throne of grace, it is not without effect.

Revivals of religion generally begin in the church. How important, then, that all the people of God, that the whole church militant, whose names are written in heaven, should unitedly wrestle with Jehovah for the prosperity of Zion, and the universal establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom. But in order to this, we must love the same truth, must follow the same standard, and fight under the same banner. Experience abundantly proves, that weakened endeavours in promoting the cause of Christ are the natural fruits of disagreement with respect to his doctrine and institutions. United, we prosper ; contending, we decline.

Let us therefore, again and again, compare our sentiments with the oracles of truth ; let us ever cultivate a spirit of candour and meekness towards one another, and towards others ; at the same time determine never to desert our standard, nor be ashamed of the least particular by which it is known, though it cost us our lives and our all.

May the God of holiness purify our churches ; may the God of peace cause his peace to rest upon them, giving at the same time the spirit of grace and supplication, till all flesh shall see his salvation together, as the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken.

We earnestly solicit the continuance of your correspondence, and subscribe ourselves, your brethren in the Lord,

STEPHEN GANO, *Moderator.*

THOMAS BALDWIN, *Clerk.*

N. B. There are 54 churches in this Association : nearly 40 ordained Ministers, besides several young men who are approbated to preach. 657 members have been added the last year by baptism ; and the whole number in these churches now is 5063.