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New Association .

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NEW ASSOCIATION.

PURSUANT to an article in the Minutes of the Warren Association, held at Providence, Sept. 1810, a number of Ministers and other Brethren met at the 2d Baptist Meeting House, in Boston, on the 30th of May last, at 9 o'clock, A. M. to consider the expediency of forming a new Association.

1. Chose brother John Peak *Moderator*, and brother Lucius Bolles *Clerk*.

2. After a full and candid discussion of the subject, *Voted*, To appoint a committee of five, to draught a plan, and propose the general limits of the Association; and that they cause the same to be printed, and sent to the churches included in the said limits.

3. Chose Br. Thomas Baldwin, Br. Ebenezer Nelson, Br. Elisha Williams, Br. William Batchelder, and Br. Lucius Bolles for the above purpose.

THE subscribers, being a majority of the above named committee, met by previous agreement at the dwelling house of Brother Bolles in Salem, on the 15th of July instant, and agreed to submit for consideration, the following Articles and Plan of the proposed Association.

ART. I. This Association shall be composed only of ministers and delegates, who shall be members of the churches which they represent; (excepting such as may be invited to a seat, by the consent of the body :) and shall be styled THE BOSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

II. The Association shall meet annually at 10 o'clock, A. M. on the third Wednesday in September, at such place as they shall appoint, of which notice shall be given in the minutes.* The meeting shall be opened with public worship, after which there shall be a collection made for the relief of widows and children of deceased ministers, who may have belonged to this body. It is also expected, that every meeting held by adjournment from time to time, during the session of the Association, be opened and concluded by prayer.

III. Each church shall have the privilege of sending one delegate or more; but no church, however numerous, shall be entitled to a greater number than three, in addition to their pastor. The expenses of going and returning to be borne by the churches they represent; and also the expense of their horses while at the place of meeting.

IV. At the first meeting of this Association, the oldest minister present shall call for a nomination of a moderator, who shall be chosen by a hand vote, by a majority of all the members present. The moderator thus chosen, shall, upon his acceptance, lead the meeting to the choice of a clerk in the same manner. It shall be the duty of the moderator thus chosen, to preside and lead in all the transactions of the meeting, and to see that due order and decorum are observed by all the members. It shall be the duty of the clerk to make a fair and impartial record of all the doings of the meeting during their session, and furnish a correct copy of the same for the press.

V. It shall also be the duty of the moderator, impartially to attend to every member, while speaking in an orderly manner. And when any question or subject has been sufficiently discussed, and a motion made and seconded for a decision, he shall put the question, and declare the vote.

* The place of the first meeting, and the person appointed to preach, will be agreed upon at the next meeting of the Warren Association, and due notice given.

VI. It is expected that the churches, with their messengers will send letters to the Association, giving an account of the state of the church : particularly of the additions and diminutions in the past year, and generally of whatever relates to their peace and prosperity, together with the whole number of members in communion. With these letters, each church shall forward money for the printing of the minutes, which shall always contain a Circular Letter addressed by the Association to the churches.

VII. It is proposed, that the Association at present consist of all the churches which are now in regular standing in the Warren Association, north of a line running due west from Boston. It is agreed, however, that any church within ten miles of said line either way, shall be at liberty to unite with either Association as they may choose.

VIII. When any church not belonging to this connection, shall desire admittance into this body, they must make application by letter, in which it is expected they will give satisfactory evidence of their *faith* and *order* : This being done, and a vote of acceptance taken, the moderator shall, in behalf of the Association, give to one of their messengers (if any are present) the *right hand of fellowship*.

IX. When a church shall neglect making any communication to the Association for the space of three years together, they shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and of course shall be dropped from the minutes ; unless two or more members shall request their continuance ; and who shall also engage to inquire into their standing, and report at the next meeting of the Association.

X. Although as an associated body we utterly disclaim all power over the churches, so far as it respects an interference with their independency and discipline ; yet we deem it our privilege to judge for *ourselves* of the propriety of continuing any church in our connection, which to us shall appear to be *heterodox in principle*, or *irregular in practice*. In order, however, that we

may not withdraw our fellowship without sufficient reason, it is proposed, that when a complaint is made by any two members of this body against a church belonging to the Association, they shall appoint a committee who shall request a conference with the said church in order to obtain satisfaction on the points which formed the subject of complaint; and their result shall be reported to the next meeting of the Association, in order that they may then decide as duty may appear.

XI. This Association shall request, or receive any request for correspondence with such other Associations as they may judge expedient. When such correspondence is opened, it shall be the duty of the moderator annually, immediately after the organization of the Association, to give public notice, "That all messengers sent from sister Associations are considered as members of the body, and that they take their seats accordingly."

XII. This Association shall have power generally to regulate its own internal concerns; to appoint the place for the annual meeting; to appoint persons to preach on the occasion; and make any other appointments, or transact any other business that shall be judged necessary by the body when convened.

T. BALDWIN,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
E. WILLIAMS,		
L. BOLLES,		

Salem, July 22, 1811.

N. B. The churches which may approve of the foregoing plan, are requested to authorize their Delegates who may attend the WARREN ASSOCIATION at their next meeting, to ask a dismission from that body, and to take such other measures as may then be thought necessary for the regular organization of the proposed Association.