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Baptists. New York. Warwick Association, 1808.  
Minutes ... at Warwick ... May 31, and June 1,  
1808.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

## Warwick Baptist Association,

HELD

AT WARWICK, ORANGE COUNTY, STATE OF NEW-YORK,

May 31, and June 1, 1808.



TUESDAY, MAY 31.

1. AT two o'clock P. M. Brother JOHN STANFORD, by appointment last year, preached the Introductory Sermon from 1 Corinthians xv. 58. *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the LORD, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

2. After Sermon proceeded to business.—Brother JAMES BURT was chosen MODERATOR, and JOHN STANFORD, CLERK.

3. Letters from the different Churches in this Association were then read.

N. B. Ministers names in Capitals. Those marked with an (\*) were not present. From the Churches marked thus (†) we had no intelligence. Dashes (—) denote no settled Minister.

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Number of Members.
Warwick,	{ EBEUS LATHROP, John M. Foght, James Burt.	0	1	0	0	1	0	114
Wantage,	{ SILAS SOUTHWARD, Azariah Martin.	0	0	2	0	0	1	111
Newburgh,	{ LUKE DAVIS, Joseph Cauldwell.	0	1	1	0	0	0	32
Clinton Town,	{ JOHN DODGE,* John M. Thurston.	2	0	9	0	0	0	16
Stamford,	{ EBENEZER FERRIS,* FREDERICK SMITH.*	4	0	0	1	0	0	34
	Carried over,	6	2	12	1	1	1	307

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Brought forward,</i>	<i>Baptized.</i>	<i>Received by Letter.</i>	<i>Dismissed by Letter.</i>	<i>Restored.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Deceased.</i>	<i>Number of Members.</i>
Cross River.	_____ †	- - -	6	2	12	1	1	1	33
Bedford,	{ EZRA FOUNTAIN,*	- - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
	{ Sylvanus Renyolds.	- - -	4	2	0	0	0	0	8
Fishkill,	{ JONATHAN STURDIVANT,	- - -							
	{ William Willey,	- - -	2	6	0	0	0	1	25
	{ Joseph Farrington.	- - -							
Brookfield,	{ HENRY BALL,	- - -							
	{ John Hallick,	- - -							
	{ William Fullerton,	- - -							
	{ Uriah Hulls.	- - -	0	3	10	9	1	1	100
Deer Park,	{ BENJAMIN MONTANYE,	- - -							
	{ Peter Hoyt.	- - -	19	1	2	0	1	1	52
Pleasant Valley,	{ LEVI HALL,	- - -							
	{ Thomas Perser,	- - -							
	{ Adolph Stuart,	- - -							
	{ Peter Easterly.	- - -	10	1	2	1	5	4	100
Middleten,	{ Elihu Cary.	- - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
2d Wantage,	{ THOMAS CASAD,	- - -							
	{ Thomas Lewis,	- - -							
	{ Jacob Bockover.	- - -	6	6	2	0	2	3	72
Peekskill,	_____ †	- - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
Marbleton,	WILLIAM CONNELLY.	- - -	17	2	2	0	4	2	60
York-Town,	ISAAC RHODES. †	- - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Coram,	_____	- - -	1	0	0	0	1	0	15
North-Salem,	{ Timothy Vanscoy,	- - -							
	{ _____ Keeler.	- - -	0	0	3	0	0	0	59
Newfoundland,	EBENEZER JAYNE.	- - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
			65	23	33	2	15	13	1031

*N. B.* This last registered Church was received this session.

Brother CALEB JONES, with other Ministers present, were invited to a seat with us. The Circular Letter appointed last year to be written by Brother JOHN STANFORD was presented and read. Our Brethren B. MONTANYE, J. STEPHENS, James Burt, and John M. Focht, were appointed a committee of revision of said Letter, and to report to-morrow. Prayer by the Moderator. Adjourned till to-morrow morning 8 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, June 1.

Business opened with Prayer by brother LATHROP. Brother JOHN STEPHENS was received as messenger from the New-York Association. — No minutes. Received minutes from the Philadelphia Association. Received also minutes from the Stonington Association, which were very acceptable. The committee appointed to review the Circular Letter reported the same without amendment, which was unanimously ordered to be printed.

Appointed brother Joseph Cauldwell to prepare a Letter to our corresponding Associations.

Appointed the following Brethren as our messengers to our corresponding Associations: Brother L. LATHROP, and Brother Purser, to Philadelphia.—Brothers H. BALL, and J. M. Feght, to New-York.—Danbury, Brothers FOUNTAIN and CHARLICK.—Rensselaerville, Brothers LEVI HALL and CONNELLY.—Brother STANFORD to send a Letter and Minutes to the Stoning-Association.

Supplies for the Church at Coram, Brother CHARLICK 1st and 2d Lord's Day in September.

—Brother JAYNE the 1st and 2d Lord's Day in November.

We understand that the difficulty between the Newburgh and Pleasant Valley Churches is in a main of mutual adjustment.

Appointed Brother L. LATHROP to write the Circular Letter for the year ensuing.—Brother J. Bert to prepare a Letter to our corresponding Associations.

Brother JOHN STANFORD expressed his intention of maturing and proposing a plan for raising a Fund for aiding in the support of Baptist Ministers' indigent Widows; and assisting their Orphans with education; not only for those immediately connected with this Association, but to embrace such objects within the State of New-York.—It was cordially received.

Requested Brother JOHN STANFORD to superintend printing the Minutes, and forward them to the Churches.

Next Association to meet at Bedford THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN JUNE, 1809.

Brother L. LATHROP to preach the introductory Sermon. In case of failure, brother STURDIVANT.

Prayer by Brother B. MONTANYE.

Afternoon, two o'clock.

Public Worship was conducted as follows:

Brother H. BALL preached from 1 John iii. 14.—*Hymn.*

Brother JOHN STEPHENS delivered a discourse from 2 Corinthians iv. 5.—*Hymn.*

Brother JOHN STANFORD made an address from Ruth ii. 4, last clause.—*Hymn.*

Brother LATHROP, as Minister of the Church, concluded the service with prayer.

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## CIRCULAR LETTER.

BY JOHN STANFORD, M. A.

THE WARWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, TO THE CHURCHES  
THEY REPRESENT.

*Brethren in the Lord.*

WE esteem it a duty to address you on this anniversary, that we may contribute to your establishment in the truth, and the increase of your joy. No subject, at present, appears to us of greater importance to commend to your devout attention, than the DIVINITY, the PERSONALITY, and the WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT.

THE DIVINITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is clearly revealed in the Bible. All those attributes which are ascribed to Jehovah, are applied to him. He is declared to be *the eternal Spirit*, Heb. ix. 14 and *the power of the Highest*, Luke i. 35. He is *the Spirit of life*, Job xxxiii. 4. and is Omnipresent. *Whither*, said David, *shall I fly from thy Spirit?* Psalm cxxxix. 7. His immensity and sovereignty are therefore justly compared

to the wind which bloweth where it listeth. John iii. 8. He is omniscient, infinite in wisdom, and searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God. 1 Cor. ii. 10. He is the Spirit of truth, John xv. 26, and emphatically the Holy Spirit; essentially and underived; the Author of all holiness to all intelligent beings. And, as sins against him were not to be forgiven in this life nor in that which is to come, we can have no hesitation in believing his divinity. Besides, worship is rendered unto him, equal with the Father and the Son; and you, dear Brethren, have set the seal of your faith to this truth, by being baptized in his name according to the divine command.

ON THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT we shall only say, that the passages of Scripture which speak of him, and his works, lead us to believe that he is distinct in his offices and in his operations from the Father and the Son; yet, in the unity of divinity, they are the one Jehovah. We cannot doubt of his personality, when we recollect we are exhorted not to grieve him; that he is a teacher, a sealer, a comforter, a witness. He hath a mind of his own, Rom. viii. 27; hath a will, 1 Cor. xii. 11; and hath an absolute power for action, Rom. xv. 13. He speaketh to the Churches, Rev. ii. 7; invites the thirsty to the water of life, Rev. xxii. 17. All which show the certainty of his personality. To which may be added, he dwells in the saints; and is the great agent by whom we have access to the Father, by the Son, Eph. ii. 18. With the greatest propriety, therefore, the Apostle asserted this important truth in his last benediction to the Church at Corinth, wishing the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, might be with them all.

Having thus far asserted the divinity, and the personality of the Holy Spirit, we presume to draw this important conclusion—That Jehovah, the Spirit, is sufficient to accomplish his own purpose, and all which the scriptures attribute to him, relating to our salvation, in defiance of all human and infernal powers.

As God is gloriously known by his operations, we shall now assist your contemplation on some of the important works of the Holy Spirit; each of which will further confirm you in the persuasion of his adorable divinity.

1. The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters to produce the material world, Gen. i. 2. Equally so he is the supreme agent in producing the spiritual world; the knowledge of which is from his own illumination. As in the

first instance, the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; so in the other. When no human power could remove the darkness of sin and error from the guilty race of men, and show how God could be just, and yet a Saviour, this blessed Spirit moved upon the souls of holy men, in various ages, to reveal the new creation and salvation through Jesus the Messiah. 2 Peter i. 21.

2. The adorable work of the Spirit, in forming the union between the divine and human nature of Christ, in the Virgin, by a supernatural birth, as the Son of God, is a most important part of Christianity. Luke i. 35.—This blessed Spirit, in the form of a dove, descended upon Christ at his baptism. Matt. iii. 16—was given to Christ without measure; and by him Jesus was anointed with the oil of gladness as a Prophet, Priest, and King, to answer all the glorious purposes of his mediation and redemption. Luke iv. 18—Through the eternal Spirit, Jesus offered himself a sacrifice without spot to God; and, by the same Spirit of holiness, he was raised from the dead and declared to be the Son of God with power. Heb. ix. 14.—Therefore, Jesus, being by the right hand of God exalted, he received the promise of the Holy Ghost; he now sheds him forth for the important purposes of gathering in his elect, and preparing his kingdom of grace to inherit the mansions of glory. This divine unction of the Spirit upon Christ, is like the precious ointment upon the head of Aaron, which ran down to the skirts of his garments. Every member of the body of Christ spiritual, shall receive a portion of the same unction to love and praise the Lord for ever! This, dear Brethren, prompts us further to instruct you, on the work of the Spirit upon the souls of the redeemed.

3. The Spirit of God finds the redeemed dead in trespasses and in sins; and by nature, children of wrath, even as others. By one sovereign act, he communicates Christ, who is the essential word of truth, to the soul, whereby it is begotten again to a lively hope, and becomes regenerate. James i. 18. After the soul is thus quickened, the Divine Spirit applies the written word, by the doctrine and promises of which, deliverance is obtained, conversion experienced, and thus the man is truly born of the Spirit; and like a new born babe, desires the sincere milk of the word. John iii. 5, 6. You therefore see the difference between regeneration and conversion; the former is the giving a principle of life from Christ; the other, a turning, or deliverance to

able, active life. You likewise perceive the harmony and beauty of the work of the Holy Spirit; for he who produced the person of Christ, the HEAD, necessarily forms every member of the spiritual BODY, the Church. And it is accomplished that ancient prophecy of Christ, *Thou shalt see his seed, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.* Isaiah liiii. 11.—In the process of this new birth, it is necessary to observe the use which the Divine Spirit makes of the word of God, whether read, or preached. He convinces the mind of the nature, malignity, and demerit of sin; together with the total depravity of the soul, in all its faculties and powers; and its consequent inability to produce righteousness by the law, for its justification before God. John xvi. 8.—This blessed Spirit, the Spirit of grace and supplication, creates a new prayer for mercy and salvation, which proceeds from a new heart, unfelt before. Acts i. 11.—To answer the painful exercises of this state, the blessed Spirit performs the work of a comforter, by testifying of Christ, taking of his iniquities, righteousness and grace; showing them in such a manner to the soul, as to give it the possession of the benefit of them for pardon and peace. John xvi. 14. Thus it is, we are *once justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.* In the experience of this, the converted man can say, *The law of the Spirit of life, in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* Rom. viii. 2. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty indeed! And this liberty gives an indisputable right to Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the fellowship of Saints, and all the privileges of the house of God. Love is the result, as well as the cause of this gracious operation of the divine Spirit. *The love of God is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost given unto us;* thereby creating the most sensible enjoyment of God, and forming an effectual stimulus to all holy obedience.

Thus far, dear Brethren, we have described to you the first work of the Holy Ghost, in producing a Christian. *If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his,* let his talents, or profession be what they may. And, *as many are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God;* not one more, not one less.—For your further instruction we will name a few instances of the work of the Spirit in the progress of the Christian life.—The Saviour promised him as a TEACHER. This you need. *When he the Spirit of truth is come, he shall guide you into all truth,* John xvi. 13, whether it relates to doctrine, ex-

perience, profession, or practice; to the dealings of providence, or to the riches of grace. And such is the nature of his teaching, it makes the heart more abundantly fruitful in every good word and work. *I am the Lord thy God, who teacheth thee to profit; who leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.* Isaiah xlviii. 17. And every one who receiveth this unction from the Holy One, knoweth all things, and will assuredly say, *Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory.*—By the work of the Spirit the children of God are brought progressively into an assurance of their UNION with Christ; *for hereby, saith John, we know that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given unto us of his Spirit.* 1 John iv. 13.—As PRAYER is the grand medium of communion with God, it is the office and work of the Spirit to carry on this precious privilege, by helping our infirmities, making intercession for us with groans which cannot be uttered; and as the Spirit of adoption he enables us to cry, Abba Father. Thus, through Christ, we have access by one Spirit unto the Father.—His work as a SEALER, after the soul hath received faith, is inestimably precious; for thereby he not only confirms the possessor in hope, and gives an earnest of the eternal inheritance; but, his seal leaves the impress of the lovely image of Jesus upon the heart. Eph. i. 13, 14. This inestimable privilege every believer should seek to enjoy.—The Spirit is a SANCTIFIER; for, *God hath chosen us to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth.* This materially consists in the growth of the new man, through its various stages of infancy, youth, manhood, and age; and by which faith, hope, patience, humility, love, and all other fruits of the Spirit are brought to maturity, to the honour of God, the ornament of the possessor, and the benefit of the Church of Christ. And, as the Gospel is the principal mean of producing sanctification, so, the united testimony of the children of God is, *We all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.* 2 Cor. iii. 18.—Our views of eternal bliss beyond the grave are produced by the work of this good Spirit. For the natural eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, what God hath prepared for them that love him; but, God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit. 1 Cor. ii. 10. This revelation is first made in the Gospel, and then by creating that faith which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.—And, to

say no more on this part of the work of the Spirit, our PERSEVERANCE is materially owing to his divine operation. Therefore our Saviour describes his dwelling in the heart, as *a well of living water springing up unto eternal life*. For, as it is the property of water to rise higher and higher until it finds its own level; so the Spirit comes down from Christ, who is at the right hand of God in heaven, takes his residence in the heart, and will perpetually spring and rise higher and higher, till that soul is brought to set down with Christ upon his throne, in the presence of his Father in glory! We pray, Brethren, that these several parts of the work of the Holy Ghost may be verified in your souls.

4. Another important part of the work of the Holy Spirit is, the constitution of the visible church of Christ. The materials of this Gospel edifice are regenerate by the Spirit; placed upon Christ the spiritual rock and foundation; united with each other, being of one heart, one faith, one baptism; and thus, as Peter expresses it, *are built up a spiritual house, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ*; or, as Paul describes it, *are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit*. Thus, the presence of the Lord, the holiness of worship, the joy of the saints, and the prosperity of the Church, depend upon the work of the Holy Ghost. May that Spirit rest upon all our churches!

5. We cannot omit naming the work of the Spirit in calling and furnishing men with special gifts and grace for the ministry of the Gospel, and rendering their labours efficacious to the souls of men, and the edification and increase of the Church of Christ. Thus, the Holy Ghost said, *Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them*. Acts xiii. 2. And, would the limits of this epistle admit, we could cheer-

fully show you the work of the Spirit in conferring grace and gifts for our ministry; bringing all things to our remembrance which Christ hath said, thereby enabling us to produce a variety of subjects to your attention; giving us utterance in our preaching; and rendering our services as effectual to sinners, as was Ezekiel's preaching to a valley of dry bones. Likewise the work of the Spirit in his miraculous gifts' and operations on the Apostles and primitive Disciples; but we must forbear.

6. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to produce the glory of Zion in the latter day, when the fullness of the Gentiles shall come in, and all Israel experience salvation. Then, in the fullest extent, the prophecy of Joel shall be accomplished, and *the Lord pour out his Spirit upon all flesh*. The head-stone of the gospel Temple shall be brought forth with shouting, crying, Grace, grace unto it! *Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts*.—Connected with this, is the first Resurrection. *The dead in Christ shall rise first, and live and reign with Christ a thousand years*. Rev. xx. The same Spirit of holiness which raised up Christ from the dead, as HEAD of the Church, will breathe upon the dry bones of his ELECT BODY; and it shall be presented before the presence of his glory with exceeding great joy! Look forward, then, dear Brethren, to the bright morning of the Resurrection, and be assured, that, *if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you*. Rom. viii. 11. With these hopes we conclude ourselves your sincere and affectionate Brethren in Christ.

JAMES BURT, Moderator.  
JOHN STANFORD, Clerk.