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Baptists . New York . Warwick Association, 1817.

Minutes of . . . Held in the Baptist Meeting
House at Deer-Park, June 4th & 5th, 1817.

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MINUTES

OF THE

WARWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD IN THE BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE AT DEER-PARK,
JUNE 4th & 5th, 1817.

JUNE 4th—1. At 2 o'clock P. M. Brother **LATHROP** delivered a sermon introductory to business, from Jer. 33, 11—*The voice of the Bridegroom, and the voice of the Bride.*

2. Business opened by Prayer; after which Brother **LEVI HALL** was chosen Moderator, and Brother **JOHN ELLIS**, Clerk.

3. Elders and Brethren from Corresponding Associations were invited to a seat with us.

4. Read the letters from the churches composing this Association, and took the following minutes.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in **SMALL CAPITALS**. Licensed Preachers in *italics*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present. From churches marked thus (†) we had no intelligence. A dash (—) denotes no settled minister.

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptised.	Received by letter.	Dismissed by letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
Warwick,	{ LAEUS LATHROP,	12	0	0	1	0	146
1st Wantage,	{ LEVI HALL,	69	2	2	1	0	176
	{ Deacon Adams, Nathan Martin, John Williams,						
Newburgh,	{ JOHN ELLIS,	0	0	2	2	0	19
	{ Joseph Caldwell,						
Clinton town,	{ John M. Thurston,	0	0	0	0	1	15
	{ Issac Travis,						
Cross River,	{ (—)†	0	0	0	0	0	10
Bedford,	{ * EZRA FOUNTAIN,	3	0	4	2	0	121
	{ Leek Platt,						
		74	2	8	6	1	487

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptised.	Received by letter.	Dismissed by letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
	<i>Brought forward,</i>	74	2	8	8	1	189
Brookfield,	{ HENRY BALL, John Hallock, Joseph Smith, William Murry, Jonaihan Wood,	25	2	2	7	1	32
Deer-Park,	{ BENJ. MONTAGNE, Amos Harding, Peter Hoyt,	1	0	2	1	1	5
Pleasant Valley,	{ JOHN ELLIS, Peter Easteriy, Adolph Shewet, (—)	0	1	0	3	0	*7
Middletown,	{ Elibu Cary, Silas D. Horton, Nathan Slanson, Daniel Denton, Jun.	2	0	0	0	0	42
2d Wantage,	{ *JNO. WINTLENOTE Nathan Holly, Ebenezer Mead,	5	0	14	4	4	172
Peekskill,	H. Charlock,	0	0	1	0	0	25
Marbletown,	{ JNO. Vanvelsen, } Restored 3 Josiah Hollister, }	16	0	4	0	0	58
Yorktown,	*REUBEN GARRETSON,	0	0	0	0	0	40
Newfoundland,	{ Resolved that this church shall be dropped from our Minutes. (—)						
Neversink,	{ Rosewell Babcock, Abel Hodge, Isaac Carwin, Levi Gates,	1	1	2	0	0	41
Latting-town,	{ AARON PERKINS. Matthew Benedict, John Canfield,	3	1	1	0	0	76
Thompson town,	{ (—) George Vaughn, John Capron, Benj. C. Comfort,	9	1	9	2	0	35
Hamburgh,	{ THOMAS TEASDALE, John Mosher,	0	0	2	0	1	46
Total.		136	8	36	23	7	143

*The returns of this Church have formerly been incorrect.

5. Received communications from sister associations as follows—viz.

ASSOCIATIONS.	MESSENGERS.	LETTERS.	MINUTES.
Philadelphia,	— —	Letter.	Minutes.
Hartford,	— —	Letter.	Minutes.
Rensselaerville,	— —	Letter.	Minutes.
Abington,	— —	Letter.	Minutes.

6. The circular letter prepared by brother HALL was read, and referred to a committee composed of brethren Lathrop, Ellis, Ball and Perkins, with the author—to report to-morrow morning.

7. The corresponding letter prepared by brother Perkins, was referred to the same committee.

8. Adjourned till to-morrow morning at half past 8 o'clock :—closed by prayer.

Thursday, June 5th—Met pursuant to adjournment.—Brother TEASDALE prayed.

1. The committee appointed for the revision of the circular and corresponding letters, reported ; and on motion, the association resolved that they should be accepted, and printed with our minutes.

2. A query was presented by the Warwick church, relative to the expediency of taking some special measures, preparatory to the introduction of brethren into the work of the ministry, as Licentiates.

In reply, we affectionately recommend that such persons as think they are called of God to preach, should exercise their gift at first, before the church only ; and not in the public congregation ; and that previous to their being sent forth under the patronage of the church to which they belong, ministering brethren and members of sister churches be called in, to assist in judging of the gifts and talents of such candidates.

3. In reply to a query from the Clinton town and Marble town churches, relative to the propriety of encouraging an excommunicated member, to exhort or preach in public—

We recommend that no such person be encouraged in our churches.—And as William Connerly, formerly Pastor of the Marbletown church, comes under the above character, we therefore think it not expedient that our churches should encourage him as a public teacher.

4. Heard a letter from the Hudson river Association, soliciting correspondence with this body. Resolved, that we cordially accede to their request.

5. Appointed the following brethren messengers to corresponding associations.

To the Philadelphia, brother ELLIS.

To the Union, brethren PERKINS, CHARLOCK and Thurston.

To the Rensselaerville, brethren VANVELSEN and Hollister.

To the Hartford, brethren LATHROP and PERKINS.

To the Abington, brethren LATHROP, BALL and HALL.

To the Hudson river, brethren PERKINS, LATHROP and ELLIS.

To the New-York, brethren TEASDALE, Martin and Smith.

6. Supplies for destitute churches.—For the Neversink church—brother Ellis, 2d Lord's day in July ; brother Lathrop, 2d Lord's day in August ; brother Hall, last Lord's day in October ; brother Capron, 2d Lord's day in November.

For Clinton town—Brother Perkins the last Lord's day in August ; brother Ellis, the 2d Lord's day in September ; brother Charlock, last Lord's day, in October, and the 2d in January ; brother Vanvelsen, 2d Lord's day in October.

7. Resolved, that our next association be held with the Baptist church in Brookfield, (Orange county,) to commence on the 2d Saturday in June, 1812, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Brother Ellis to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, brother Perkins.

8. Resolved, that brother Ellis write the next circular letter, and brother Ball the corresponding.

9. Resolved, that the 1st day of January next be observed as a day of solemn prayer to God, for the prosperity of Zion, and the enlargement of the Redeemer's kingdom.

10. Resolved, that brother Perkins be appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes, and the forwarding of them to the churches.

Closed by Prayer.

This afternoon brother Perkins preached from 2 Cor. 4, 7. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels," &c. And immediately after him brother Ellis delivered a sermon from Psalm 102, 16, "When the Lord shall build up Zion, &c.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Warwick Baptist Association, to the several Churches they represent, send Christian Salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

Through the goodness of our Heavenly Father, we are permitted to enjoy another association, this side of eternity : and under the influence of *love* and *duty*, we proceed to present you our Circular Address, on a subject which we believe to be of infinite importance : viz. the militant state of the Church of Christ, under the gospel dispensation ; or the spiritual kingdom of Messiah engaged in *warfare* against all the powers of hell, and of the anti-christian world.

Christ, who is king in Zion, in his address to Pilate said : " My kingdom is not of this world." John 18, 36. This kingdom is the Gospel Church, and is the same which is mentioned by John, the first gospel, and baptist minister : who lived under the light, and glory of the *new dispensation*. Math. 3, 2, and Mark 1, 1. John came preaching and baptizing in the wilderness of Judea, expressly to make ready a people, prepared for the Lord ; Luke 1, 17. It is therefore certain, that before John came, there was no such *people* made ready, nor a Spiritual Kingdom prepared for their new born King. When Christ began to preach, his doctrine was, " Repent ye, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Math. 4, 17. His kingdom now began to appear, being composed of such as brought forth fruits meet for repentance ; and professed *faith* in, and obedience to, all of his holy institutions : and who hailed him as their head and sovereign, saying, " Blessed be the king that cometh in the name of the Lord, peace in Heaven, and glory in the highest. Luke 19, 38. Moreover, the subjects who compose this kingdom or gospel church, are said to be " Living stones, built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifice, acceptable through Jesus Christ. 1, Pet. 2, 5. Now when this new empire began to appear in her glory, the kingdom of Judah receded, and the sceptre gradually departed according to the prophecy of Jacob. Gen. 49, 10, and unto Shiloh (Jesus) the people gathered. It is therefore evident, that the *unbeliever*, whether an *infant* or an *adult*, is by no means fit for a member of a gospel church. Let the *believing* parent, who wishes to bring the *unbelieving* child to the holy ordinance of baptism, and so into the church, read with attention the following scriptures.

Rom. 9, 7 & 8. Neither because they are the seed of Abraham (who was a believing parent) are they all children (of the kingdom) but in Isaac shall thy seed be called ; i. e. they which are children of the flesh, are not the children of God ; but the children of promise are counted for the seed ; and Paul tells us who the children of promise are,

“Now we brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise ; but as *he* that was born after the flesh, persecuted him that was born after the spirit, even so it is now. Gal. 4, 28, and 29.

Here we behold the kingdom of anti-christ engaged in war against the church of our Lord. In this contest *error* has crept in like the cunning serpent, and has assumed the name of *truth* : Gospel ordinances have been laid aside, and the *inventions* of men substituted in their room ; and it has sometimes seemed as though the true light would be totally eclipsed, by the misty clouds of the bottomless pit. How necessary then that every soldier of the Lord Jesus, should gird on the whole armour of God, and make a manful, and christian stand against the enemy. The church has also her *internal foes*, and *trials* ; which are occasioned by the devil, and our own corrupt natures ; and these combined, never fail to produce animosities in society, and sow discord among brethren ; to make iniquity abound, and the love of many to wax cold ; and difficulties which arise out of this state of things, are spread abroad contrary to the gospel, by a first to a second, and then to a third person ; and the cause of God is wounded, Zion languishes while the enemy rejoices at her calamities. Brethren these things ought not to be : we should adhere more strictly to the rules and orders of our Captain : and instead of tattling, and backbiting, we should cast the mantle of charity over the imperfections of the saints, and instead of *shyness* we should cultivate friendly intercourse with the friends of Jesus. The churches should also unite in prayer for those who preach the gospel among them ; that the word may have free course and be glorified : that Zion's gates may be thronged with converts ; and the cloud of God's presence cover his assemblies. Manifest to your preacher, by your steady attendance on his ministry, that you respect him for the works sake ; and follow him as far as he follows Christ. When you attend Divine Service, guard against stupidity and drowsiness ; for it is a painful thing to your faithful pastor, to see his audience reclining their heads in slumber ; and especially that part of them which profess to love the gospel ; and it is equally discouraging to see a number of empty seats, while those who ought to fill them, are either at home indulging in sloth, or abroad on worldly business, or needless visiting, and that on the Lord's day : all of which is contrary to the christian's holy profession.

Brethren, we call on you to consider, that all who are guilty of such neglect, evince that their heavenly armour is laid aside, and the Christian soldier is rendered unfit for the holy war. It is high time for christians to rouse up, to resume their armour, and fight valiantly under the captain of their Salvation, until they shall have finished their course, and triumphed over all their enemies.

“Farewell faithful soldier, tho' wounded and scar'd,
 “The war will be ended, you'll soon be discharg'd ;
 “Then singing and shouting, tho' Jordan may roar,
 “We'll enter fair Canaan, and rest on that shore.”

Signed,

LEVI HALL, Moderator.
 JOHN ELLIS, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Warwick Baptist Association, held in Deerpark (Orange county,) June 4th & 5th, 1817, to the several Associations with whom we correspond, send Christian Salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

Under the benign smiles of our Heavenly Father, we have been indulged with another periodical meeting of this body. And did it excite gladness in the tribes of Israel, when the returning year called them up to Jerusalem to celebrate their *solemn feasts*, and keep *holy day*: much more may we rejoice at the return of our anniversary, which calls us together to attend to the more important concerns of the Redeemer's kingdom: and which furnishes a new opportunity for reciprocal correspondence with the Saints; a privilege which we esteem both *pleasant*, and *profitable*: and which this communication is designed to encourage, and perpetuate. By means of this friendly intercourse, we become acquainted with many of our brethren, whom we have never seen, and perhaps never shall see on the shores of mortality. Through this medium we become extensively acquainted with the state of religion, and thus find by experience, that "As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

By thus interchanging our epistolary addresses, a oneness of sentiment, and feeling is excited; and pilgrims are animated in their journey to the world of Spirits. Thus impressed with the importance of a practice which has so generally obtained in our associations, we solicit, dear brethren, a continuance of your correspondence, both by letter, and messengers: assuring you that we cordially receive your friendly epistles, and those whom you appoint to bear them. And may this token of friendship continue with us, until we meet in general association, before the throne of God and the Lamb; where we shall "see as we are seen and know as we are known."

Our present meeting has been harmonious and pleasing: and though the increase of our Churches, has not been so great, as in the former year; yet it has been such as evinces that the Lord has not forgotten to be gracious; and that he will not leave himself without a witness. For further particulars we refer you to our minutes. "And now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen." Heb. 13, 20, 21.

Signed,

LEVI HALL, Moderator,
JOHN ELLIS, Clerk.