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Baptists. Vermont. Leyden Association, 1803.

Minutes ... at Guilford ... October, 1803.

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NRAB copy.

MINUTES,
OF THE
LEYDEN ASSOCIATION, &c.

HELDEN AT
GUILFORD,

ON THE 12TH, AND 13TH OF OCTOBER,

1803.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING
LETTERS.

PRINTED BY J. DENIO, AT GREENFIELD,
(Massachusetts) — 1803.



MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1803.

1. **A**T 1 o'clock, P. M. opened the Association by a discourse from PROV. XII. 28. *In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof, there is no death.*—By Elder **ARNER BEMIS.**

2. Chose a Moderator and Clerk, and attended solemn Prayer.

3. The Letters from the Churches were read, and the following list of Messengers taken.

N. B. Ordained Ministers' names are printed in *Italics*. Churches marked thus (*) have no settled Ministers. From Churches marked thus (+) we had no accounts.

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Dismiss'd.	Exclud'd.	Died.	Number.	Money paid.	Cts.
Leyden.	<i>Aja Hubbard.</i> Benjamin Baker, Jared Crandel, John Hunt.					21	75	
*Vernon.	<i>Jerijah Thayer.</i>			1		42	50	
Leverett and Montague.	<i>Elijah Montague,</i> Silas Perry, Lucius Gunn.	5	2	3	1	222	52	
1st Guilford.	Levi Goodenough, <i>Jabez Franklin,</i> Benjamin Franklin.	2				3	35	75

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added.</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Excl.</i>	<i>Dict.</i>	<i>Numb.</i>	<i>M. pd.</i>
3d. Colrain.	{ <i>Edmund Littlefield,</i> <i>Josiah Brown.</i>	3		2		31	55
*Richmond.	{ <i>Martin Ellis,</i> <i>Oliver Hix.</i>	1		2		39	50
Somerset.	{ (+)					34	
Dummerston.	{ <i>Jonathan Huntley,</i> <i>Abiel Fisher,</i> <i>Samuel Wakefield.</i>	1	1			211	100
*Putney.	{ <i>Lewis Allen,</i> <i>Wilmurth Redway.</i>		2		2	72	75
Halifax.	{ <i>Abner Bemis,</i> <i>David Allen,</i> <i>Samuel Wood,</i> <i>Isaiah Smith,</i> <i>Joseph Tucher.</i>	8	5		2	95	75
N. Fane and *Marlboro'.	{ <i>Nehemiah Fisher,</i> <i>Benjamin Cole,</i> <i>James Charter.</i>	10	2		1	73	38
4th. Guilford.	{ <i>Benjamin Buckland,</i> <i>Noah Shepherdson,</i> <i>Rufus Freeman,</i>	5	5			38	50
2d. Colrain.	{ <i>Joseph Purrington,</i> <i>John Call,</i> <i>Joshua Torman.</i>	1	5	1		91	87
Warwick.	{ <i>Lewis Hodge,</i> <i>Christopher Bullock,</i> <i>Jacob Eley.</i>		4			42	50
Chalkmont.	{ <i>James Wheeler,</i> <i>William Hartwell,</i> <i>Jesse King,</i> <i>Zenas Atwood.</i>	25	12		5	87	75
*Royalston and Winchendon.	{ <i>Afa Nurse,</i> <i>Afa Bowker,</i> <i>Iaac Norcross.</i>				1	23	75
Wendell.	{ <i>Samuel King,</i> <i>Samuel Osgood,</i> <i>Foxwell Thomas.</i>	1		1		50	50
*Guilford United Church.	{ <i>Beriah Willis,</i> <i>Jacob Stoddard,</i> <i>Matthcy Pullen.</i>	33	3		1	95	75

Churches.	Messengers.	Add.	Dismiss.	Excl.	Di'd.	No. of	M. pd.
Dana.	(+)						
*Royalton.	Simeon Jacobs, Ebenezer Bullock, John Davis.		2		2	121	75
*Brooklin.	Lamech Blandin, Alexander Crozier, Levi Wiswall.	4	1	7		72	50
Fitzwilliam.	Nathaniel Bowles, William Hills.	2	1	1		35	50
*Swansey and Winchester.	Enoch Stowel, Padick Lawrence, Arad Hall.					24	62
*Heath.	Stephen Barker, Vernon Gleason.						1675
Total,		109	45	20	18	1620	1419

The two last Churches were added the present Session.

N. B. The number of Charlemont Church was stated wrong in our last Minutes.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock—Preaching at sundry places in the evening.

THURSDAY, October 13.

Met according to adjournment, and opened Meeting by Prayer.

4. The Circular Letter, prepared by Elder LEVI HODGE, and the Corresponding Letter, prepared by Elder JONATHAN HUNTLEY, were read and referred to a Committee.

5. Received Messengers, and Letters, from sister Associations. The Messengers on request took seat with us.

6. Messengers to sister Associations, are as follows :—To the Shaftsbury, Brother Lewis Allen, and Brother Benjamin Cole—To the Woodstock, Elder Afa Hebbard, Elder Jonathan Huntley, and Brother Christopher Bui-lock—To the Vermont, Brethren Matthew Bennet, Samuel Wakefield, and Silas Perry—To the Warren, Elder Jacob Whipple, and Deacon Samuel Osgood—To the Sturbridge, Elder Samuel King, and Elder Levi Hodge.

7. The Circular Letter, for next year, to be prepared by Brother Isaiah Smith, and the Corresponding Letter, by Elder Samuel King.

8. Elder Afa Hebbard, to superintend printing the Minutes, and forward them to the Churches.

9. The next Meeting of the Association, to be holden at Dummerston, on the 2d Wednesday in October next, at 1 o'clock, P. M. Elder Afa Hebbard, to preach the introductory Sermon, or, in case of failure, Elder Edmund Littlefield.

10. *Query*, from Putney Church. Suppose a Brother to have frequently gone contrary to the rule of the Gospel, by intoxication with strong drink, or, violating the truth, and frequently says, "I confess my fault," yet still persists in his transgressions :—Would it not be Gospel-wise, to suspend travel with him, till he evidence his repentance, by forsaking the practice. Answered in the affirmative.

11. The Committee on the Circular, and Corresponding Letters, reported that they had

laid aside the Circular, and made a new draught ; and amended the Corresponding. Those Letters thus presented, were accepted.

The business of the Association closed with a Sermon by Elder William Grow, from JOHN, v. 39. *Search the scriptures : for in them ye think ye have eternal life ; and they are they which testify of me.*

Harmony and decorum was seen through the whole performance.

Subscriptions by private Brethren, for printing the Minutes :

Josiah Moor, <i>Hinsdale,</i>	25 Cents.
John Pullen, <i>Guilford,</i>	19
Another Brother.	13

Circular Letter.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

IT is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. This obligation is laid in the eternal fitness of the righteousness of God, and the reasons for our compliance is opened to us in divine revelation, conspicuous and delightful. For while we have right thoughts of God, we conclude he has laid the plan of his operations in infinite wisdom ; he will perform his counsel, and do all his pleasure. Hence God's promises are

sure and certain, and all the benevolent may participate of pleasure in contemplating the wisdom of God, in directing unerring, all his divine operations. We have the surest evidence of the equality of God's ways, in the established moral government of his kingdom—glorious in the displays of his grace. Therefore let us be instructed in the system of divine truth, and yield obedience to the law of faith, and we shall grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord ; for while we have the Bible to read, given in plainness of speech, we may read and understand, and be easily instructed what foundation the Church rests upon. For if the New Testament has any meaning in its testimony, the Church belongs to Christ, by price and purchase, by promise and by conquest ; and nothing shall be able to pluck her out of his hand. Therefore, all those that point out any other foundation for the Church, are mistaken what belongs to those that name the name of Christ ; for they are to labor to gain evidence that they belong to Christ, that they rest on the sure foundation. And let the lives we live in the flesh, be by the faith, in the Son of God ; and let us not be soon shaken in mind, nor moved away from the hope of the Gospel, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.



Corresponding Letter.

THE LEYDEN ASSOCIATION, to the CORRESPONDING
ASSOCIATIONS—*sends Christian Love.*

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

THE Father of all mercies, and God of grace and consolation, hath kept us in the hollow of his hand through the many changing scenes of life, and permitted us to welcome the return of our Anniversary interview.

Dear Brethren, let us bring into view the holy religion we profess, which is comprehended in love to God and man, with its salutary influence upon the hearts and lives of all, who not only profess, but really possess it. Now we would observe, that notwithstanding the christian religion is so excellent, so divine, yet its divine author has informed us, that in the world, his followers shall have tribulations, the truth of which the faithful followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, have experienced in every age of the Church. Those who have gone before, have through much tribulation entered into the kingdom. May we be followers of the same faith and patience.

The Church, in different ages, have been assailed in different ways, and from different quarters. At the present day, the enemy seems to have rallied all his force, and is coming in

upon the Church with a flood of errors and wickedness. Beloved Brethren, what must we do. Answer—be instant in prayer ; in such a time the prophet Micah, vii. 7. would look unto the Lord ; and our Saviour, exhorts us to pray that we enter not into temptation : Let us stand bold witnesses for God, and contend earnestly for the faith, once delivered to the saints. Let us keep up Gospel discipline in our churches ; and let us see that we preach, and fellowship nothing but sound evangelical truth. We believe, if the soul ravishing love of Christ, possessed the hearts of his professed followers, and thereby stimulating us all to render unfeigned obedience to his divine commands, that Zion would surely shine bright as the sun, fair as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners. Then should we behold Satan's kingdom fall, and may Christ's peaceable kingdom be set up in our hearts, and all mistaken souls, be brought to know and love the truth as it is in Jesus. We have good tidings from some of our Churches. The Lord reigns ; and some additions are made to Zion the year past. God is on his way—our present Meeting is attended with some tokens of his divine favor. We wish to continue our correspondence with you.—Brethren, receive this friendly letter, as a token of our unfeigned love. Farewell.

In behalf of the ASSOCIATION—

ASA HEBBARD—*Moderator.*

Attest—SAMUEL KING—*Clerk.*