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**Baptists. Vermont Woodstock Association.  
Minutes ... Holden at New London, N.H.,  
September 30, and October 1, 1818.  
Windsor, Vt., Spooner, [ 1818? ] 12 pp.  
NRAB copy.**

**OF THE**

**WOODSTOCK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,**

**HOLDEN AT**

**NEW-LONDON, N. H.**

**SEPTEMBER 30, AND OCTOBER 1, 1818;**

**WITH THEIR**

**CIRCULAR & CORRESPONDING LETTERS,**

**AND THE**

**REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY BOARD**

**FOR 1818.**

**WINDSOR, VT.....W. SPOONER, PRINT.**

## MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 30, 1818.

1. AT ten o'clock, the introductory Session (pursuant to appointment) was delivered by Brother **LELAND HOWARD**, from Eph. ii 4, 5, 6.

2. **CHOSE** Brother **AARON LELAND**, moderator; and **LELAND HOWARD**, clerk.

**AFTER** prayer by the moderator,

3. **PROCEEDED** to read the letters from the churches; and obtained the following account of the numbers restored, added by baptism, and by letter, dismissed, excluded, and died the last year, and the present number in each church.

**NOTE.** . . . **THE** names of ordained ministers are in **SMALL CAPITALS**; and licensed preachers in *italick*. Those ministers with this mark (\*) were not present. Churches marked thus (†) were not represented. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash (—).

Churches,	Messengers.	Restored	Added by baptism	Added by letter	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total
Newport,	{ ELIJAH HUTCHINSON, Deac. Jeremiah Nettleton,	1	2	4	1	6	163	
East Parish Windsor,	{ LELAND HOWARD, Samuel N. Smith	10	1	4	1	2	101	
Chester,	{ AARON LELAND Moses N. Leland	3			1		114	
Alstead,	{ JEREMIAH HIGBEE Benjamin Angier	4		6	3	3	154	
New-London,	{ JOB SPAMANS SAMUEL AMBROSE Deac. James Shepherd Deac Peter Sargent James Dow	1		5	1	1	119	
Cornish,	{ ARIEL KENDRICK Deac Harvey Deming David Cunnings Ichabod More			1	1	1	1	165
Jamaica,—	{ Deac. Chiles Wheaton	4	1	1				87
Plainfield,	{ *JONATHAN CRAM							31
Weathersfield, & Baltimore,	{ *BRAMAN BOYNTON				1			40
Grafton,—	{ John R. Dodge	1		5	1	1		66
Cavendish,—	{ John Spaulding				3	1		113
Goshen,—	{ Reuben Willey Solomon Howe Isaac Proctor	1	3	1	2			45

Churches.	Messengers.	Restored	Added by bap'm	Added by letter	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Total
Sutton,—	{ Deac. Asa Nelson Deac. Wm. Jennison		7	1	2		2	77
Windham,	{ SAMUEL KINGSBURY		113	5	3			66
Townsend,	{ BENJ. I. LANE		34	3	7	1		71
West Windsor,	{ SAMUEL LAMSON William White Daniel Ralph					2		33
Andover,	{ JOEL MANNING MOSES DODGE Jesse Hall							61
Londonderry,	{ SETH EWER Deac. David Richardson		11	13				101
Acworth,—	{ David Cummings William Grout		* 22		1		1	74
Rockingham & Westminster,	{ JOSEPH ELLIOT Artimas Arnold Waitsfield Wilcox		4	7	1	2		126
Unity,—	{ Deac. Abner Chase Jonathan Proctor						1	62
Winhall,—	{ Letter		4	6	2			30
Mountholly,	{ DANIEL PACKER Isaac French		32	1	3			216
Hartland,	{ TIMOTHY GROW Ira Persons * Jesse Coburn		1	1			1	53
Weston,	{ * GERSHOM LANE David Sterlen Samuel Sterlen		11	1				33

\*In this estimate a mistake in last year's letter is rectified.

In consequence of the nature of the letter from Goshen church—

4. **CHOOSE** a committee of seven, viz. AARON LELAND, JOSEPH ELLIOT, SAMUEL LAMSON, JORI MANNING, JOB SEAMANS, OTIS ROBINSON, and Deac. Abner Forbes, to visit said church, and report at the next session; to meet 2d Wednesday January.

5. **APPOINTED** a committee of five, viz. LELAND HOWARD, OTIS ROBINSON, JOHN GIBSON, AARON LELAND, and JEREMIAH HIGBEE, to examine the queries from New-London, Weathersfield, and Baltimore; and report to-morrow morning.

6. **VOTED** that the church in Sutton have liberty to assist the brethren in Salisbury and vicinity, in forming an Association; and that, when joined to *that* association, they shall be dismissed from us. The churches in Londonderry and Winhall have the same privilege with the brethren in Manchester and vicinity.

7. **HEARD** the circular letter prepared by brother HUTCHINSON, and the corresponding prepared by brother KENDRICK, and committed them to J ELLIOT, J GOING, and J. SEAMANS.

8. **RECEIVED** the following communications from corresponding Associations:

	<i>Messengers.</i>	
Warren, Shaftsbury, Boston,	JONATHAN GOING. ————— JOHN B. GIBSON, HENRY VEAZY.	Minutes. ————— Minutes.
Vermont, Barre,	ELIJAH HUNTINGTON, Deac. ——— Fowler.	————— Minutes.
Leyden, Meredith, New-Hampshire,	JEREMY PACKER. EPHRAIM CROCKET. OTIS ROBINSON.	Minutes. Minutes. —————
Dublin,	CHARLES CUMMINGS. ELIJAH WILLARD.	Minutes, —————

Sturbridge,

9. **ADJOURNED** till to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock. Prayer by brother WILLARD.

THURSDAY, Oct. 1, 1818.

**MET** pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother GIBSON.

10. **APPOINTED** Messengers to corresponding Associations. To the *Time &c. of sitting.*

Warren,	JOSEPH ELLIOT. AARON LELAND.	2d Wednesday Septem- ber.
Shaftsbury,	A. LELAND, LELAND HOWARD.	June.
Boston,	L. HOWARD, A. LELAND, J. ELLIOT.	3d Wed'y September, 10 o'clock, A. M.
Vermont,	DANIEL PACKER, SETH EWER.	1st Wed'y October.
Leyden,	J. ELLIOT, SAMUEL KINGSBURY, S. EWER.	2d Wed'y October, 1 o'clock, P. M.
Meredith,	Minutes by the Clerk.	2d Wed'y September.
New-Hampshire,	ARIEL KENDRICK, SAMUEL AMBROSE.	2d Wed'y June, 10 o'clock, A. M.
Dublin,	J. ELLIOT, JEREMIAH HIGBEE, PAUL LOTHROP, BENJ. I. LANE.	3d Oct. 1 o'clock, P. M.

Harre, *Ira Persons,* 3d Wed'y September, 1  
 SAMUEL LAMSON, 6'clock, A. M.  
 TIMOTHY GROW,

Danville, L. HOWARD,  
 A. KENDRICK,  
 T. GROW, 3d Wed'y June.  
 S. LAMSON,

J. MANNING,  
 L. HOWARD,  
 I. Persons.

Fairfield, Minutes by clerk. Last Wed. Aug. 10 A.M.

BY request, appointed to assist in the formation of the Salisbury Association, JOB SEAMANS, ELIJAH HUTCHINSON, RUEL LOTHROP, and Deac Huntington.

11. THE committee to whom were referred the circular and corresponding letters, presented them with no essential alteration. They were accepted.

12. THE committee appointed last year to visit Newport church, reported. Accepted.

13. THE committee, on the query from New-London church, reported....

QUERY...Is it the duty of a church to proceed so far as to withdraw the hand of fellowship from a brother for withholding his property from ministerial support, in refusing or neglecting to pay his equal proportion with his brethren for the support of the ministry; provided that such brother can enjoy equal privilege with his brethren in general?

ANSWER....We recommend to the churches to be very careful to make their assessments equitable; and when so made, if any brother refuses to submit to them, we think he ought to be disciplined; and if he persists in his refusal, be excluded. Accepted.

14. APPOINTED brother *Ira Persons* to write the circular letter, and brother JOEL MANNING the corresponding, for next year.

15. VOTED, that the next meeting of the Association, be holden at Rockingham, on the last Wednesday in September, 1819.

THE Missionary Board meet at brother ELLIOT's the Tuesday evening preceding.

16. APPOINTED a committee of three, viz. JOSEPH ELLIOT, ARIEL KENDRICK, and JOEL MANNING, to nominate a man to preach the introductory sermon the ensuing year; and to attend to such other business as shall be assigned them.

17. CHOSE brother LOTHROP to preach the introductory sermon next year, and in case of failure, brother KENDRICK.

18. AGREED to warn the churches against Henry T Smith, who pretends to be a Baptist preacher, as a man of very bad character; whose evident design is to impose upon the churches of Christ.

19. THE thanks of the association were unanimously voted to those female societies, which have so liberally contributed to the glorious cause of missions. We hope our sisters will continue to cast their *valuable* mites into the Lord's Treasury. The Lord reward them.

Our hearts are also unitedly engaged in the missionary interest.... We believe it is God's, and he will succeed it.

20. THE committee appointed to correspond with other Associations, on the subject of an Education Society, and also to form a constitution for one in this Association, and report to this meeting, re-

ported very favorably. A constitution was, accordingly, proposed, adopted and signed, and a society formed. A printed copy of the constitution will be immediately forwarded to the Trustee of the society in each church. (These Trustees, for the present year, are the first on the list of delegates from each church, Weathersfield and Baltimore excepted, in which church RUEL LOTHROP is Trustee.) May God manage the ark!

21 Voted that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes.

Br. GORING preached the concluding sermon, from Mat. vi. 10.... "Thy kingdom come!" The whole scene was closed with a very solemn and interesting address by the moderator.

NOTE.... Agents for the Missionary Society, are requested to forward to the annual meeting of the society, all the items of contributions and donations, together with the donors name. Also to forward the amount of subscriptions *en masse*....as, by so many subscribers, so much.

AFTER the business of the Association closed, the Union Society of Vermont and New Hampshire, auxiliary to the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, met, and proceeded to appoint a Board for the year ensuing, viz.

Rev. JEREMIAH HIGBEE, *President.*

„ AARON LFLAND, } *Vice Presidents.*  
„ TIMOTHY GROW, }

„ LELAND HOWARD, *Corresponding Secretary.*

„ ARIEL KENDRICK, *Recording Secretary.*

Gen. ABNER FORBES, *Treasurer.*

Rev. ELISHA HUTCHINSON, } *Trustees.*  
„ JOEL MANNING, }  
„ SAMUEL LAMSON, }

Rev. Timothy Grow appointed auditor of the treasurer's account.

At an adjourned meeting, the Board of Directors ordered the Treasurer to transmit to J. Caldwell, Treasurer of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, three hundred dollars.

*Receipts into the Treasury.*

1818. Cash remaining in the treasury, as per report of		
October.	Sept. 1817	\$288.06½
	Donation from Miss P Ransom*	50
	One year's interest on the above	17,01
	Donation and ann. sub. of Samuel Cumens	8
	do. Mrs Lucy Cumens	5
	Contribution first B. Society, Windsor	13,37
	From 2 subs. by Elder M. Coburn	2
	Female M. Society, Windsor	17,35
	do. Hartland	7,28
	do. Sutton, N. H.	10,80
	do. New London	12,54
	do. Cornish	10,75
	do. Newport	20
	do. Cavendish, Vt.	13,09
	do. Mountholly	4,92
	Ann. subs. Windsor	4
	do. Hartland	5

\* 1 *pr.* ear hoops from Miss Betsey Palmer, 1 *pr.* braceletts from Miss Silvey Cheney, and 1 gold finger ring from Miss Fanny Ransom, forwarded to the treasurer in Oct. 1817, now on hand for sale.



Donation from Deac. Daniel Davison	2
Baptist society, Hartland	5,15
do. Springfield	7,34
Rev. Joseph Elliot ann. subs. and donations	58,88½
Artimas Arnold donation	50
Rev. Jeremiah Higbee ann. subs.	16
Donation from Nahum Kingsbury	14
Rev. Joel Manning ann. subs. and donation	9,25
Female M. Society, Andover	8,22
Donation from Benj. Angier	2
Ann. subs. New London	9
Contribution do.	1,50
Rev. E. Hutchinson & S. Kingsbury ann. subs.	2
Oct. 29. Donation from Benj Towns	5
Nov. 12. do. Abner Felt, jr.	25
	<hr/>
	561,54
Transmitted, per order of the Board, to John Caldwell, Esq. Treasurer of the Baptist Board of F. Missions	300
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Balance remaining in the treasury	\$261.54
Errors excepted.	A. FORBES, Treasurer.

Windsor, Nov. 24, 1818.

This may certify, that I have examined the above account of the Treasurer, and find it correctly stated and footed; and that there is now remaining in the treasury, (after deducting the abovementioned sum of \$300) *two hundred and sixty-one dollars and fifty-four cents.*

TIMOTHY GROW, Auditor.

### CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Elders and Messengers of the Woodstock Association, to the churches they represent, send christian salutation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE consider the doctrine of Christ a glorious theme. which, when clearly unfolded in heaven, will afford to the saints and angels the most pure delight; and will forever fire their hearts with divine love, causing them to raise the highest notes of praise to God and the Lamb.

WE would, therefore, at this time, call your attention to the practical use of a few branches of this doctrine.

I. WE shall take notice of the depravity of man. In the word of God we are considered as totally depraved. Gen. vi. 5. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil and that continually. Rom. viii. 7. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. Hence it is evident that sinners are wholly depraved.

II. ANOTHER important branch which we shall here consider, is predestination. This is the act of the divine will, by which God from eternity chose some of the fallen race of men to life, while others were left. Eph. i. 4. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." This act of choice was from eternity, and will be to eternity. For God is in one mind and changeth not.

And he hath said, "My council shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."

III. ANOTHER important branch of this doctrine is the atonement. "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." The atonement, which was made by the sufferings and death of Christ, must be adequate to the demerit of sin. If sin, therefore, be infinite, the atonement must also be infinite. Sin appears to be infinite in two respects.

1. Its natural tendency is to destroy all good, and to produce infinite evil in the system. For, although this evil, by the energetic government of Deity, will be prevented, yet sin, being levelled against the throne of God, could it have its natural course, would destroy infinite good, and produce infinite evil.

2. We consider crimes as great or small, in an objective view. Thus the same evil act, when committed against the supreme ruler of a nation, must be more criminal than it would be when committed against an equal. But if sin be increased, in magnitude, in proportion to the greatness of the object against whom it is committed, then, if the object be infinite, sin itself must be infinite. But God is an infinite being. It follows, therefore that sin is an infinite evil.

But an infinite evil requires an infinite remedy. The greatness and dignity of the atonement cannot exceed the dignity of the person by whom it is made. If Christ, therefore, be only a finite, derived being, his atonement could not be a sufficient sacrifice for sin.... Hence it appears, that if the atonement be fully satisfactory to divine justice, Jesus Christ must be an infinite being. And this is truly the case. He is the mighty God. He is possessed of all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Therefore, when he bringeth his Son into the world, he saith, "Let all the angels of God worship him." If he be a suitable object of divine worship, he is God, and is coequal and coeternal with the Father.

THERE are other branches of the doctrine of Christ, some of which are, regeneration by divine power alone...the perseverance of the saints...and the doctrine of eternal judgment, which our limits will not permit us to consider.

IV. IN the next place, we would call your attention to the practical use of these doctrines. That the principles which we inbibe have a governing influence upon our practice, will be seen by all who strictly observe the conduct of men. The venerable Doct. Fuller very justly remarks, "That our principles may be considered as the mould in which our affections are cast." Agreeable to this, how evidently are the baneful effects of infidelity displayed in the licentious and ungodly lives of men. On the other hand, may it not with equal propriety be expected, that the doctrine of Christ should influence the conduct of those by whom it is believed? Thus all those who consider themselves wholly depraved, and who view sin to be an infinite evil, will readily admit the idea that they justly deserve endless punishment. They will freely confess that all their works are evil; and that, while unrenewed, they can do nothing acceptable to God. Hence they feel, that they need an infinite Saviour; and that they can have no hope of salvation but by free and sovereign grace alone. Such principles and views as these will lead them to appreciate the redeeming blood of Christ, and to lay their dependance for salvation on him alone. Hence they become poor in spirit. Their religion is so far from augmenting their pride, that it leads them to loathe and abhor themselves.

2. A cordial belief of predestination will directly tend to abase the soul. The true belief of this doctrine will also tend to strengthen and confirm the christian's hope. For when he considers that the divine purpose is *immutable*, and that having loved his own he loved them to the end, and that Omnipotence is constantly exerted to accomplish his will, he feels safe in his hands. Divine sovereignty is so far from disturbing the peace of the saints, that it is to them a continual source of delight. For this is the solid, immoveable ground of their salvation. It is, therefore, congenial to the feelings of their hearts, to adopt the sublime language of the Psalmist; "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice, let the multitude of the isles be glad thereof." And those who are subdued to the love of free and sovereign grace: are ripening for that heavenly state, in which they shall in holy concert sing, "Amen, alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!"

3. A true belief of the atonement will be influential on the life and practice of the saints. Viewing Christ infinite in his divine perfections, they feel that however great their sins may be, there is a complete, an infinite fulness in him. His blood cleanseth from all sin. This is a foundation for their hope, which banishes all their fears. Further; the view the saints have of the divine beauty, the fulness and glory of Christ, serves to alienate their affections from the world, and leads them to seek, as their supreme object, to exalt the Lord alone. This will induce them earnestly to strive for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ, in the salvation of men. The belief of this doctrine warmed the hearts of the apostles, inflamed their zeal, and induced them to risk their lives in the cause of Christ. This induced them to travel into distant parts of the world, and endure the greatest perils by sea and land, that they might bring salvation to dying sinners. And the same faith, the same love and zeal, we trust, stimulate our missionaries at the present day.

We have now considered some of the effects of a true belief of the doctrine of Christ. And as these are eminently displayed in the present era, we cannot but observe, that we esteem it an inestimable privilege to live in such an eventful period; When the mighty angel is flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on all the face of the earth. We now behold the waters of the sanctuary bursting forth in all directions to heal the nations of the earth. That uncommon degree of zeal which stimulates the hearts of christians of various denominations, to unite their energies in forming Missionary and Bible Societies, for the purpose of sending the word of life into the dark corners of the earth, may be considered as a prelude to that glorious day, when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the seas. And our blessed Lord is not only providing the *means*, but is also furnishing *instruments* for his work. No sooner is the enquiry made, "Who shall we send, and who will go for us?" than a Judson, a Hough, a Wheelock, and a Coleman, with many others, are ready to say—Here am I, send me.

AND we are ready to believe, that the grand period cannot be far distant, of which the revelator speaks in such exalted strains. "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation and strength, and the kingdom of God and the power of his Christ. And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

*The Woodstock Association sendeth Christian salutation to all corresponding Associations, wishing grace, mercy, and peace, through Him who liveth and was dead, and is alive forever more, and is now walking amidst his golden candlesticks.*

**BELoved BRETHREN,**

We have abundant reason to admire the divine hand, which has safely brought us to another of our yearly meetings, and has given us an opportunity once more to address you in an *Epistle*. This act is peculiarly grateful to us, when we consider that we are united in the same cause, build on the same foundation, conflict with the same enemies, and hope for the same gracious and glorious reward in that world which remains yet to be disclosed. Influenced by that love to our brethren which is stronger than death, it would be most pleasing to meet you face to face, & be comforted together by the mutual faith both of you and us. But as this is impracticable, let us endeavor to be satisfied with, thankful for, and religiously improve the only mode of correspondence which is graciously allowed us by the author of our existence and our hope, and cheerfully wait the arrival of that glorious period when the saints shall all be gathered into God's kingdom.

We live in a day marked by peculiar events. The angry and hostile passions of men are hushed to silence by the angel of peace. The sword is now resting in its scabbard, and God grant it may soon be taken to edge the plowshare. Instead of the spirit of war, the spirit of missions is animating many hearts; and in this precious cause, men, money, and prayers, are freely offered to the Lord. The careless may let those things pass without notice, infidels may pour their sneers, and cold hearted, covetous professors may stand aloof with their purses closed half as tight as their hearts, nevertheless the cause of missions must prosper; for it is indeed the cause of God. A fire so pure, and which has acquired such pleasing magnitude, is not to be quenched by any exertions of the enemies of the Cross. The present band of Missionaries, with the apostolic Carry at their head, ere long will be called to rest from their labors; but God, we trust, will raise up others, who will enter into their virtues, and carry forward the great work, until every path of human resort shall be rendered beautiful by the feet of those who publish salvation. The following words should be as music to the ear of every friend of missions: "*Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance. To him shall be given of the gold of Sheba; prayer also shall be made for him, and daily shall he be praised. The glory of God shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. For now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth. Thy kingdom come. But this gospel of the kingdom shall first be preached unto all nations for a testimony unto them, and then shall the end come.*" With faith in God, and a firm reliance on his holy promise, and with hearts warmed with divine love, may we make united efforts to promote that cause which will prevail and triumph, and become the joy of the whole earth.

Our present meeting has been peculiarly pleasant and instructing. Dear brethren, we are still yours in gospel bands.

AARON LELAND, *Moderator.*

LELAND HOWARD, *Clerk.*