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Baptists . Vermont . Woodstock Association .
Minutes . . . September 29 and 30, 1819 .
Windsor, Vt., Spooner, [1819]. 12 pp.
MWA copy .

MINUTES

OF THE

WOODSTOCK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HOLDEN AT

ROCKINGHAM, VT.

SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30, 1819;

WITH THEIR

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING LETTERS:

AND THE

REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY BOARD,

FOR 1819.

MINUTES, &c.

WEDNESDAY, *September 29, 1819.*

1. At ten o'clock, the introductory sermon (pursuant to appointment) was delivered by brother RUEL LATHROP, from 1 Peter, v. 6; "*Be clothed with humility.*"

2. Organized by choosing brother JOSEPH ELLIOT, moderator, and brother LELAND HOWARD, clerk.

After prayer by brother SEAMANS,

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 licenced preachers in *italick*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present. Churches marked thus (†) were not represented. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash (—).

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Restored,</i>	<i>Ad. by Bap.</i>	<i>Ad. by Tol.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Newport,	{ ELISHA HUTCHINSON Joseph Farnsworth Loa Walker		110	3	16	3	250	
Windsor, East Parish,	{ LELAND HOWARD *JABEZ COTTLE Deac. Abner Forbes John P. Skinner		6			1	106	
Chester,	{ *AARON LELAND Deac. Abial Richardson Deac. Isaiah Robinson	1	8	3	2	2	122	
Alstead,	{ JEREMIAH HIGBEE Deac. Nathl. Brown Nathl. Vilas				4	4	146	
New-London,	{ JOB SEAMANS *SAMUEL AMBROSE John Adams John Page Nathl. Clement	4	81	2		3	203	
Cornish,	{ ARIEL KENDRICK James Hall Phillip Spaulding		60			4	220	
Jamaica,--	{ Timothy Spaulding Marvel Howard Samuel Vail				1	1	85	
Plainfield, †	{ *JONATHAN CRAM						31	
Weathersfield & Baltimore.	{ *BERNAN BOYNTON Deac. Silas Bigelow			1		2	39	
Grafton,--	{ John R. Dodge Deac. — Harris Moses Goodridge			2	1	1	2	65
Cavendish,	{ RUEL LATHROP Asaph Fletcher Deac. — Mayo Benj. Pierce Samuel Brown		1		1	2	113	

Churches.	Messengers.	Restored.	Ad. by bap.	Ad by let.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	
Goshen,—	{ Deac. Reuben Willey Deac. Ezekiel Tandy		2					48	
Windham,	{ SAMUEL KINGSBURY Deac. Isaac Fisher Lemuel Farwell	1	6	3				76	
Townsend,—	{ Ezekiel Ransom Wm. Taft. Evans Reed		3	1	7			70	
Windsor, West Parish,	{ *SAMUEL LAMSON Deac. Jonathan Hoit Wm. White				1			21	
Andover,	{ JOEL MANNING Deac. Samuel Manning Moses Dodge Peter Putnam			1		1	1	60	
Acworth,—	{ David Cummings Joseph Chatterton Horace Campbell		3			2		73	
Westminster & Rockingham,	{ JOSEPH ELLIOT Forris More Artemas Arnold Deac. Smith Oliver Guernsey John Tuthill		4	4		2		139	
Unity,—	{ Jonathan Sleeper				1	1		60	
Mountholly,	{ DANIEL PACKER Deac. — Clark Martin Cole		9	2	3	1		219	
Hartland,	{ TIMOTHY GROW IRA PERSONS		3		1			55	
Weston,	{ GERSHOM LANE — Sterlen		9	8	1			48	
			73	08	27	18	25	29	2249

* Fifteen more have been baptized who have not been added to the Church.

4. Agreeably to the request of Goshen church, appointed the following brethren, viz. J. HIGBER, L. HOWARD, T. GROW, J. GOING, and G. WITHERELL, a committee to advise with the delegates of said church, and report to-morrow morning.

5. The Circular Letter prepared by Br. I. PERSONS, and the Corresponding, by Br. J. MANNING, were read and committed to Deac. A. Forbes, A. KENDRICK and E. ANDREWS.

6. Received the following communications from corresponding Associations.

<i>Messengers.</i>		
Warren	{ JONATHAN GOING.	Minutes.
Shaftsbury,	{ _____	_____
Boston,	{ SIMON CHAMBERLIN.	Minutes.
Vermont,	{ WM. M'CULLER.	Minutes.
Barre,	{ ELIJAH HUNGTINGTON, Asa Billings, John Billings.	Minutes.
Leyden,	{ GEORGE WITHERELL, ELISHA ANDREWS, MANSFIELD BRUCE, ASAHEL WOOD.	Minutes.
Meredith,	{ _____	_____
Danville,	{ Deac. — Fisher.	Minutes.
New-Hampshire,	{ _____	_____
Dublin,	{ CHARLES CUMMINGS.	Minutes.
Sturbridge,	{ _____	_____
Salisbury,	{ SIMON CHAMBERLIN.	Minutes.
Manchester,	{ C. M. FULLER, ISAAC BUCKLIN.	Minutes.

7. Adjourned till to-morrow morning.
Prayer by the Moderator.

NOTE. . . Meetings in the evening in various places.

NOTE. . . Opened a correspondence with the two last Associations the present year.

THURSDAY, Sept. 30, 1819.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Br. T. GROW.

8. The committee to whom were referred the Circular and Corresponding Letters, reported them with slight alterations. They were accepted.

9. Appointed Messengers to corresponding Associations. To the
Time and place of sitting.

Warren,	{ LELAND HOWARD.	2d Wed. September, at Providence, R. I.
Shaftsbury,	{ JOSEPH ELLIOT, RUEL LATHROP.	1st Wed. June, at Ad- ams, Mass.

Boston,	{ RUEL LATHROP, John R. Dodge.	3d Wed. Sept. 10 o'clock. A. M. at Framingham.
Vermont,	{ DANIEL PACKER. Timothy Spaulding,	1st Wed. October. 2d Wed. October, 1
Layden,	{ Artemas Arnold.	o'clock, P. M.
Meredith,	{ RUEL LATHROP.	2d Wed. Sept.
New-Hampshire	{ ARIEL KENDRICK,	2d. Wed. June, 10 o'clock, A. M.
Dublin,	{ J. HIGBLE, J. MANNING, J. R. Dodge,	3d Wed. Oct. 1 o'clock, P. M.
Barre,	{ IRA PERSONS, L. HOWARD, JESSE COBURN.	3d Wed. Sept. 10, A.M. at Topsham.
Danville,	{ JESSE COBURN.	3d Wed. June, at Irasburg, 10, A. M.
Fairfield,	{ DANIEL PACKER. J. MANNING,	Last Wed. Aug. 10, A.M.
Manchester,	{ J. ELLIOT, L. HOWARD, J. R. Dodge.	3d Wed. Sept. at Pawlet, Vt.
Salisbury,	{ J. SEAMANS, S. AMBROSE, E. HUTCHINSON.	2d Wed. Oct. 10, A.M. at Bow, N. H.

10. The committee, appointed to advise with the delegates from Goshen church, reported, that the Association are satisfied with the confession of said Church; and that as Mr. Solomon Howe has gone out from said Church and united with a different people, it is recommended to them to drop his name from their records, and that he be considered out of our fellowship.

11. Appointed Br. J. ELLIOT to write the Circular, and Deac. A. Forbes to write the Corresponding Letter for next year.

12. Voted. that the next meeting of the Association, be holden at Cornish, N. H. on the last Wednesday of September, 1820.

23. Appointed Br. IRA PERSONS to preach the introductory sermon; and in case of failure, Br. J. HIGBLE.

14. Appointed the following committee, viz. Deac. A. Forbes, Nathl. Vilas, and Deac. Daniel Mason, to take under consideration the Constitution for an Agricultural Missionary Society, proposed by the Agent of the Baptist Board of F. Missions, and to report next year.

15. Sermon by Br. J. GOING, from Ezek. xi. 19; and a collection of \$35.76. taken for the Education and Missionary Societies, to be equally divided.

16. Association closed with an appropriate address by the Moderator, and prayer by Br. J. HIGBLE.

The whole session was peculiarly harmonious, solemn and joyful. Truly we "sat together in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus."

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 the election of a Board for the year ensuing, viz.

Rev. JEREMIAH HIGBEE, *President.*

„ ARIEL KENDRICK, } *Vice-Presidents.*

„ TIMOTHY GROW, }

„ LELAND HOWARD. *Corresponding Secretary.*

„ JOSEPH ELLIOT. *Recording Secretary.*

Gen. ABNER FORBES. *Treasurer.*

Rev. JOEL MANNING. }

„ RUEL LATHROP. } *Trustees.*

Deac. DANIEL MASON. }

Receipts into the Treasury.

1818.	Cash remaining in the Treasury, as per report	
Nov.	of 1818	261,54
	One year's interest on the same	15,69
1819.		
May 31.	donation by Miss Dolly Tuexbury	,25
	do. and ann. sub. from Samuel Cummings	8,
	contribution 1st Bap. Society E. Parish, Windsor	7,92
	4 ann. subs. Windsor, E. Parish	4,
	do. Asaph Fletcher	1,
	5 ann. subs. Newport	5,
	Juvenile Society do.	15,
	donation from Miss Silvey Cheeney, for educating Heathen children	1,20
	7 ann. subs. Hartland	7,
	Rev. Joseph Elliot	2,
	5. ann. subs. Andover	5,
	Female Mill Society, do.	8,22
	donation Miss Packer	,12 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Female Friend to Missions	,50
	Mrs. Betsey Dodge small string of Gold Beads sold for	3,27
	donation Abner Felt	,50
	contribution Andover	,70
	Female M. Society Cavendish	10,71
	„ Union Society, Hartland	7,50
	contribution Hartland	3,89
	Female Missionary Society, Cornish	7,30
	Baptist Society, do.	6,
	contribution Cavendish	1,58
	2 Female Friends to Missions 50 each	1,
	Female M. Society, New-London	18,56
	Friend to Missions	,20
	8 ann. subs. and donations from New-London	8,15
	Jewet Boyington	1,
	Female M. Society, Springfield and towns adjacent	12,07
	Female M. Society, Newport	28,86
	Maj. Josiah Wakefield ann sub.	1,
	Female M. Society, Mountholly	6,86
	3 ann. subs. do.	3,
	donation Otis Tisdell	,25

donation Isaac Chatenton	,15½
do. Benj. Loss	,25
Friend to Missions	,20
do. do.	1,
13 ann. subs. Alstead	13,
Rev. Samuel Kingsbury	1,
Joseph Farnsworth	1,
Benj. & John Smith	2,
Oliver Guernsey	1,
Abial Richardson	1,
Samuel Tuthill	1,
Nathaniel Vilas	1,
William Harris	1,
David Everett	1,
Jonathan Baldwin	1,
Friend to Missions	,50
Evans Reed	1,
Daniel Mason	1,
half the amount of contribution after the sermon proceeds of pr. bracelets, donation from Miss Silvey Cheeney in 1817	17,88
Female M. Society, Windsor, East Parish	11,80
	<hr/>
	523.63

Immediately after the election of the new Board, they met at Rockingham, Sept. 30, 1819, and ordered two hundred dollars to be forwarded to John Cauldwell, Treasurer of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions—the balance in the Treasury to remain on interest until appropriated.

200,

Balance in the Treasury

323,63

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from my books, as
Treasurer of the Society.

A. FORBES, *Treasurer.*

Oct. 5th, 1819.

After the Union Society of Vermont and New-Hampshire, &c. had finished their business, the BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY OF THE WOODSTOCK ASSOCIATION attended to the election of their annual officers and heard the report of the Treasurer. The following persons were elected to the several offices as affixed to their names, viz.

Rev. JOSEPH ELLIOT, *Secretary.*Gen. ABNER FORBES, *Treasurer.*

Rev. AARON LELAND,

,, ARIEL KENDRICK,

,, JEREMIAH HIGBEE,

,, SAMUEL LAMPSON,

,, RUEL LATHROP

} *Executive Committee.*

1819.

*Receipts into the Treasury.*Aug. 15. Cash contributed in the 1st Baptist Society,
Windsor

26,20

Donation from John Leveret, Esq.

30,

do. from a Friend to Education

43,86

John Leverett ann. sub.

1,

Sept. 29. Contribution Cavendish	2,45
Rev. Ruel Lathrop ann. sub.	1,
„ Joel Manning	1,
Samuel Manning donation	,20
Contribution Alstead	3,25
Nathaniel Vilas ann. sub.	1,
Rev. Jeremiah Higbee ann. sub.	1,
Maj. Eze. Ransom do.	1,
John P. Skinner do.	1,
Female Education Society, Townsend	8,25
do. do. do. Jamaica	4,45
Joseph Farnsworth donation	1,
Deac. Abial Fisher do.	2,
30. Rev. Joseph Elliot ann. sub.	1,
„ Ira Persons do.	1,
Deac. Daniel Mason do.	1,
Rev. Leland Howard do.	1,
„ Ariel Kendrick do.	1,
Abner Forbes do.	1,
Half contribution after sermon	17,88
Oct. 4. Female Society, Windsor, East Parish	3,04

\$155,52

Windsor, October 5, 1819.

I hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true statement from my books, as treasurer of the Society.

A. FORBES, *Treasurer.*

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

BELOVED BRETHREN,

The return of our anniversary meeting affords us an opportunity of addressing you by another circular epistle, in which your attention is solicited to a few particulars of that religion, which consists in an inward and spiritual knowledge of divine truth, faith in, and love to Christ, and to God in Him.

I. THE AUTHOR. From a consideration of the purity of religion, and the happifying, eternal effects, it produces in the hearts of all those, who are brought to the enjoyment of it, we are confident in ascribing its origin to God. He has revealed it in his word, he applies by his spirit, and will perform it till the day of Jesus Christ.

II. The being, for whom it is designed, notwithstanding the dignity and excellence of its author, the happiness, the heavenly glory produced by the christian religion; yet it is not designed, for a pure host of angels, but for man, who is sunk into the depth of moral depravity, and by sinning against his God, (were it not for the interposition of divine mercy) would be infinitely miserable. But a being alienated from God in his affections, mortal in his body, but immortal in soul, unworthy of heaven, but a meet subject for hell, is the subject of his creator's compassion and shares in his great salvation. For him Christ came into the world, and suffered the death of crucifixion, that "whosoever believeth on him should not per-

III. This religion commences in the soul, by regeneration and conversion, expressed in scripture, by being born again, born of the spirit of God, and born of God, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Regeneration and conversion by many are considered as synonymous. They are inseparably connected and imply each other, yet sufficiently distinct that each may bear a comment.

1. Regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit, whereby on the account of the surety righteousness of Jesus Christ, his grace is implanted in us, and we are born again, being spiritually changed.—The divine spirit is the sole cause and agent, by whose energy the effect takes place, and as far as this spirit is the cause and agent, the heart is passive in which the effect is wrought. The change of heart produced by the spirit of God is instantaneous. There is no medium between being dead in trespasses and sins, and being spiritually alive, it is either a heart of hatred or a heart of love, a child of the devil or a child of God. For saith the scripture, “either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt,” which represents that there is not an instant of time in which the tree is neither good nor bad. This change is effected in the will or the heart, not in the natural powers of the soul, for it is the will, that is depraved. The person, who is chosen of God made the subject of grace, is infinitely ill deserving. Therefore the grace of God in regeneration is a sovereign unmerited favor.

2. As regeneration is the work wrought in the heart, by the Holy Spirit, so conversion is the effect of this work, caused to exist by the regenerating influence of God’s spirit. The effect, or conversion consists in love. Love is the fulfilling of the law, and is conformity to the law of God, which is all comprehended in these two commandments: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” Therefore the Apostle John says, that “He that loveth is born of God. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him.” The actions of man are virtuous or vicious only as they are connected with, and proceed from the heart. No external compliance, therefore, with the requirements of religion, however strict, will be acceptable to God, if love be wanting in the soul; yet where this love is, it will be productive of active obedience.

IV. Religion is sentimental and practical. The religious sentiments of a person have great influence on his internal and external walks of life. And as the law of God is to be the criterion by which we are all to be tried for admission into eternal life, or to be sentenced to everlasting punishment; it is of infinite importance that we possess that faith and temper of heart, that God shall approve and be pleased to bless. We are under the greatest obligation to believe the doctrine God has revealed in his word. However contrary to our own feelings or private opinions, if we find it revealed in scripture we are bound to believe in the sovereignty of God, and the divinity of his son; in the depravity of the human heart, and the immortality of the soul, in the election of grace and the perseverance of the saints, in the everlasting punishment of the finally impenitent and the eternal blessedness of the righteous.

God has abundantly revealed the above important doctrines in his word. It is also contained in the sacred scriptures, “Repent and be baptised every one of you, for the remission of sins.” God

hath required repentance before baptism, and this previous to the Lord's supper, and since baptism by emersion is the only bible water baptism which is expressed by going down into the water, and "being buried with him by baptism into death," we cannot fellowship the doctrine of those professors, who hold these requirements to be non-essentials. Says Jesus, "If ye love me keep my commandments." The keeping the commandments of Christ is a great evidence of love to him, for he says again, "if any man love me, he will keep my words."

V. The religion of the Bible possesses a superior advantage over all other schemes on earth. The most refined systems of philosophy and morality, of human invention, aim at no higher object than a reformation in manners; and their views are circumscribed by a few revolving suns, but this religion rectifies the heart, and every thing in it bears relation to eternity. The scheme of man aspires only to fit men for this world, but that which is revealed from heaven, while it imparts those dispositions which tend to promote peace and happiness in society, fixes the affection supremely on God.

*The Woodstock Association to Associations with whom they correspond,
send christian salutation.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

We congratulate you on the rising empire of our divine Redeemer. We rejoice that men of piety, talents and learning, are frequently coming over from other denominations, into our views of doctrine and practice. Whether it is best so to modify our sentiments, as to meet our erring brethren with their infants in their arms; judge ye for yourselves, we feel satisfied to remain in our old house, and receive all that come in unto us.

We are happy in stating, that the doctrine of the eternal obligation of the Law of God, is better understood and more generally inculcated than it was formerly. It appears to us that this doctrine lays the foundation for all doctrinal, practical, and experimental religion; and that any scheme of religion that denies or overlooks it, is fundamentally erroneous. By this doctrine we learn, the nature and consequences of sin; for sin is the transgression of the law, and the consequence is, the penalty—the depravity of the human heart not subject to the law, the nature and necessity of regeneration; the law of God within the heart; the glory of the gospel: for there is as much grace in the gospel, as there is eternal rectitude in the law; the nature of atonement; the end of the law for righteousness; how we approximate to, or the distance we are from what is our duty to be, holy as God is holy; the exercise of the new born soul; delight in the law of God after the inner man. This is the ax that may be successfully laid at the root of all self-righteous hopes; for it is written cursed is every one that continueth not in all things that are written in this book of the law to do them. Finally, this doctrine shews the nature of ultimate bliss. To be perfectly conformed to the law of God; and to dwell in society with kindred spirits; is the consummation of happiness.

We solicit a continuance of your correspondence by your letters and messengers. You will learn from our minutes, that some of the churches have been blessed with copious showers of divine grace, while others remain like Gideon's dry fleece. We subscribe ourselves yours in gospel bond.