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Baptists. Vermont. Woodstock Association, 1797.  
Minutes at Chester ... September 27 & 28, 1797.  
[ Windsor, 1797. ] 8 pp.  
( The only reported copy is imperfect. )  
ABHS copy.

# MINUTES

OF THE

## WOODSTOCK ASSOCIATION,

*Held at CHESTER, in the State of VERMONT, September 27 & 28, 1797.*

WEDNESDAY, September 27.

**T**HE Association met according to appointment, at one o'clock P. M. Elder William Elliot preached the Introductory Sermon, from Heb. xii. 2.

After publick worship, chose Elder Aaron Leland, Moderator, and Elder Jeremiah Higbee, Clerk.

Read the letters from the Churches and took the following account of the members who have been added, dismissed, excluded, or died, the past year, and the whole number in each Church.

*N. B. Minister's names in capitals. Those marked thus (\*) were absent. Dashes denote no settled ministers.*

Churches.	Messengers.	Add.	Dis.	Exc.	Did.	Total.
Woodstock,	ELISHA RANSOM, Jabez Cottle.	2	1	4	2	136
Canaan,	_____					30
Newport,	{ * BIAL LEDOYT, Elias Medcalf, Bial Ledoyt, Jun.	6			1	97
Sutton,	{ SAMUEL AMBROSE, Daniel Cre- ty, Benjamin Fowler.			2	1	84
Wendal,	* NEHEMIAH WOODWARD.					25
Royalton,	* JOHN HIBBARD.					57
Windsor,	{ * KOSWELL SMITH, Nat. Ken- dal, Joseph Thomson, Ezra Kendal.	2	1	2		72
1st Westmoreland,	EBENEZER BAYLEY.		1	1	3	68
Westminster,	_____ John Tuttle.		3	2	1	38
Marlow,	{ ELEAZER BECKWITH, Abner Chase, Ezra Minor, Nathaniel Ladd.	7		2	2	134
Dublin,	{ ELIJ. WILLARD, Josh. Twitchell, Elias Hemingway, Daniel Cummings.	20	2	1	2	52
Hopkinton,	* ELISHA ANDREWS.	7		2		102
Grafton,	{ A. LELAND, Jno. Stone, Ed. Bryant, Wm. M'Culler, S. Bigelow, S. White.	10		3	1	77
NewLondon,	{ * JOB SEAMONS, Ebenezer Humming, Zebadec Hays.		1	4	1	110
Alstead,	JEREMIAH HIGBEE, Moses Hale.	2				58
Woodstock & Bridgewater,	_____					101
Cornish,	_____ Sam. Hilliard, Jo. Richardson.					28
2d Westmoreland,	_____					15
Mafon,	W. M. ELLIOT, Wm. Mansur.	1	1		1	34
Temple,	_____ John Brown,				1	42
Thidford,	_____					17

Churches.	Messengers.	Att.	Dy.	Exc.	Dis.	Gr.
Norwich,	ROBERT LOW, Joseph Vinson,	7				52
Plainfield,	• JONATHAN CRAM.					36
Sbaron	_____					14
Grafton,	_____					16
Wardsborough,	• S. COMBS, Sam. Bayley, Sam. Davis.	1				38
Reading,	_____					29
Jamaica,	_____ Titus Church.	3	2			46
Hanover,	_____ David Eaton.	2				38
Hartford,	_____					45
Chelsea,	_____ Ezekiel Lunt.					16

*The last mentioned Church was added this Session.*

Adjourned to eight o'clock tomorrow morning.

THURSDAY, September 28.

Met accordingly.

Read and approved the Circular Letter, prepared by Elder Bayley.—Likewise the Corresponding Letter, prepared by Elder Higbee.

*Messengers and Letters from the Corresponding Associations.*

From the Warren, a Letter and Minutes. From the New Hampshire, a Letter and Minutes. From the Vermont, Elder Chamberlain with a Letter. From the Leyden, Elders Jacobs, Hibbard and Bowles with Minutes. From the Richmond, Brother John Asplund with a Letter. From the Shaftsbury, no intelligence.

*Messengers to the Corresponding Associations.*

To the Warren, Elder Aaron Leland. To the New Hampshire, Elders Bayley and Andrews. To the Merideth, Elder Low. To the Vermont, Elders, Leland and Ransom. To the Leyden, Elder Willard and Brother Lathrop. To the Richmond, Elders Drew and Hibbard. To the Shaftsbury, Elders Leland and Higbee.

*Query from Woodstock Church.*

Is it proper for a Church to represent such as members to the Association, who have been absent from the Churches knowledge a considerable time, some by letter and we know not whether they have joined to other Churches; and others without letters and we know not what is become of them.

*Answer.*—When such Churches have given notice by the publick minutes and otherwise as they think proper, and they still have no knowledge of them, nor means of attaining it, we think it may be just to leave them out of their numbers to the Association for the future.

**CORRESPONDING LETTER.****THE WOODSTOCK ASSOCIATION,**

**TO THE CORRESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS, SENDETH  
CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.**

**BELoved BRETHREN,**

**WHEN** we take into view the glorious nature of the christian religion, as summarily comprehended in love, we are led into a most delightful field of contemplation. Here we behold that principle of true benevolence, which originated in the divine mind, and from thence flows through Christ, to a dying world, which entering the human heart, diffuses its influence through the whole soul, dispels the clouds of moral darkness from the understanding, bows the stubborn will, detaches the affections from low and sensual objects, lays pride in the dust, the soul is raised to God, discovers a beauty in and falls in love with the divine law, holiness becomes the object of his delight and sin the abhorrence of his soul, his heart possesses a friendly disposition towards all men, and he seeks the good of all ; from hence flow all acts of pure morality, and true religion, by this the divine glory emanates through the medium of feeble clay ; the saints are endeared to each other, and the church of Christ is cemented together ; and it is from this source, that the people of God derive all that consolation, which is the effect of mutual correspondence with each other ; it renders all duties, either moral or religious, delightful ; eases the pains of nature ; sweetens the pleasures of life ; begets a hope of immortality in the soul ; and entitles it to a crown of eternal glory. This, dear brethren, is but a faint resemblance of that religion which we mutually profess, which leads us to reflect, on the dignity of our high vocation, we are called from darkness to light, from sin to holiness, from death to life, and from being heirs of the curse, to become heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

We are also led to see, the obligations that we are under to the author of this divine religion, to live in the possession, as well as the profession, of his love, that we feel his cause at heart, and strive to promote his glory in the world : that we exhibit this religion in our daily deportment, endeavouring to cultivate the spirit of gospel fellowship, amongst the people of God and to diffuse the knowledge of christianity, through the world. Imprest with these considerations, we send you this short epistle in token of our remembrance of, and fellowship with you in the gospel ; and be assured brethren, that we earnestly solicit the continuance of that correspondence, which has been to us the source of joy ; when we have heard of your prosperity by your letters, and messengers which you have sent from time to time.

Finally brethren farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace, shall be with you.

AARON LELAND, *Moderator.*

JEREMIAH HIGBEE, *Clerk.*