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Baptists. Connecticut. Danbury Association. 1790.

The Minutes ... in Danbury, September, 1790.

New York, Durell, [1790]. 8 pp.

ABHS copy.

The
M I N U T E S
of the
A P T I S T A S S O C I A T I O N.

HELD IN DANBURY SEPTEMBER, 1799.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THE

Sentiments and Plan of the said

A S S O C I A T I O N.

NEW-YORK.

By WILLIAM DURELL at his Book Store and Printing Office No. 190, E. Street.

minutes of the Danbury Association, held at the Baptist Meeting-House in Danbury, Sept. 29, 1790.

AT 1 o'clock, P. M. Elder Elisha Ransom, according to appointment, delivered the introductory sermon from John xiii. 35. "By this shall all men know that ye are disciples if ye have love one to another."

second After public worship, proceeded to business, and chose Elder Elisha Ransom, Moderator, Elder Adam Hamilton. Clerk: Also, read the letters from the several Churches, and the following account of the number of their members:

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Watertown.	{ Elder Elisha Ransom, White Osbourn, Truman Catlin. - -	19
Farmington.	Elder Calvin Hulbert. - -	25
Wallingford.	{ Isaac Hall. Joel Ives. - - -	49
Torrington.	{ Elder Stephen Shephard, Epaphras Thompson. - -	70
Canaan.	{ Jesse Bishop, Ashbel Hosmer. - -	22
Stratfield.	{ Elder Seth Higby, Deacon John Edwards, Samuel Bennet. - -	99
Warren.	{ Elder Isaac Roots, Nathan Stillson, Benjamin Dunning - - -	80
Suffield.	- - - - -	112
1st Westfield.	Elder Adam Hamilton. -	84

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
1st Danbury.	{ Elder Nathaniel Finch, Elder Nathaniel Norton, Elder Enoch Ferris, Reuben Ferris, Barzila King, Daniel Bristol, John Beal. - - -	125
2d Danbury.	{ Elder Justice Hull, Daniel Wildman, jun. Peter Ambler. - -	49
South-Britain.	{ Deacon John Sherman, Joseph Pierce. - -	31
Amenia-Town.	Elder Elijah Wood. - -	15
	Total.	774

Adjourned till to morrow morning, eight o'clock.

Sermon in the evening, by Elder Hamilton, from Prov. xiii. 15.

MET, pursuant to adjournment.

3. Sermon by Elder Samuel Waldo, from Matt. xvi. 18.
4. Voted to consider ourselves at this and at every future meeting annually, an Assoc under the name of *The Danbury Association*.
5. Voted to form a connection and correspondence with the Philadelphia, Shaftsbury Stonington Associations.
6. Voted brother Samuel Whelply to write a letter from this Association to the Philadelphia Association, requesting a union and correspondence with them: And Elder Adam Hamilton be the messenger.
7. Voted Elder Justice Hull and Elder Adam Hamilton to be messengers to the Shaftsbury Association, and by letter request a union and correspondence with them.
8. Voted Elder Calvin Hulbert to be messenger to the Stonington Association, and by request a union and correspondence with them.

9. Voted that this Association recommend to the Churches not to give flattering titles, such as Reverend, &c. to their Elders.

Query from the Church in Warren. Should a brother change his sentiment respecting believers baptists, and freely give it as his opinion that infants have a just right to the ordinance, and because the Church holds the contrary sentiment, and likewise close communion, he publicly withdraws from her communion, What shall a Church do in such a case?

Answer. We consider such a person to be a covenant breaker.

Query from the Church in Amenia-Town. Has a Minister of the gospel a right to add to the Church members at his own option?

Answer in the negative.

Voted to have the sentiments, ~~plan~~, and minutes of this Association printed, and Elder Hamilton to superintend the printing of them.

Voted to meet the 3d Wednesday in September next, at 1 o'clock, at Elder Higby's Meeting-House in Stratfield.

Voted Elder Hamilton to preach the next Association Sermon:—In case of failure, Elder Ferris.

SUPPLIES for VACANT CHURCHES.

Wallingford.	{ Elder Norton,	last Lords day in November.
	{ Elder Hulbert,	second Lords day in November.
	{ Elder Shephard,	last Lords day in November.
	{ Elder Higby,	first Lords day in May.
South-Britain.	{ Elder Hamilton,	fourth Lords day in June.
	{ Elder Hulbert,	third Lords day in April.
	{ Elder Norton,	first Lords day in December.
	{ Elder Ransom,	second Lords day in November,
	{ Elder Roots,	first Lords day in January.
Canaan.	{ Elder Shephard,	last Lords day in January.
	{ Elder Norton,	first Lords day in January.
	{ Elder Ransom,	first Lords day in December.
	{ Elder Roots,	second Lords day in November.
	{ Brother Thompson,	second Lords day in October.

Weathersfield.	{ Elder Hulbert,	first Lord's Day in January.
	{ Elder Runsom,	first Lord's Day in February.
	{ Elder Shephard,	first Lord's Day in May.
	{ Elder Adam Hamilton,	third Lord's Day in July.
	{ Elder Roots,	first Lord's Day in August.

Voted Brother Whelply to write the Circular Letter for the next year.

S E N T I M E N T S.

1st. **T**HAT such a combination of *Churches* is not only prudent, but useful, as has appeared even in America, by the experience of upwards of sixty years: some of the uses of are, union and communion among themselves, maintaining more effectually the order and discipline once delivered to the saints, having advice in cases of doubts, and help in distress, being able to promote the good of the cause.

2d. **T**HAT such an *Association* is consistent with the independency and power of particular Churches, because it pretends to be no other than an advisory council, utterly disclaiming superiority, jurisdiction, coercive right and infallibility.

3d. **T**HAT an *Association* should consist of men knowing and judicious; particularly in the scriptures; the reasons are obvious; such men are the fittest to represent communities who profess the scriptures to be the only rule of faith and practice in religious matters, who expect that every advice, opinion or direction they receive from an *Association*, scriptural. They should be skilful and expert in the laws of their God, as counsellors are in the laws of the land, for that is the ground of the churches application to them.

P L A N.

THE *Association* to consist only of messengers chosen and sent by the *Churches*; those messengers to be judicious men as described in sentiment 3d.

2d. With the messengers the *Churches* send letters addressed to the *Association*; in the letters mention is made of the names of the messengers and their authority to act for their churches. Also the state of their churches, touching their peace, their increase by baptism, and by letters dismissive and commendatory from other *Churches*, touching their diminution by death, excommunication, and dismission to other *Churches*; and the number of members. If any questions are to be put to the *Association*, and advice to ask, or business to propose, these are to be expressed in said letters.

3d. All matters to be determined in this *Association* is by suffrage of the messengers. All that speak are to address the Moderator, who is to take care that none be interrupted while speaking, and that no other indecorum take place.

4th. *Churches* are to be received into the *Association* by petition, setting forth their desire to be admitted, their faith, order, and willingness to be conformable to rules of the associated body. When it is read & the matter ripened for a vote the Moderator states the Question. Suffrage being given in favour of the petition, the Moderator declares that such a Church is received into the *Association*; in token of which, he gives the messengers the right hand of fellowship, and bids them take their seats.

5th. The *Association* to meet annually as the *Association* shall choose, on the third Wednesday in September at one o'clock in the afternoon, and to continue until business be finished. It is to be opened with divine service, after which a Moderator and Clerk are chosen, letters from the *Churches* are read, names of the messengers are written, that they may be called over at their meetings; then business is attended to, minutes thereof made, a circular letter to the *Churches* is prepared and signed, and a copy of it sent to every Church, containing the minutes of the *Association*, the state of the *Churches*, when and by whom vacancies are to be supplied. Who to preach the next *Association* sermon, and whatever else is needful for the *Churches* to know.

6th. The faith and order of this *Association* is essentially contained in what follows:—A belief of the display of God's divine righteousness in his moral government, when he made and sustained man, and gave him such a law as he did. That man is by his nature depraved, and destitute of original righteousness, whereby he is wholly unable to every thing that is good.

inasmuch that despair and death are read in all his actions before regeneration ; although Christ completed a righteousness by fulfilling the law and satisfying justice for the justification of all that believe. 3. That man's salvation is wholly in and by Christ. 1. By his complete atonement for us. 2. By his victorious grace, conquering our hearts by the power of his spirit, in regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost unto final perseverance. 4. Divine sovereignty in the glorious election of grace on whom he will have mercy, while he leaves the rest to the reward of disobedience, of which none hath cause to complain, for every mouth shall be stopped. 5. Immersion for Baptism, and that on profession of faith and repentance. 6. Strict gospel liberty and independency of Churches, agreeable to the ancient Congregational platform, and reception into them upon evidences of sound conversion ; all which is more largely set forth in a confession put forth by upward of an hundred Congregations (in Great-Britain) in the year 1689, and adopted by the Association of Philadelphia, 1742, and by Warren Association, 1767, &c.

F I N I S.