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Baptists. Connecticut. Danbury Association, 1801.

Minutes ... at Colebrook, October 7 and 8, 1801.

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MINUTES.

OF THE

WINDSBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HOLDEN AT COLEBROOK,

OCTOBER 7 and 8, 1801;

TOGETHER WITH THEIR CIRCULAR AND
CORRESPONDING LETTERS.

WEDNESDAY October 7.

At one o'clock P. M. Elder Daniel Williams, according to appointment, preached the first factory sermon, from Rev. xvi. 15. "Beware as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

Deaf Elder Seth Higby, Moderator, and Elder John Sherman,

Read letters from the Churches.

In the following list, Ordained Ministers names are in capitals; Preachers in Italics; Ministers with this mark * were not present; from Churches thus marked † we received no letters; vacant churches are distinguished by a dash—.

	Added	Dismiss.	Excl.	Died	No.
<i>Messengers.</i>					
Messengers,	John Hastings,				
	Dea. Judah Phelps,				
	Dea. David Hastings,				
	Daniel Bester,				
	James Hawley,	5	6	1	0
Dea. Nathan Buckley,					
Dea. Seth Barnum,	6	0	0	2	41
Dea. _____,	0	0	0	0	57

Churches.	Members.	Added	Discon.	Excl.	Dis.
1st Wallingford,	Ambrose Huff, Samuel Miller,	3	0	0	0
2d Wallingford,	SETH HIGBY, Dea. Jesse Dickerman,	15	4	0	0
Canaan,	NEHEMIAH DODGE, Dea. Ebenezer Hawley, Ezra Clark,	0	0	0	0
Southington & Farmington,	Levi Morse, William Gran, STEPHEN ROYCE, David Benedict,	2	1	0	1
Litchfield,	John Beacher, Israel Miner, ELIJAH WOOD,*	12	0	0	0
Roxbury, Amenia Town,	Thomas Dyer, Jared Mills, DANIEL WILDMAN, Edmund Todd, Amos Brackett,	0	0	0	0
Simsbury,	Annias Dethick, Asahel Wedge, Timothy Parady, RUFUS BABCOCK, Dea. Ebenezer Bidwell, Dea. Thomas Miner, Dea. Philip Howe, Aaron Simons, BENJAMIN BALDWIN, Elcana Richmond, Amos Spring, Jacob Hubbard, Ebenezer Walker, Moses Fargo, jun.	1	0	0	0
Wolcott and Bristol,	Joseph Culer, Seth Higby, jun.	27	0	1	1
Warren,	Dea. Palmer Ladd, Samuel Morley, JOHN SHERMAN, Richard Bennet, Joseph Lewis,	4	2	1	0
Colebrook,	Joseph Culer, Seth Higby, jun.	11	1	2	1
2d Sandersfield,	Dea. Palmer Ladd, Samuel Morley, JOHN SHERMAN, Richard Bennet, Joseph Lewis,	17	1	1	1
2d Paulington,	Dea. Palmer Ladd, Samuel Morley, JOHN SHERMAN, Richard Bennet, Joseph Lewis,	3	0	2	0
East-Hartford,	Dea. Palmer Ladd, Samuel Morley, JOHN SHERMAN, Richard Bennet, Joseph Lewis,	1	0	0	0
Newtown,	Dea. Palmer Ladd, Samuel Morley, JOHN SHERMAN, Richard Bennet, Joseph Lewis,	1	0	1	0

Churches.	Messengers.	Added	Dismiss.	Excl.	Died	No.
St Paulingston,	Joseph Eells,	0	1	0	0	32
Middletown,	Joseph Coe, ISAAC BELLOWS,	0	0	0	0	25
Winchester,	Dea. Joshua Smith, Noah North, Isaac Douglass, STEPHEN S. NELSON,	12	0	0	0	35
Hartford,	Dea. Ephraim Robbins, Luther Savage, Timothy Savage, STEPHEN SHEPHARD,	9	3	1	0	117
Wilbraham,	Dea. Israel Bennet, Nathan Pease,	1	0	0	0	60
New-Hartford.	Dea. Zacheriah Watson, Martin Merrill, CHRISTOPHER MINER,	0	0	0	0	14
Granville,	Joathan Sheldon, Jonathan Barlow,	0	0	0	0	44

N. B. The two last Churches were received this session.

Messengers from Corresponding Associations and ministering Brethren present, were invited to take seats with us.

4. Voted that Elders Royce, Baldwin and Collier, be appointed as a Committee to examine the circular and corresponding Letters.

5. Adjourned till to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.

Sermon in the evening by Elder Hofmer.

THURSDAY October 8.

Met according to adjournment.

Prayer introductory to business, by Elder Duckley.

6. Called for letters, minutes and messengers from the corresponding Associations. Received a letter by Elder Hofmer; a letter and minutes from the Shaftsbury, by Elder Gray and Joseph Turrel; also a letter and minutes by Elder Dodge, from the Stonington. From the New-York, a letter and minutes, by Elder Collier.

7. Elder Nelson's corresponding letter and Elder Wildman's circular letter were read and adopted.

8. Took into consideration the proposition from the Philadelphia Association respecting a general conference; and after some deliberation concluded that at present we have not sufficient light on the subject to see the utility of such a combination: therefore voted not to engage therein till we have further light thereon.

9. Appointed the following elders and brethren as messengers to our Associations:—Elder Seth Highson, Elder Joseph W. Miller,

to the New-York; Elders Baldwin, Morse, and Deacon Robbins, to the Shaftsbury; Elders Hastings, Dodge, Deacon Robbins, and Brother Beiter, to the Stonington; Elders Royce, Buckley, Dodge, and Brother Seth Barnum, to the Otsego association.

10. Appointed Elder Dodge to write our circular, and Deacon Robbins, our corresponding letter for the next year.

11. Voted that this association set next year at the Wells Presbyterian meeting-house in Wallingford, with the 2d Baptist church in that place.

12. Appointed Elder Sherman to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, Elder Morse.

13. Appointed Deacon Robbins to superintend the printing of the minutes.

14. Query from the church in Simsbury:—"Is it the duty of a dissenter to acknowledge the right of civil government, distating in matters of religion, so far as to give a certificate to the clerk of a Presbyterian society what religion they are of?"

Answer—We are of opinion that it is oppression for one society to require certificates of another, but whether God requires us at this time to say as Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego did in another case; "Be it known to thee O king, we will not," we leave for the present, for individuals to judge and determine for themselves, as they can answer it to God.

15. Voted that Elders Royce, Wildman, Dodge, Nelson, and Deacons Mills and Robbins, be a committee to prepare an address to the President of the United States, in behalf of this association.

As it respects the committee appointed last year to look into the faith and practice of Mr. David Austin, upon further enquiry and consideration we find that notwithstanding he proposed it, the association never received, nor had power (according to our regulations) to receive him as a member: upon which account we do not call for the verdict of the committee, but say we have nothing to do with any such matter. Furthermore, as the association does not consist of the same members every year, the matter was not fully understood last year when said committee was appointed.

16. *Agreed to the following supplies.*

Paulingston,	Brother Baldwin,	2d	Lord's-day	in March.
Litchfield,	Brothers Robbins,	2d	do.	in May.
	Buckley,	1st	do.	in May.
	Baldwin,	1st	do.	in September.
N.Hartford,	Brothers Budge,	1st	do.	in December.
	Bates,	2d	do.	in Do.
	Shepherd,	1st	do.	in January.
	Babcock,	3d	do.	in May.
	Bellows,	1st	do.	in June.
Roxbury,	Elder Royce,	2d	do.	in June.
Simsbury,	Brother Dethick,	2d	do.	in January.
	Elder Bellows,	1st	do.	in May.
	Brothers Wildman,	2d	do.	in June.
	Robbins	1st	do.	in July.
	Elder Hastings,	2d	do.	in July.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Elders and Messengers of the Churches composing the Danbury Baptist Association, convened at Colebrook October 7th and 8th, 1801, to the Churches whom they represent and greeting.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

REFERRING you to our Minutes, for information concerning the present state of our churches, and the particulars to which we attended, and feel it our duty, (and having by an indulgent providence enjoyed another agreeable annual interview) to address you, on the importance of a critical and thorough inspection of your present state, both as churches and individuals, agreeably to Paul's exhortation, 2d Corinthians, 13. 5. "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith." To be *in faith*, is to cordially agree with and practice the gospel, or *word of God* in its doctrine, and institutions. The duty enjoined, intends a careful and impartial inquiry into the present frame of our hearts, our words and practice; and determining according to the light given us, whether they be according to godliness; it also implies the immediate rectifying of all our mistakes, by the unerring rule of the holy bible. In order to engage you to this work, we will represent to you in a few particulars the propriety and present necessity of the duty.

First,—It appears suitable that we should comply with this exhortation, because God has furnished us with all necessary assistance. St. Paul says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." John says, "We have an unction from the holy One, and know all things." The anointing of the Holy Spirit therefore, and direction of the word, is sufficient; so that if we have wrong hearts, sentiments or practice, they must be ours, and we must be guilty in so great a degree, of inattention to the rule given us.—Secondly, the propriety of self-examination further appears, from the dark and imperfect state in which we all are in this world, by which we are constantly exposed to error and delusion: Our highest attainments in the knowledge and grace of God in this life, are exceedingly small; by which means it often becomes difficult for us to distinguish between truth and error, and makes the duty of frequently examining ourselves the more necessary.

Thirdly, Frequently examining ourselves tends to the enlightening of our hearts, and rightly disposing of our hearts, and directing us in our faith and practice; in this, we have an approving conscience, enjoy light and peace within, and become the happy instruments of leading others by the way of righteousness.

Fourthly, the absolute necessity of a general and critical attention to this duty, both in our private capacity as Christians, and in our relation to others as churches, appears, 1st, From its being strictly enjoined in the word of God. We must therefore become guilty before God if we live in the neglect of it. 2d, From the present broken and declining condition of the church at large, both in principle and prac-

