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Baptists. Connecticut. Danbury Association, 1802.

Minutes . . . at Wallingford, October 6 and 7, 1802.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

## DANBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT WALLINGFORD,

OCTOBER 6 and 7, 1802.

TOGETHER WITH THEIR CIRCULAR AND  
CORRESPONDING LETTERS.

WEDNESDAY, October 6.

1. ASSOCIATION met according to appointment at Wallingford; introductory Sermon delivered by Brother Afahel Morse, from 1 Cor. xiv. 12. *Forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel, to the edifying of the Church.*

2. Proceeded to business. Brother Daniel Wildman was chosen Moderator, and Brother Hezekiah West, Clerk.

3. Letters from the several churches in our connection were presented, read, and the following list taken:

N. B. In the list, Ministers' names in capitals; licenced Preachers in italics; those to whose names an \* is affixed were not present; ——— dashes denote no settled Ministers; from Churches marked thus † we received no letters.

Churches.	Messengers.	Added.	Dism.	Excom.	Died.	No.
Suffield,	{ JOHN HASTINGS, Dea. Judah Phelps, Daniel Bester,	5	4			139
1st Danbury,	{ NATHAN BULKLEY, John Bebee,	2		6	3	37
† 2d Danbury,	—————					57
1st Wallingford,	{ Ambrose Hough, Samuel Miller,	2		1		55
2d Wallingford,	{ SETH HIGBY, Dea. Jesse Dickerman, Samael Hickox,	1	3			49

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	Added	Dismiss.	Excom.	Died	No.
Southington & Farmington,	{ NEHEMIAH DODGE, Dea. Ebenezer Hawley, Stodard Whitman,				1	97
Litchfield,	{ Dea. Levi Morfe, John Todd,	2		1	1	31
Stratfield,	{ Dea. John Staples, Dea. David Silliman, Stephen Jenning.	2			2	115
Roxbury,	{ Isaac Fuller, Ebenezer F. Bennet, Edman Richman,	5		1		52
Wolcott & Bristol,	{ DANIEL WILDMAN, Dea. Austin Bishop, Hezekiah West,	2		2	1	107
Amenia Town,	{ ELIJAH WOOD,*					24
Warren,	{ <i>Ananias Dethick,</i> Eli Dayton, Eben. Strong,	9				54
Colebrook,	{ RUFUS BABCOCK, Dea. Thomas Miner, Sohn Stephens, Joshua Osbourn,	4	2	1		92
2d Sandersfield,	{ BENJAMIN BALDWIN,	3		2		174
2d Paulington,	{ Seth Higby,				1	48
East-Hartford,	{ ALAS BRUMBLEY, Dea. John Keney,	5			2	40
† Simsbury,						8
Newtown,	{ JOHN SHERMAN,* Elijah Sherman, Joseph Lewis,	1				31
1st Paulington	{ Joseph Allis,			6	1	29
Middletown,	{ Joseph Coe, Wait Cornwell, Michael Braddock,	1		1		25
Winsted,	{ ASAH EL MORSE, ISAAC BELLOWS, Elisha Spencer,	1				36
Hartford,	{ DAVID BOLLES, Dea. Ephraim Robins, Dea. John Bolles,		23	1		92

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers.</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Dismiss.</i>	<i>Excom.</i>	<i>Died</i>	<i>No.</i>
Wilbraham,	{ STEPHEN SHEPARD, Dea. Israel Bennet, Aaron Chapin, Uriel Day,	16				76
New-Hartford,	{ _____ Asahel Churchil,	6				20
Granville,	{ CHRISTOPHER MINER,, Jonathan Barber,	1		1		44
Sharon & Corn- wall,	{ _____ Abraham Hotchkin,					23
		68	39	17	12	1556

N. B. The last mentioned Church was received the present session.

*Elders and Brethren from Corresponding Associations, were desired to take a seat with us.*

4 Voted, that Brethren Wildman, Baldwin, Gray and Morse, be a committee to examine our Circular and Corresponding Letters.—

5 Voted to not continue Canaan Church in our minutes.

6 Voted to adjourn till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock, A. M.

*Thursday, October 7th, met according to adjournment.*

Meeting opened by prayer by Brother Gray.

7 Brother Dodge's circular letter, and Brother Robins' corresponding letter were read and approved.

8 Received a letter and minutes from the Shaftsbury Association by Brethren Gray and Barns; also received a letter from the New-York Association; likewise received a letter and minutes from the Stonington Association; by Brethren Whitman, Atwell and Welch; likewise received a letter and minutes from the Otsego Association.

9 Query: "Is it agreeable with the Gospel, and consistent with the constitution of us, Baptists, to fellowship those Baptist Churches, and to commune with those Baptist members who by the General Court are established, and incorporated into Baptist religious societies, and as such are known in civil law?"

Answer: We would refer our Brethren to something like our answer to a query presented to this Association at our last session, with regard to the certificate law.

10 Appointed brethren Baldwin and Morse to the Otsego, brother Robins to the New-York, brethren Wildman, Baldwin, Dodge and Morse to the Shaftsbury, and brethren Babcock, Morse and Bester to the Stonington Associations.

11 Appointed elder Bolles to prepare our circular letter, and elder Morse the corresponding letter for the year ensuing.

12 Our next Association to be holden on the first Wednesday in October next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. with the first church in Danbury.

Brother Nehemiah Dodge to preach the introductory sermon; in case of failure, brother Daniel Wildman.

13 Appointed deacon Robins to superintend the printing and distributing our minutes.

14 Concluded by prayer, by brother Bulkley.

[Sermon in the afternoon by brother Whitman, from Ephesians ii. 19, 20, 21.]

*Supplies for destitute Churches.*

Litchfield,	{	Brother Bellows,	1st	Lord's-day	in May.
		Brother Baldwin,	1st	do.	in June.
		Brother Babcock,	3d	do.	in August.
		Brother Morse,	1st	do.	in July.
		Brother Robins,	1st	do.	in December.
		Brother Hastings	the	Lord's-day	before the next
		Association.			
Middletown,	{	Brother Shepard,	1st	do.	in December,
		and	1st	do.	in May.
N. Hartford,	{	Brother Shepard,	3d	do.	in January,
		and	3d	do.	in May.
		Brother Derhick,	2d	do.	in January.
		Brother Robins,	1st	do.	in May.

*Signed in behalf of the Association,*

DANIEL WILDMAN, *Moderator,*  
HEZEKIAH WEST, *Clerk.*

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## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Elders and Messengers of the Churches composing the Danbury Baptist Association, convened at Wallingford, October 6th and 7th, 1802, to the Churches whom they represent, send greeting.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

**T**HROUGH the mercy of a good God, we have been indulged with another general interview together, and have partaken of a mixed cup from the hand of the Lord. Our hearts have been made to rejoice, while we have heard good news from different places, as our minutes will shew: Yet our joy has been mingled with bitterness and sorrow, while we thought upon the deaths that have taken place amongst our connections, since our last annual meeting; and in special, the death of our much respected Brother Royce calls for mourning and deep humiliation among all our Churches. It is a loss for any good man to die: Yea, death is always a solemn and affecting event; but sometimes circumstances render it peculiarly so;—and this is now

the case. The death of such a man is a public loss. It is particularly a loss to the Zion of God on earth; there is one laborer less in the vineyard, one watchman less upon the walls of Jerusalem. Alas! our destitute Churches can no more be comforted with his visits: the mourning lambs of Jesus no more receive consolation by his gifts, nor can our Association in its infant state receive any further support from him who was a pillar in Zion, and a Father in Israel. His lips are closed in silence, and a long night hangs upon his eyes. O Brethren, reflect a moment upon this King of terrors, fixed in his purpose, resolves upon victory over all that can die: steady in his course, not regarding the pangs of agonizing nature, "the distress of helpless infancy; the poignant grief of paternal affection, or the bitterest sorrows of connubial love." Since this is the fate of mortals thus to be conquered, in every circumstance, nothing can be more applicable than the words of our Lord, Matthew xxiv. 44. *Be ye also ready.*

This observation was doubtless spoken in allusion to the judgment day; but in order for us to be ready to meet God in the judgment day, it is necessary for us to be ready to serve him in any and every circumstance of life, so that instead of waiting for better times or better circumstances, let every one consider their particular situation in life, under all the embarrassments they meet, as a post in which God has fixed them, and requires them to serve him under their existing circumstances; let them be what they may, viz. if we are poor, we are required to glorify God by contentment, if we are rich, by meekness, shewing ourselves rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; if we are afflicted, by patience; if in prosperity, by temperance; if bereaved, by submission; if comforted, by thanksgiving; if persecuted, by firmness; if made victorious, by ascribing all the praise to God; if injured, by forgiveness; if assisted, by gratitude; if tempted, by denying ourselves for his sake—nor can God be honored by us as he requires, by our waiting till our circumstances alter, and then think to render God the glory due from us in the present; that parents may be ready to do the duties which God requires of them towards their children; that children may be ready to do their duty to their parents; that husbands and wives may be ready to perform their relative duties to each other; that ministers and people, servants and masters, rulers and ruled may be ready to perform what God has enjoined upon them in his word. It is highly necessary that we should stand with our loins girt about with truth, and having on the breast-plate of righteousness, and our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Let each be ready like a musician to play their part when God shall

call ; that like a social band of heaven-born friends, we may promote gospel harmony in the ears of God Almighty. This will be an ornament of grace to our heads and chains about our necks ; but should the chain of duties be broken by any one's regarding iniquity in their heart, our churches may be tossed to and fro like the Heathen Mariner's ship with a Jonah on board, and find it hard rowing for the rest, until such iniquity can be searched out ; but let such Judases remember (if any such there are) the threatening of Jesus, " Woe to him by whom offences come, it were better for him that a millstone was hanged about his neck and that he was drowned in the depth of the sea." But may God preserve us from the guilt and dominion of sin, and help us to watch and keep our garments, that we may not be found naked.

*Signed in behalf of the Association,*

DANIEL WILDMAN, *Moderator,*  
HEZEKIAH WEST, *Clerk.*

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## CORRESPONDING LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE joyfully embrace the opportunity which another annual meeting affords us, of renewing our correspondence with you. Through divine goodness we have had a very comfortable season during our present interview, not only in receiving intelligence of the stedfast faith of the several churches which we represent, but also of some considerable accession to the kingdom of our *divine Redeemer* in some of our churches. The kind Lord is not confining the *precious influences of his spirit* to any one denomination of professing christians : but is displaying his power, and making bare his omnipotent arm, in turning many souls from the power of sin and Satan to himself in various denominations. When we recognize a work of this nature we cannot but exclaim, this is the Lord's doing and it is truly marvelous in our eyes.

Blessed be the name of the *Most High* ; that while nominal christians are exclaiming that religion is in danger of all falling to the ground ; and infidels are almost ready to shout the victory ; we rejoice to see the spirit of the Lord sitting up a standard against them all. The pure doctrine of the despised Jesus through the all-powerful influence of the Holy Ghost will eventually prevail.

Notwithstanding the grand deceiver, personated by the huge host of formal professors, and avowed infidels, may come forward in his most gigantic form, and defy the armies of the living God, let no man's heart fail him on this account ; for the *great spiritual David* is constant-

ly watching his movements, and hearing his blasphemy, and will certainly take the field. *They that are with him, are called chosen and faithful.*

Therefore, brethren, let us strive to walk worthy of our holy vocation; keep close to Him by a faithful adherence to all the great truths of his gospel and discipline; never attempt the attack with Saul's armour, but if we would hope to repel this enemy let us be clothed with humility—'Tis not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord. O that we may possess much of that meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

It is true we may be derided as in the language of Sanballet and Tobiah, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they make an end in a day? But may we with Nehemiah cry to the Lord, saying, O our God, look on us for we are despised. Him who sitteth in the Heavens will certainly appear and vindicate our cause for it is his own.

There is one ground on which the enemy has most successfully attacked the christian, which is this, that while we adopt a right system of truths, evince that these truths have but little influence on our lives. Surely brethren, these things ought not to be so. It ill becomes us to be careless and unwatchful in our lives, especially at such a time as this. O then let us be exhorted to arise and shake ourselves from the dust, and strive to exemplify the character of our *Divine Leader*, who was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners; when he was reviled, he reviled not again, but committed himself to Him, who judgeth righteously, rendered good for evil, and prayed for his own most cruel murderers.

Such ought to be the conduct of all his professed followers, and such truly are the most prominent features of all his true disciples. O may we walk with wisdom towards them who are without, let us love as brethren and study things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another—keep at an everlasting remove from strife and contention of every kind; but strive to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. In this way we may unite in joint harmony to invite the *Heavenly Dove* to come and take up his abode with us. In this travel we may successfully invite our dear unconverted children and neighbors to go with us and we will do them good.

O how forcible are right words when in unison with right tempers and conduct. In view of the whole then let nothing be done by any of us through strife and vain glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself, and if any one has felt himself injured by another after taking the steps which the gospel prescribes in such a case and cannot obtain redress, then be gentle, forbearing one another in love, and be ready to say,

“ When I am wounded by my friends,  
Who once went hand in hand with me,  
Rather than ask of them amends,  
I recommend them, Lords, to thee.

I'll tell thee, Lord, what they have done,  
 With tears of pity on my face,  
 And on thy knees before thy throne  
 Will plead for them thy pardoning grace.

Such a mode of proceeding may be deemed a kind of stoical apathy or a stolidly inanimate may be supposed it is indicative of a truly noble spirit. Such patient courage will fortify the soul against its most formidable enemies, more and better than the most boasted active courage of all those heroes which fill the pages of history with the conquests of kingdoms and empires.

Remember, brethren, that when there was a dispute amongst the disciples while our divine Lord was personally with them which should be the greatest, at one time he took a little child and set him in the midst, saying, "whoever humbleth himself as this little child, the same is great in the kingdom of heaven." On another time, on the like occasion, he said unto them, "ye are they who have been with me in my temptations, and I appoint unto you kingdoms, as my Father hath appointed me;" a kingdom very distant from the kingdoms of this world, for the princes of this world exercise lordship over them, and they who exercise authority upon them are counted benefactors; but it shall not be so among you, for he that is greatest amongst you shall be servant of all. The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost—unto which kingdom may our souls ever aspire, while every object which obstructs itself to impede our progress, is thus absorbed through the effulgent brightness of the glorious Kingdom of God, as set on his holy hill of Zion.

*Signed in order and behalf of the Association,*

DANIEL WILKINSON, Moderator,  
 ABRAHAM WEST, Clerk.

1846