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MINUTES

OF THE

WARWICK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION;

HELD AT MOUNT-PLEASANT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, STATE OF  
 NEW-YORK, ON THE 25th AND 26th OF MAY, 1803.

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1802.

1. At two o'clock P. M. Brother JOHN CATON, by appointment last year, preached the Introductory Discourse, from Psalm cxxxiii. 1. *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

2. After Sermon, proceeded to business—Brother EBENEZER FERRIS was chosen Moderator, JOHN STANFORD Clerk.

3. The letters from the several Churches of this Association were then read.

N. B. *Ministers names in capitals; licensed preacher in italics. Those marked with an asterisk [\*] were not present. From the Churches marked thus [†] we had no intelligence. Dashes [—] denote no settled minister.*

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Dismissed by letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Numbers.
Warwick.	{ ————, John M. Focht, James Burt.	2	0	28	0	4	4	126
York-Town.†	{ REUBEN GARRISON. SILAS SOUTHWORTH,*	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Wantage.	{ Humphrey Martin.	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
Newburgh.†	{ ————	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Clinton-Town.	{ JOHN DODGE,* John M. Thurston, Joseph Tilyu.	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
New-Cornwall.†	{ ————	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Stanford.	{ EBENEZER FERRIS, Frederick Smith.	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Cross-River.†	{ ————	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Bedford.	{ EZRA FOUNTAIN, Silvanus Reynolds, John Lyon.	6	5	3	0	0	0	80
3 Flat-Rock.†	{ ————	0	0	0	0	0	0	28

Carried over,

| 8 | 5 | 31 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 66

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Dismissed by letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Decreased.	Numbers.
	Brought forward,	8	5	31	0	4	4	456
<i>Fayette-street, New-York.</i>	{ JOHN WILLIAMS, Thomas Garriss, Francis Wayland, Ezekiel Archer, Jacob Smith.	2	18	0	0	1	1	97
<i>Brookfield.</i>	{ JOHN CATON, Silvanus Southworth, Uriah Hull.	7	1	2	1	2	3	141
<i>Deer-Park.†</i>	{ BENJAMIN MONTANYE.*	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
<i>Pleasant-Valley.</i>	{ LEVI HALL, Gilbert Knifen.	5	5	6	2	2	2	92
<i>Peek's-Kill.</i>	{ JOHN PALMER, DANIEL HALL, Jun. Daniel Hall, Sen. John Betteley, John Conklin.	33	3	1	1	0	0	57
<i>Middletown.</i>	{ _____, Elihu Cary, Silas Horton, jun.	3	0	6	0	3	1	24
<i>Fair-street, New-York.</i>	{ JOHN STANFORD, John Willis.	1		1	0	0	0	27
<i>West-Town.</i>	{ THOMAS CASAD,* _____	3	3	2	0	0	2	44
<i>Tongore.†</i>	{ _____	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
<i>York-Town, Croton.</i>	{ ISAAC RHODES,* Henry Charlick, John Tompkins.	0	1	1	0	0	0	18
<i>Coram.</i>	{ Nathaniel Overton, John Hammond.	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Total,		62	49	50	4	12	13	1048

4. The last registered Church, by the name of "Coram," Long-Island, was admitted into the union this session.

5. Read an affectionate letter from the Church at Mount-Pleasant, giving this Association an hearty welcome to this place.

6. Unanimously resolved, to invite the Church at Mount-Pleasant to a seat with us in our present session.—Elder FINCH, Elder NELSON, and Elder HOPKINS; with Brethren P. G. SMITH, D. COLE, and JOSEPH COLE, being present, were invited to a seat with us.

7. Brother JOHN WILLIAMS presented his Circular Letter, appointed for this year, and was committed to JOHN STANFORD, E. FERRIS, JOHN CATON, LEVI HALL, JAMES BURT, and URIAH HULL, with the author as a committee of revision, and to report to-morrow.

8. Adjourned till to-morrow morning eight o'clock.—Closed with Prayer by Brother J. WILLIAMS.

9. Sermon in the evening by Brother JOHN WILLIAMS, from Psalm, ii. 12.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26.

10. Met according to adjournment.—Business opened with Prayer by Brother REUBEN GARRISON.

11. Received a letter from the New-York Association, by the hand of Elder JOHN WILLIAMS, and Elder NELSON. Appointed our Brethren JAMES BURT, and JOHN WILLIAMS to prepare a letter in answer.

12. Received a letter and minutes from the Rensselaer-Ville Association, by Elders WILLIAM STEWART and JOHN WIMANS, who were affectionately received by the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator. Appointed Brother F. WAYLAND to write to them, and LEVI HALL and THOMAS STEVENS to be our Messengers.

13. The committee appointed to revise the circular letter for the present year, reported; and the letter ordered to be printed.

14. Received letters and minutes from the Philadelphia Association. Appointed Brother PALMER to write to that association, and that Brother JOHN STANFORD and JOHN PALMER be our messengers.

15. Resolved, That our Brethren JAMES BURT and JOHN M. FOHRT, of the Church at Warwick, be, and are hereby appointed to take charge of all records and papers relative to this association.

16. The Circular Letter prepared by Brother JOHN STANFORD, was received and approved, to lay over for the next year.

17. Brother JAMES BURT be requested to write a Circular Letter for the year following.

18. Brother JOHN WILLIAMS reported, in the name of the Church in Fayette-street, that they, with the Church in Rose-street, hitherto denominated Second Baptist Church in New-York, had procured an act of the Legislature for their re-incorporation; and that the Church in Fayette-street, desired, in future, to be known on our Minutes by the name of "*The Baptist Church of Christ in Fayette-street.*"

19. The Letter prepared by JAMES BURT and JOHN WILLIAMS, in answer to the New-York Association, was read and approved; appointed our Brethren JOHN WILLIAMS and ELIJAH HUNTER to present the same, at their next session.

20. Supplies for the Church at Coram.

Brother FOUNTAIN, 1st and 2d Lord's Day in September.

Brother CATON, 2d and 3d Lord's Day in November.

Brother PALMER, 1st and 2d Lord's day in July, and 1st and 2d in April, 1803.

Business closed with prayer.

AFTERNOON.

21. At three o'clock, met with a full assembly for public worship—Service conducted as follows:

Brother HOPKINS began by prayer.—Hymn.

Brother I. PALMER preached from Gen. xiii. 8. *Let there be no strife, I pray thee, for we be brethren.*—Hymn.

Brother I. WILLIAMS preached from John i. 16. *And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.*—Hymn.

Brother I. STANFORD preached from Judges viii. 4. *Faint yet pursuing.* And after making suitable addresses to the ministers, messengers and congregation, he concluded in prayer.

Proceeded to business.

22. This association to meet next year at Brookfield. Introductory Sermon by JOHN STANFORD, in case of failure, JOHN PALMER.

23. Our aged and worthy brother JAMES PHILLIPS of Fishkill, died this year. *Be ye also ready!*  
24. Brother JOHN STANFORD to superintend the printing of the minutes, and to forward them to the churches.

25. Concluding prayer by brother THOMAS STEVENS.

P. S. We are under obligation to express our gratitude to the KING OF ZION, for the great unanimity and brotherly love that attended us in all the duties of this association. The Lord hasten the time, when showers of grace may fall upon the churches we represent, and upon Zion universally! We should be inexcusable, did we not acknowledge the very affectionate and hospitable entertainment we received from the church, and many of the inhabitants of Mount-Pleasant. In return, we pray, the Mount may be rendered more abundantly pleasant and precious by the copious blessing of God in the conversion of sinners, and the triumph of the righteous! Amen.

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## CIRCULAR LETTER,

By JOHN WILLIAMS.

*The WARWICK ASSOCIATION, convened at MOUNT-PLEASANT, Westchester County, in the State of NEW-YORK, May 25 and 26, 1802.*

*To the CHURCHES they represent, send CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

THROUGH the goodness of our kind Father, we are permitted once more to meet together, to consult the welfare of Zion. Every information relative to the churches of Christ in the world must be interesting to all those who have the cause of the dear Redeemer at heart.

We shall embrace this opportunity to address you upon that interesting subject THE EVIDENCES OF AN INTEREST IN CHRIST, AND THE BLESSINGS CONNECTED WITH IT. Not one of the followers of the Lamb can doubt, for a moment, the importance of this subject. For, if we are strangers to Jesus, all our profession will not avail in the great day of trial; when nothing then shall help us but genuine religion. But if this is secure, all shall end well. All true believers are equally interested in the precious Saviour; but all have not attained the same degree of knowledge and assurance, of their state. Some are weak in the faith, babes in grace, others strong, young men, and fathers. But it is the duty and privilege of all believers to press for the mark of their high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Full assurance of faith is a blessing, which in this life, is attainable by the saints of God. Let us pray for it, and press towards it, in the use of all divine appointments; the spirit may bear witness with our spirits that we are the children of God.

All the subjects of regenerating grace, and who are born of God by the Holy Spirit, are not only convinced of sin, the evil nature and the consequences of it; their helpless and ruined state by nature and practice: but they are also enlightened to see the glory and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. God, who in the first creation commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined into our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The new creation resembles the old: the saints are the children of the light, called out of darkness into his marvellous light; while the blind sinner perceives neither beauty nor glory in the Divine Saviour. The renewed soul beholds Christ's glory, as the glory

of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth; the chief among ten thousand the altogether lovely; and, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, he counts all things but dross in comparison of him, who is all and in all.

Faith in Christ is accompanied with real knowledge of him, in all his people interested in him. The unbeliever is exposed to divine wrath as transgressor of God's holy law, and is condemned already because he believeth not on the Son of God. Faith is the gift of God, wrought in the soul by his Spirit, by the means of his word; by which the convinced mind flies to Jesus for refuge, and renounces all dependance upon his own righteousness. He believes in Christ with all his heart; he rests his eternal all upon the rock of ages; he sets his seal that God is true by believing God's record concerning his Son. His faith is the evidence of things which are not seen with our bodily eyes; and in the nature of it, is holy, purifying the heart, and working by love.

The image of God is implanted in the souls of those who have an interest in Jesus. Christ in you, the hope of glory; being changed into the same image from glory to glory, even by the spirit of God. Love, holiness, humility, patience, meekness, forbearance, forgiveness which dwell in Jesus, dwells also in his saints. Grace in the members, resembles that in the head; it is of the same nature, though different in degrees, as a small quantity of water is of the same quality with the waters in the boundless ocean. It is the daily desire of the true christian to be more conformed to the image of Jesus his glorious Saviour; and it is his burden that he is not more like him whom he loves above all. Glorious union of the saints of God! Neither life, nor death, can break the bond.

Obedience to the commands of Jesus will evidence an union with him. If ye love me, keep my commandments. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. This is the voice of Jesus to all his followers. This is the motive to all evangelical obedience, which is ten thousand times stronger than all the terrors of the law, or the dread of punishment. The slave obeys from fear, but the child is influenced by love to his father. The word of God is our only rule, and not the inventions of men. To worship God contrary to his word, is to insult the wisdom and power of the King of Zion. The Spirit of God in its operations on the soul, cannot lead any to discard the commands of Christ in his word, which were written by divine inspiration. The spirit within, testifies the word of God in the Bible. The precepts of God are not grievous to the soul that is created anew in Christ Jesus:—his burden is light. These are the only blessed ones, who shall enter in through the gates into the holy city.

The glory of God is near and dear to the hearts of all who are interested in the Lamb. When the name of their dear Saviour is reproached by men, or his cause suffers in the world, they are grieved; but when success attends the gospel, it affords them real joy and satisfaction. What is the victory of an army to the splendor of kingdoms, to the success of the truth of Christ, or the victory of his grace over the souls of men, which end in the happiness of the conquered, and the eternal glory God? At this, angels rejoice;—and will not the saints join them in praise? The glory of God is the end of their creation; and not the praise of men. Their happiness is connected with, and flows from the manifestation of the divine glory, they are bought with the blood of the glorious Immanuel, therefore they shall glorify God in their bodies and spirits which are his. To glorify God is their desire on earth, and to glorify and enjoy him in heaven, shall be their eternal employment and delight with the whole family, the Church of the first-born, whose names are written in heaven, who shall unite in one eternal song of praise to God and the Lamb.

The BENEFITS resulting from an interest in Christ, are many and valuable.

Christ is yours; your Lord and your God; your Prophet, Priest and King, in whom you are called to rejoice. He assumed your nature to raise you from sin and misery;—he died for you, and rose again for your justification. He went before to prepare a place for you in glory. His righteousness, and promises, with all the riches of his grace are yours. Christ lives in glory as

your intercessor; and he lives by faith in your hearts. Your lives are hid with Christ, in God's glorious union! the eternal wonder of saints and angels!

If interested in Jesus, we are entitled to all the privileges of his church on earth. All the ordinances of Christ are yours. The Israelites who were born of the seed of Abraham, according to the flesh, had no right to all the privileges of the Jewish church; but being born again of the Spirit of God, they had a title to all the institutions of the gospel. Faith in Christ entitles sinners of all nations to a place among the Lord's family in his house below. Here the saints love to dwell. For the laws, services, provisions, and inheritance are delightful, and here God hath promised his presence and his blessing for ever more.

You live in an age, when infidelity abounds, our Redeemer hath furnished you with the best evidence of the authority of that religion you profess. Your adversaries say, that the terrors of the law is a fiction, but you know that the fruit of sin is a reality, for you have felt its power in your awakened conscience.—Do they call the gospel human invention and imposture.—You know that it is the power of God unto salvation, having felt its energy in your own hearts.—Do they charge the gospel with having an immoral tendency?—Consult your own experience; you know that the blood of Christ purgeth the conscience from dead works to serve the living and the true God. This remedy removes the guilt from the soul; and where grace reigns sin shall not have dominion; it leads to true holiness and influences all its possessors to do good to all men as they have opportunity.—The advocates of infidelity also assert, that religion destroys the happiness of men? But you know from what you have tasted, that nothing can be more false; for in the gospel there is the sum of true and permanent felicity; and from this source all who believe have joy unspeakable and full of glory!

A sense of your interest in Christ will support you under all the trials of life. Though many sorrows attend you, and the temptations of the adversary are powerful, yet, in Christ you have strength equal to your day. From Christ you have riches in poverty; comfort in sorrow, and pleasures in the midst of pain. All power in heaven and on earth is in the hand of your Redeemer, and every necessary support is provided by him, for all his people. He will supply all your need according to his riches in glory. Afflictions are sanctified on purpose to work together for good, to all who love God. He hath declared "he will never leave nor forsake his people." Death the king of terrors is disarmed of its sting; and when your evidence of interest in Jesus is clear, death is considered as a messenger sent to convey you to your heavenly Father's home. You never heard of an instance of one soul, who trusted in Christ, and repented of it in a dying hour; but you know of many who bitterly lamented in that period, the want of that religion which they despised through their life.

Let me only add, you are entitled to a glorious inheritance in heaven. It is reserved in heaven for you, in Christ. If children then heirs, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. The inheritance is invaluable beyond all conception, and the title is secured in the covenant, promises and oath of that God who cannot lie. Your prospects are indeed glorious! ere long, the saints shall enter into the joy of their Lord, free from all evils, and in full possession of all good. Then let our feet walk in the commandments of our Lord, let our tongues speak his praises, and our lives more devoted to his glory! thus when death shall come, we shall depart in peace according to God's most holy word, and our eyes behold his everlasting salvation.

Brethren farewell.

Signed by order of the Association.

EBENEZER FERRIS, *Moderator.*

JOHN STANDFORD, *Clerk.*