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yours 325

MINUTES
OF THE
Philadelphia Baptist Association,

HELD

At the GREAT VALLEY, Chester County, State of Pennsylvania,

October 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1798.

TUESDAY, October 1st, 1798.

1. **A**T 3 o'clock, P. M. Brother THOMAS MEMMINGER being prevented by indisposition, Brother WILLIAM STAUGHTON, agreeably to appointment last year, preached the Introductory Sermon from *Psalms* xlviii. 12, 13. "Walk about Zion and go round about her, tell the towers thereof, mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generations following."

2. After Sermon business was opened with prayer by Brother DAVID JONES, when Brother BURGISS ALLISON was chosen Moderator, and Brother WILLIAM STAUGHTON, Clerk.

3. Letters from twenty-nine Churches were read.

N. B. Ministers names are in CAPITALS. Licenced Preachers in *Italics*. Those marked with an * were not present. From Churches marked thus † we received no intelligence. Dashes denote no settled Minister.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Ministers and Messengers.</i>	<i>Baptized.</i>	<i>Received by Letter.</i>	<i>Dismissed by Letter.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Deceased.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Lower Dublin,	{ SAMUEL JONES, 'Thomas Holmes.	—	1	—	—	—	75
Middletown,	BENJAMIN BENNETT *.	—	—	4	—	4	132
Cohansey,	{ HENRY SMALLEY * { David Shepard.	3	—	—	1	8	99
	Carried over,	3	1	4	1	12	306

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
	Brought forward,	3	1	4	1	12	306
Great Valley,	{ DAVID JONES, JOHN BOGGS, Daniel Cornog, Isaac Abraham, James Abraham, Jonathan Philips, Enoch Jones, David George, Isaac Bewla.						
† Cape May,	{ JOHN STANCLIFF *. JAMES EWING, JOHN BLACKWELL *, David Stout, Joseph Ott. [Restored 1.	2	—	2	—	2	61
Hopewell,	{ JOSHUA VAUGHAN, William Simonfon, John Garret, jun. Thomas Davis, Thomas Stroud.	55	—	1	—	4	179
Brandywine,	{ JOSHUA JONES, Charles Humphries. GARNER HUNT.	—	1	—	—	1	28
Montgomery,	{ PETER WILSON, John Mawford.	4	—	—	—	1	70
Kingwood,	{ THOMAS USTICK, WILLIAM ROGERS, Isaac Carlile, George Ingels, John M ^r Leod, Hugh Gorley, Joseph Keen *, Benjamin Thaw *.	38	1	3	1	3	322
Hights Town,	{ THOMAS USTICK, WILLIAM ROGERS, Isaac Carlile, George Ingels, John M ^r Leod, Hugh Gorley, Joseph Keen *, Benjamin Thaw *.						
Philadelphia,	{ Arthur Watts, Abel Marple, Thomas Folwell *.					2	87
Southampton,							17
Knowlton,							
	Carried over,	102	4	10	2	25	1328

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
	Brought forward,	102	4	10	2	25	1328
New Britain,	{ WILLIAM WHITE *, Edward Matthews, William James, Ephraim Thomas.	21	1	—	—	3	54
Salem,	{ Benjamin Thompson, Henry Mulford.	—	2	—	—	5	79
Dividing Creek,		—	—	2	—	3	60
New-Mills,	{ ALEX ^r . M ^r GOWAN, Levi Wilfon.	11	—	—	1	3	109
† Conoloway, Coram,	{ JOSEPH POWELL *.	—	—	—	—	—	40
Upper Freehold, Pittsgrove,	{ ANDw. HARPENDING.	4	3	—	1	1	30
† Manahawkin,		—	—	—	—	—	79
Vincent,	{ Josiah Philips, Enos Miles, Thomas Lloyd.	—	—	—	—	—	12
Tuckahoe, London Tract,	{ THOMAS FLEESON. JAMES M ^r LAUGHLIN, Philip Miller, Isaac Morris, Thomas Matthias.	6	1	—	—	—	30
Hill Town,	{ DAVID JANE *. BURGISS ALLISON, W ^m . STAUGHTON.	—	—	—	—	—	26
† Lower Smithfield,		15	—	—	1	4	38
Jacobs Town,		—	—	—	—	—	120
† Pitts Town,		2	—	—	—	—	26
Marcus Hook,	{ John Ellis, George Mustin, George White, [Restored 1. John Levering, Anthony Levering, Cornelius Holgate *.	—	2	3	2	1	62
Roxbury,		—	—	—	—	—	134
† Penns Manor,		—	—	—	—	3	17
Sideling Hill,	{ THOMAS RUNYAN, John Ockerman.	—	—	1	—	1	46
		—	—	—	—	—	18
		—	—	—	—	—	48
		161	13	16	7	49	2356

Churches.	Ministers and Messengers.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
	Brought forward,						
West Creek,	{ PETER GROOM, Lemuel Edwards,	161	13	16	7	49	2356
Shemokin,	{ James Edwards. JOHN PATTEN.	7	2	—	1	2	43
Amwell,	{ ————— William Merrell.	46	8	3	—	—	101
		10	3	—	—	—	29
Total,		224	26	19	8	51	2529

4. Brother ISAAC SKILLMAN, who was appointed to write the Circular Letter, being removed by death, Brother SAMUEL JONES is requested to prepare one. After Prayer by the Moderator, Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, October 2d, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Brother David Jones prayed.

5. Letters from the following corresponding Associations, with their Minutes, were received—from New-York, by their Messenger, Rev. William Vanhorne—from Warwick, by Rev. John Williams—from Delaware, by Br. Jesse Walraven, and from Charleston.

6. Appointed the following Brethren to write to the different Associations: Staughton, to Charleston—Ellis, to Warren—Ustick, to New-York—Wilson, to Shaftsbury—Ewing to Warwick—Hunt, to the Delaware; and to produce the letters to-morrow.

7. The following Brethren are appointed Messengers to the Associations: M'Gowan, M'Laughlin and Ewing, to the New-York—Vaughan, to the Delaware—and Harpending to the Shaftsbury.

8. The Church at Salem having applied for assistance, the Brethren under-named will endeavour to supply them:

Samuel Jones,	3d Lord's day in October.
John Ellis	3d ———— November.
William Staughton,	5th ———— December.
John Ellis,	3d ———— January.
Alexander M'Gowan,	3d ———— April.
William Rogers,	3d ———— May.
Thomas Ustick,	3d ———— June.
William Rogers,	3d ———— July,
Peter Wilson,	3d ———— August.
Burgiss Allison,	3d ———— September.

9. The Church at Manahawkin may expect supplies from the following Brethren:

Samuel Jones,	2d Lord's day in November.
Alexander M'Gowan,	4th ———— Do.
Isaac Carlile,	2d ———— December.
Peter Groom,	2d ———— February.
A. Harpending,	2d ———— March.
Alexander M'Gowan,	1st ———— May.

10. The following Brethren will endeavour to be at Pittsgrove:

Samuel Jones,	4th Lord's day in October.
John Ellis,	3d ———— April.
Isaac Carlile,	1st ———— November.

11. At Tuckahoe,

Peter Groom, 1st Lord's day in each month:

12. At Dividing Creek,

A. Harpending, 3d Lord's day in December.

Note. It is particularly recommended by the Association, that such Churches as are destitute of Pastors do endeavour regularly to support divine worship. Their widowed state bespeaks the necessity for prayer, and the promises of the Lord of the harvest encourage it. In most Churches there are brethren who can with acceptableness to a congregation read sermons; and the support of unity and intercourse among the brethren, as well as the duty of publicly venerating the Lord's day in the midst of an infidel world, loudly call for these holy services.

13. The Brethren appointed as a Committee to give advice relative to existing difficulties in Brandywine church, reported the course of conduct they had recommended to that church, which was fully approved.

Brother Samuel Jones concluded in prayer.

Adjourned for an hour—1 o'clock.

2 o'clock, P. M. Met pursuant to adjournment.

14. Agreeably to the request of the Committee, the Church at Brandywine reported their proceedings consequent on the Committee's advice—on which the Association directed, That its opinion be transmitted to the complaining parties, in writing, which was accordingly done.

Brother William Rogers prayed. Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

[Sermon at 4 o'clock by Brother William Vanhorne, from Col. ii. 10. *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*]

THURSDAY, October 3d, 10 o'clock, A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

15. The case of the Church at Opecon Creek being taken up by the Association, and a letter from the Ketockton Association, and another from the Church at Opecon Creek, on the subject, being read, it is the opinion of this Association that the subject be dismissed, and that Brother Samuel Jones be appointed to write both to the Ketockton Association and to said Church, our reasons for this measure.

16. The Letters to the different Associations were read and approved.

17. The Circular Letter, produced by Brother Samuel Jones, was read and approved.

18. The Church at Sideling Hill requesting dismission to a nearer Association, it was granted.

19. Brother Staughton is appointed to write the Circular Letter for the ensuing year, and left to his own discretion as to the subject.

20. Brother Samuel Jones and Brother Staughton are appointed to prepare a Map of the situation of the Churches in this Association, and to inform themselves of the probable expence attending its engraving.

21. Apprehensive that many advantages may result from a General Conference, composed of one or more members from each Association, to be held every one, two, or three years, as may seem most subservient to the general interests of our Lord's kingdom; this Association respectfully invites the different Associations in the United States to favour them with their views on the subject.

22. Brother Ustick is requested to forward to each Association in the United States a copy of our Minutes, on account of the above request.

23. The four following days, viz. the first Tuesdays in January, April, July, and October, are recommended as days of humiliation and prayer, that we may humble ourselves under the hand of God, and seek his forgiveness and favour—and that he would be pleased to pour out his Spirit upon his Churches.

24. This Association, desirous of spreading ecclesiastic information, recommend *Crosby's History of the English Baptists* to our Churches and sister Associations, as a valuable work, and hope that, should our Brother Ustick be disposed to publish it, he will meet with universal encouragement.

25. Brother Ustick reports that the Monies raised for the Savannah African Church were:

	Dolls.	Cents.
From the Church at Middletown	22	00
From the Church at Montgomery	13	50
From other churches in smaller sums	36	34 1-2

Dolls. 71 - 84 1-2

Which was remitted in the following manner, viz.

Cash sent by Mr. Michaels	10	00
Paid by Rev. Mr. Furman	30	00
An order on Mr. John Hamilton for	31	89

Dolls. 71 - 89

26. Collections received for Shemokin Church, viz. from the Church at

Montgomery	4	56 1-2
Philadelphia	40	5
Pennepeck	5	3
Hopewell	5	62 1-2
Hill Town	4	75

Dolls. 60 - 2

Paid Mr. Daniel Rhees - 55 - 27
to Rev. Mr. Patton - 4 - 75

Dolls. 60 - 2

27. Brother Samuel Jones is appointed to preach the Association Sermon next year, and in case of failure Brother William Rogers.

28. Brother Ustick is requested to superintend the Printing of the Minutes.

29. The Association is appointed to meet, on the first Tuesday in October, 1800, at 2 o'clock, P. M. at Philadelphia; but in case of the return of the fever there, to be held at Cobansey.

(CIRCULAR LETTER.)

The ELDERS and MESSENGERS of the several BAPTIST CHURCHES,
pertaining to the PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, convened at
the Great Valley, on Tuesday, October 1st, 1799,

To the several Churches to whom they relate, send Christian Salvation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WHILE we lament the distress in which our Metropolis is involved, which prevented our meeting there, yet we have the pleasure to observe that we have had a pretty general representation from the Churches in our connection, and a comfortable opportunity, for which we desire to be thankful.

You will see by the returns from the Churches, that although it be a dark and declining day, yet the Lord has not left us without the manifestation of his power and grace, but has granted some quickening and refreshing showers of divine influence in divers places, both in our bounds and those of our sister Associations. Being disappointed in addressing you at this time, from the pen of that great man we last year appointed to that service, you can expect but a few general hints imperfectly penned in the midst of the

hurry of business. Doctor SKILLMAN is no more! He has been removed, we trust, from his labours in the Church militant to that rest which remaineth for the people of God; and though we feel and lament the loss we sustain by this heavy visitation, yet we desire to be resigned to the divine will, in a comfortable assurance that our loss is his gain. When we take a view, Brethren, of the number of Churches destitute of those to go in and out before them and break unto them the bread of life, and at the same time that there are so few likely to come forward in the ministry, while so many are removed from their posts on Zion's walls; we think it a time, when we should feel with solemn weight on our minds, the force of our blessed Lord's injunction when he said, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth