

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-YORK
UNIVERSALIST CONVENTION FOR A.D. 1832

The Convention met according to adjournment, at Utica, New-York, on Wednesday, May 9, 1832; and after uniting in prayer with our aged Br. W. [William] Underwood, proceeded to organized the Council, by appointing

Br. JOB POTTER, Moderator, and Br. I. D. [Isaac Dowd] WILLIAMSON, Clerk.

1. *Voted*, to grant the request of the Cayuga Association for the fellowship of this body, and to receive Brs. J. [Jacob] Chase, Jr., A. Clarke, and S. G. Crawford, as members of this Council; they having been appointed delegates from the said Association.

2. Appointed Brs. S. R. [Stephen Rensselaer] Smith, C. F. [Clement Fall] Le Fevre, and Ashley Clark, a Committee to receive requests for ordination, and letters of fellowship.

3. The Committee reported in favor of conferring ordination on Brs. A. B. [Aaron Bort] Grosh, and Jacob Chase, Jr.; and also in favor of granting letters of fellowship to Brs. George Sanderson, David Biddlecom, Jesse Bushnell, Orrin Roberts and Ezekiel De Wolf. Report accepted.

4. The Committee of discipline reported that no causes of complaint had occurred during the past year. Report accepted.

5. Adjourned to 8 o'clock Thursday morning.—Prayer by Br. Geo. Sanderson.

6. Thursday morning. Met according to adjournment, and after uniting in prayer with Br. S. [Stephen] Miles, proceeded to business as follows.

7. *Resolved*, That it is expedient to appoint a Committee of three, whose duty it shall be to hear and report to this Convention such causes of complaint as may be preferred to them by any Association or ministering brother within this State.

8. Appointed Brs. Pitt Morse, S. R. Smith and I. D. Williamson, to constitute the said Committee.

9. *Voted*, To amend the Constitution of this Convention, as proposed in a resolution offered at its last session, in the words following: (to wit,) Resolved, That the Constitution of this Convention be so amended, that the annual meeting shall commence on the *last*, instead of the *second* Wednesday in May.

10. *Resolved*, That a delegation of three members of this body be appointed, to attend the next session of the General Convention of New England, to meet other Delegates that may be appointed by other State Conventions, to confer with them on the subject of organizing a General Convention of Universalists for the United States of America, in which each State Convention shall be equally and annually represented.

11. Appointed Brs. J. Chase, Jr., I. D. Williamson, and C. F. Le Fevre, the above delegates.

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12. The Committee appointed at the last session of this body, on the subject of a Literary Institution, reported, That the necessity of their labors had been superceded [sic] by the doings of the Central Association, and asked leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject. Report accepted, and the Committee discharged.

13. *Voted*, That when this Convention adjourns, it adjourns to meet at Utica, on the *last* Wednesday in May 1833, or at such place in the immediate vicinity, as the standing Clerk may appoint.

14. *Voted*, That Br. D. Skinner prepare the minutes of this Convention, and publish the same in the Magazine and Advocate, accompanied with a circular letter, and that the same be copied in the different Universalist publications.

15. *Voted*, To appoint a preacher to open the next session of this body, by an appropriate discourse.

16. Appointed Br. C. F. Le Fevre, for that purpose, and Br. S. R. Smith as a substitute.

17. The Convention adjourned after uniting with Br. J. Potter, in solemn prayer and thanksgiving.

JOB POTTER, MODERATOR

I. D. WILLIAMSON, *Clerk*

ORDER OF PUBLIC SERVICES

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Prayer by Br. S. R. Smith. Sermon by Br. R. [Rufus] O. Williams—Text, Ps. cxxxiii:1.—Benediction by Br. J. Potter.

AFTERNOON

Prayer by Br. S. [Savillion] W. Fuller. Sermon by Br. C. F. Le Fevre—Text, Luke iii:5,6.—Benediction by the same.

EVENING

Prayer by Br. J. [John] Freeman. Sermon by Br. I. D. Williamson—Text, Psalms cxlv:16. Benediction by the same.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Prayer by Br. George Sanderson. Sermon by Br. J. Chase—Text, Acts iii:19. Benediction by the same.

EVENING ORDINATION SERVICE

Introductory prayer by Br. S. Miles. Sermon by Br. S. R. Smith—Text, 2 Timothy iv:2. Consecrating prayer by Br. D. Skinner. Delivery of Scriptures and Charge by Br. J. Potter.—Right Hand of Fellowship by Br. I. D. Williamson. Benediction by Br. Smith.

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MINISTERING BRETHERN PRESENT.

Brs. J. Potter, Cooperstown; S. R. Smith, Orrin Roberts, and Jesse Bushnell, Clinton; W. [Walter] Bullard, Hartwick; S. W. Fuller, Boonville; C. F. Le Fevre, Troy; I. D. Williamson, Albany; R. O. Williams, Amsterdam; S. Miles, Lee; D. Biddlecom, Cazenovia; G. Sanderson, Genoa; J. Freeman, Hamilton; J. Chase, Berkshire; W. Underwood, D. Skinner, A. B. Grosh, and E. De Wolf, Utica.

LAY DELEGATES PRESENT.

Brs. C. Clark, Springfield; N. Merriam, Leyden; S. Van Schaack, Albany; A. Clark, Elbridge; and S. G. Crawford, Havana.

CIRCULAR

To the respective Associations belonging to this body—to the churches and societies within its boundaries—to all believers in the faith of that Gospel which maketh “free indeed”—and to the vast fraternity of universal humanity; the Universalist Convention of the state of New York sendeth salutations of peace and brotherly love.

BRETHERN—By the indulgent goodness of that almighty Benefactor, whose “tender mercies are over all his works,” we have again been permitted to meet in annual session, and mingle our deliberations, affections, gratitude and devotion, in sweet concord at the altar of sovereign mercy. Our session has been one of harmony and peace, of congratulation and joy.

In the exercise of public worship, the divine unction seemed manifest, both to preachers and hearers; while the doctrine of Jesus dropped like the rain, and distilled like the dew; and we partook of the bread of life, and drank of the waters of salvation freely. In the council, the gentle banner of peace was waved among us—one motive, the general good—and one determination, perseverance—actuated all.

It is with no ordinary feelings of satisfaction and gratitude to the Parent of all good, that we mention, the (to our denomination) large accession in the gospel ministry.—*Five* brethren, of promising talents, in the vigour of youthful manhood, came forward in the ministry of universal reconciliation, and received the fellowship of this Convention as promulgators of the “good tidings” of great joy, which shall be to all people:” and the solemn rite of ordination was conferred on two more who have been tried and proved faithful as soldiers of the cross. And we fervently hope and devoutly pray that on all the seven, the spirit of the Most High may rest, and crown their labors with abundant success. And to many other young men inclining, but still hesitating, to enter this field of extensive usefulness, we would say, Come brethren, the field is white already for the harvest—many more laborers are wanted to supply the constantly increasing calls for the word of life—why stand ye idle all day?

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A new and important era has arrived.—The public mind is awake to the all important subject of divine truth, and to the inquiry, Where is the truth to be found? The extravagancies and outrages of modern revivalism have aroused the public mind from its too long induced lethargy; and these, together with the favorable circumstances of the age of improvements in which we live, and the natural growth, under such circumstances, of the principles of liberty, will result, under God, in eliciting truth, spreading light, and overturning those systems conceived in an age of darkness, nurtured by ignorance, and matured by superstition. For God is able to bring good out of evil; and we have no doubt that these temporary evils will terminate in far greater good.—The time has come when bigotry must quail beneath the resolute grasp of liberality, and superstition hide her head within the ample folds of her dark and gloomy attire, when the dazzling rays of truth are shining full in her face. People of sober sense will no longer receive for truth the traditions and dogmas of men, while unsupported either by Scripture, reason or common sense. It is no longer thought disgraceful to profess faith in a God of infinite *wisdom*, who can never be disappointed—of infinite *power*, who can never be *overcome* by a subtle enemy which he himself has created—and of infinite *goodness*, whose benevolence is as ample as the *wants* of his intelligent creation.

Let us then, brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might—faithful in that good thing which he hath committed to us—always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not vain.

To the minutes of our proceedings we refer you without further specification, for the particulars embraced in the deliberations of our council, hoping for your concurrence and co-operation in the same; and above all things, praying that each and all of us may be guided into all truth, adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, faithfully discharge all our public and private duties, live up to the heavenly doctrine we profess, manifesting benevolence and kindness to all; until we shall at length meet in that grand convention above, to be composed of every creature in heaven, earth and under the earth, and chaunt [sic] the deathless anthem of immortal life and love for ever.—Amen. Per order,

DOLPHUS SKINNER

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Sat. 26 May 1832