

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-YORK  
CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS FOR 1836

[1.] Met in Auburn, May 25, 1836, agreeably to adjournment, and after uniting in prayer with Br. S. [Shaler] J. Hillyer, proceeded to organize the Council by choosing Br. P. PRICE, Moderator, and Brs. *M.* [Nathan] *Sawyer* and *C. S.* [Charles Starr] *Brown*, Clerks.

2. Invited the ministering brethren present to take part in the deliberations.

3. Appointed Brs. G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery, C. Eldred and A. Warden a committee to arrange the public services.

4. Appointed Brs. [Isaac Dowd] Williamson, [Jacob] Chase and Hillyer a committee on fellowship and ordinations.

5. Appointed Brs. M. Jennison, D. Biddlecom and N. [Nelson] Doolittle to nominate delegates to the United States Convention.

6. Received the Niagara Association into the fellowship of this Convention.

7. Appointed one delegate from each Association, viz.—Brs. C. B. [Charles Bingley] Brown, Doolittle, Williamson, D. Biddlecom, Hillyer, N. Sawyer, Chase, Waggoner, W. G. Parke and M. Jennison a committee to consider the powers of this Convention to grant letters of fellowship and ordination.

8. Appointed Brs. T. J. Sawyer, P. Morse and C. F. Le Fevre a committee to prepare a model or models for society or church and society constitutions; also rules and regulations for the government of this Convention in its deliberations—and report the same at our next session.

9. Adjourned till next morning, after prayer by Br. Morse.

10. May 26. Met according to adjournment, and united in prayer with Br. Chase.

11. Heard and accepted the report of the committee on fellowship and ordination, to confer ordination on Br. W. H. Waggoner.

12. Appointed Brs. W. G. Parker, Williamson and Doolittle to nominate the place for our next meeting.

13. Whereas the United States Convention of Universalists at its last session recommended “the propriety and expediency of establishing a Theological Seminary, to the consideration of the members of our denomination,” therefore,

*Resolved*, That, although in the opinion of the members of this Council, the establishment of a Theological Seminary by the Universalist denomination, is *not* desirable, yet we unite in recommending the consideration of that subject to the people. Adopted—Yeas, 11—Nays, 9.

14. The Committee of one from each Association reported,

Whereas some of our Associations have objected to the practice of this Convention in granting letters of fellowship and conferring ordination, and whereas the right to such practice has been denied, and whereas it is deemed important that the views of this Convention, and the course it deems proper to pursue, should be fully known and correctly understood, therefore,

*Resolved*, That uniform precedent warrants the conclusion that this Convention possesses the right to grant letters of fellowship and confer ordination.

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*Resolved*, That as a matter of expediency, this Convention will not grant letters of fellowship; but recommends all candidates for the ministry to apply for fellowship to the Association in whose limits they respectively reside, in all cases where it is practicable.

*Resolved*, That in conferring ordination, this Convention will be guided by such rules and regulations are in force in the Associations in which the applicant resides.

15. Accepted said report unanimously.

16. Heard and accepted the report of the committee to nominate delegates to represent this Convention in the United States Convention at its next session—viz.: That Brs. P. Morse, I. D. Williamson, J. Chase, A. B. Grosh (ministers) and Hezekiah Scott, North Salem; Josiah Hart, Esq., Harford; Ebenezer Murdock, Albany; Imley Prescott, Geneva; D. Brayton, Western; and David Brown, Oxford, (laymen) be said delegates.

(The residences were not given me by the Clerk—I have added them according to my belief. A. B. G.)

17. Appointed Br. Grosh to preach the occasional sermon at our next session, and Br. Chase, substitute.

18. Appointed Br. Grosh to prepare the minutes for publication, and accompany them with a circular.

19. After uniting in prayer with Br. D. Biddlecom, adjourned (agreeably to the report of the committee on adjournment, to meet in Albany, on the last Wednesday and Thursday in May, 1837.

PHILO PRICE, *Moderator*

*Nathan Sawyer,*

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Charles S. Brown,

MINISTERING BRETHERN, NOT DELEGATES, PRESENT.—T. P. [Townsend Paoli] Abell, A. [Alfred] Peck, J. [John] French, E. Gage, J. Boden, G. [Gustavus] S. Ames, S. [Stephen] Miles, A. B. Grosh, O. [Oliver] Ackley, M. B. [Maxcey Barton] Newell, J. B. Sharp, G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery, G. [George] Sanderson, H. [Harvey] Boughton, T.D. [Theodore Dwight] Cook, T. [Timothy] C. Eaton, A. Kinne, W. M. [William Millins] Delong.

Total 18.

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DELEGATION PRESENT

<i>Associations.</i>	<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Laymen.</i>
<i>Black River</i>	P. Morse C. B. Brown	
<i>Cayuga</i>		J. Clift W. G. Parker
<i>Central Chenango</i>	N. Doolittle C. S. Brown	J. A. Norton W. Field, jr.
<i>Hudson River Mohawk</i>	I. D. Williamson J. Whitney D. Biddlecom	T. Biddlecom
<i>New-York Niagara</i>	S. J. Hillyer N. Sawyer	P. Price
<i>Ontario</i>	J. Chase, jr.	A. Goodell G. Smith
<i>Otsego St. Lawrence</i>	W. H. Waggoner	G. Thomas M. Jennison

Ministers, 11—Laymen, 10—Total, 21.

ORDER OF PUBLIC SERVICES

*Tuesday evening.*—Prayer, C. B. Brown. Sermon, S. J. Hillyer, Mark vii:37.

*Wednesday morning.*—Prayer, J. Chase. Occasional sermon, I. D. Williamson, Num. x:29.

*Afternoon.*—Prayer, N. Doolittle. Sermon, A. B. Grosh, Exodus xiii:21.

*Evening.*—Prayer, O. Ackley. Sermon, A. Peck, Job iv:17.

*Thursday morning.*—Prayer, J. Whitney. Sermon, O. Ackley, 2 Kings vi:21,22.

*Afternoon. The Ordination.*—Select Scriptures, J. Whitney. Prayer, C. B. Brown. Sermon, P. Morse, Gen. i:3. Ordaining prayer, J. Chase. Charge and delivery of the Scriptures, I. D. Williamson. Right hand of fellowship, G. Sanderson. Benediction by the candidate.

*Evening.*—Prayer, P. Morse. Sermon, I. D. Williamson, Isaiah liii:11.

CIRCULAR

The New-York Convention of Universalists, to all in its fellowship, and to all the children of God universally, sendeth salutations of peace from God and good will to man.

The proceedings are commended to the careful consideration of all interested in them. They were passed with great unanimity, and where a diversity of opinion prevailed, there was still a unanimous desire to advance the cause.

The subject of establishing a Theological Seminary received considerable attention— for while all agree in the propriety and advantages of having a well-instructed ministry, there is a diversity of opinion with respect to the mode and means in which that knowledge should be obtained. It was believed that, whatever might be the opinions of

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each member of the Council on the good or ill, the policy or impolicy, the necessity or inutility of a Theological Seminary, it was improper that the denomination, as a whole, should be pledged in favor of it. Any number of individuals can unite and establish one, if they please to do so, they, alone, being responsible therefor—but it is not desirable that the responsibility of the few should be urged upon the whole denomination, as a denomination, many of the members of which are totally opposed to such a measure. Hence the subject is referred to the people for their consideration, and the subsequent action of each one to whom it is referred, as seemeth good in his own mind. As one coinciding in the expressed opinion of the majority, I hope it will receive the attention its importance merits, and that some means may be devised by which knowledge may be, not only *increased* among the teachers, but also be *diffused* more generally and extensively among the people, including laity and clergy—all who teach and all who are taught.

Our delegation was far from being full. *Not one* Association was fully represented. Some had but *one* delegate, either lay or ministerial—and *two* (the Steuben and Chautauque) were not represented even in part. This remissness in attendance, (for where the delegate cannot attend, he should strive to appoint a substitute who can and will go,) is much to be regretted. A full expression of the views and feelings, and attention to the wants of our order can never be given by such an unequal and incomplete representation of the Associations. Brethren, do think of these things. If you have active, intelligent men who will make good delegates and faithful representatives, send them—see that they attend, even if you must remunerate those who cannot otherwise afford to take the journey and lose the time.

The public services of the sanctuary were very impressive, instructive and delightful. The songs of Zion sung in sweetest strains, elevated our souls to heaven; the vocal prayer emptied out the heart's best gifts of gratitude and love at the feet of the Father of all, while the preached word filled our minds anew with instruction, consolation and joy, again to bring forth the product of praise and the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

We cannot cease speaking of the delightful season enjoyed by a full house of God's children, without saying that our Auburn brethren, and friends—yea, even some of the opposers of our distinctive sentiment, have given us great cause to remember them as long as gratitude for kindness and affection forms one among the feelings of our souls. May God bless them—fill their understandings with his truth—their souls with his love, and their lives with the providential and gracious demonstrations of his wisdom, power and goodness. Per order,

A. B. GROSH

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