

MINUTES Of the Proceedings of the Universalist  
Convention of the State of New-York, A. D. 1830.

The ministers and delegates from the several Associations comprising the Universalist Convention of the State of New York, assembled in the Universalist Church, in the village of Utica, on Wednesday, May 12th, 1830, agreeable to adjournment of the last year; and proceeded to organize the council, by choosing,

1. Br. C. G. [Cornelius Gray] Person, Moderator, and Br. S. R. [Stephen Rensselaer] Smith, Clerk.

2. Made arrangements for public worship, which were as follows:

WEDNESDAY MORNING SERVICE

Introductory prayer by C. G. Person. Sermon by Br. I. D [Isaac Dowd] Williamson—Text, Acts ii,39. Concluding prayer by Br. S. R. Smith.

3. Appointed Brs. N. [Nathaniel] Stacy, S. R. Smith and W. [William] Underwood, a committee to receive requests for letters of fellowship and ordination; who reported in favor of granting ordination to Br. John Freeman, and a letter of Fellowship to Br. W. [Walter] Bullard.

4. ORDER OF AFTERNOON AND ORDAINING SERVICES.

Introductory prayer by Br. W. Underwood. Sermon by Br. C. G Person—Text, 2 Cor. xiii,5. Consecrating prayer by Br. P. [Pitt] Morse. Charge and delivery of the scriptures by Br. N. Stacy. Right hand of fellowship by Br. S. R. Smith. Concluding prayer by Br. N. Stacy.

5. The council proceeded to take into consideration the case of Abner Kneeland, formerly a minister in the fellowship of this Convention; and passed the following resolution, viz.

*Resolved*, That, whereas, at the last session of this Convention, a resolution was passed, calling on the said A. Kneeland, to answer to certain charges preferred against him by the Second Society of Universalists in the city of New York—And whereas, he, the said A. Kneeland, has renounced all faith in Christianity, and publicly withdrawn from the Universalist connexion, that he be no longer considered a member of this body.

6. Heard the report of the committee of discipline of the last year, which is, that no complaints have been presented to them.

7. Appointed Brs. Underwood, C. G. Person and S. R. Smith, a committee of discipline for the ensuing year.

8. Adjourned to meet at this place at 8 o'clock, Thursday morning.

9. ORDER OF EVENING SERVICE

9. Introductory prayer by Br. W. Bullard. Sermon by Br. P. Morse—Text, Rom. xi,36. Concluding prayer by Br. D. Skinner.

10. Thursday morning, met and opened the council by prayer, by Br. J. Freeman.

11. *Resolved*, That it be, and hereby is, recommended to the Conventional Association, to assume some other name, and to restrict its limits to that part of the counties of Herkimer and Montgomery north of the

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Mohawk River, and such other towns in said counties as may prefer to be comprised in said "Association."

12. *Resolved*, That this Convention approve of the publication of Pamphlets, &c. for general circulation, which has been commenced during the last year, by the several Associations in the fellowship of this body.

13. *Resolved*, That the minutes of this Convention be published in the Magazine and Advocate, and that Br. Underwood prepare them for press, and accompanying the same by a circular letter.

14. Adjourned to meet at Clinton, Oneida co. on the second Wednesday in May, A. D. 1831.

15. Concluding prayer by Br. N. Stacy.

C. G. PERSON, Moderator

S. R. SMITH, Clerk

CIRCULAR LETTER

To the ministers of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, called of God to proclaim the good tidings of his illimitable grace and impartial love to the children of men; and to all those Christian societies, who embrace the like precious faith of Abraham, the friend of God, who are looking, in the full assurance of hope, for the consummation of all the purposes and promises of God, in the final reconciliation of all the nations, families and kindreds of the earth, to himself, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and to all others to whom this epistle may come—this Convention sendeth Christian salutation and brotherly love.

Beloved brethren, with heart-felt pleasure we announce to you, that through the indulgent goodness of God, who has kindly watched over and preserved our lives through the various vicissitudes of another year, a goodly number of brethren have been permitted to assemble on this interesting and pleasant occasion. Our deliberations and performances, in council, were conducted in the pure principles of mutual interest, and brotherly love. And to heighten our happiness, while in this pleasant frame of spirit, our ears were saluted with a heart-cheering discourse, upon the subject of Peter's address on the ever memorable day of Pentecost, to the multitude then assembled; in which both the promises of God, and the extend of divine grace, were most beautifully illustrated; to which every believing heart could most cheerfully respond in full assurance of faith.

The further addresses from the desk, were both appropriate on the occasion, and interesting to every individual present. And when was added to these entertainments, which were so cheering to our hearts and feelings, the melodious singing of a well conducted choir, from the gallery; with heart-felt joy we could say, it is good for us to be here.

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But beloved brethren, while God is thus feeding our spirits with the provision of his house, in such rich abundance, we are to remember that those who are yet aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise; who, being blinded by the god of this world, or in other words, by the ruling powers of darkness and superstition, which so astonishingly pervert the mind and feelings of so many in this (otherwise) free and happy land; we are to contend earnestly for the faith (which was delivered by both Christ and his apostles to the primitive saints) according to the exhortation of St. Jude to his brethren, on an occasion not very dissimilar to the passing events of the present day. Then there were men who were turning the grace of God into licentiousness, and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ, by which we are to understand they were perverting the holy institutions of the gospel for the promotion of their own interests, or political purposes; speaking evil of things of which they were ignorant. And as then, so now, like the raging waves of the sea, they are foaming out their own shame (or that of which they ought to be ashamed;) wandering stars, which emit darkness rather than light—whose great swelling words are composed of their hard speeches and slanderous railings against all those who do not subscribe to their creeds, and contribute to their funds; and walking after their own lusts, or sinful desires, creeping into houses and leading captive...the weak and ignorant, of almost every description in community.

But, beloved brethren, without railing or rendering evil to any one, may we according to the example given by Michael, the arch-angel, when contending with the imposter, say, The Lord rebuke them. And in the exercise of that charity which endureth all things, keeping ourselves in the love of God, and in the fellowship of his spirit, see the pleasure of the Lord prosper both in our hearts and hands; and the trophies of God's victorious grace, be multiplied as the stars of heaven, and the sand upon the seashore according to the holy promise of Abraham's God. And every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea, and all that are in them, shall unite in one general concert of universal praise, to him who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever. Amen. By order,

WM. UNDERWOOD

*Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate*, Utica NY, Sat. 22 May 1830