

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNIVERSALIST
STATE CONVENTION OF NEW-YORK, FOR 1833

1. Met in Utica, according to adjournment, May 29th, and were called to order by the Standing Clerk.
2. United in prayer with Br. Morse.
3. Appointed Brs. C. F. [Clement Fall] LE FEVRE, Moderator, T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer, Clerk, and P. [Pitt] Morse, Assist. Clerk.
4. Appointed Brs. Skinner, Morse and [George] Messinger a committee on letters of fellowship and ordination.
5. *Resolved*, That the Convention invite the ministering and lay brethren present to aid in the *deliberations*, (only,) of this body.
6. Received and accepted the report of the "committee of three whose duty it shall be to hear and report to this Convention," any complaints preferred—which was, that no complaints had been laid before them during the past year.
7. Appointed Brs. Morse, Skinner, and Sawyer to act as the aforesaid committee for the ensuing year.
8. *Resolved*, That this body recommend the Central Association, to divide itself into two Associations, at its next session.
9. Received and accepted the report of the committee on fellowship and ordination, viz:—That letters of fellowship be granted to Brs. Timothy C. Eaton, William Whittaker, jr., and William Queal; and ordination be conferred on Br. Shaler J. Hillyer, Jeremiah H. Whelpley, and Daniel R. Biddlecom.
10. Whereas, we feel the want of a suitable commentary on the New Testament, and whereas our rapid increase would, in our opinion, fully warrant the undertaking of such a work, Therefore,
 - (1.) *Resolved*, That we recommend some qualified person to prepare in a popular form, a commentary on the New Testament which shall subserve the general cause of truth.
 - (2.) *Resolved*, That Br. Hosea Ballou, 2d, of Roxbury, Mass., be solicited to write and publish the proposed work.
 - (3.) *Resolved*, That in our individual and public capacity we will aid and encourage Br. Ballou in the furtherance of this design, by obtaining subscriptions, or in any other manner which the execution of the work may require.
 - (4.) *Voted*, That Br. S. R. Smith be requested to address Br. H. Ballou, 2d, communicating to him the preceding resolutions.
11. *Voted*, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to Br. C. F. Le Fevre for the annual opening Address delivered before this body, and that a copy of the same be requested for the press.
12. Appointed Br. P. Morse to deliver the next annual Address, and Br. A. [Alfred] Peck as substitute.
13. *Voted*, That it be recommended to the respective Associations of Universalists in this State, to ascertain as soon as practicable, and report to

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this Convention, through the medium of their Standing Clerks, or committees appointed for that purpose, the *number* and *location* of Universalist societies within their respective limits: the number of members at their formation, and the increase and diminution up to this time; the amount, or proportion of time they are supplied with preaching, by whom, and such other statistics as may be deemed interesting to this body, or to the Universalist public.

14. Appointed Brs . I. D. Williamson, T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Whitcomb, (ministers,) Maxcey B. Newell, and S. [Stephen] Van Schaack, (laymen,) delegates to the Convention to be holden on the third Wednesday and Thursday of September next, in Strafford, Vt.

15. Appointed Br. [Aaron Bort] Grosh to prepare these Minutes for the Magazine and Advocate, and accompany the same with a Circular Letter.

16. Adjourned, by uniting in prayer with the Moderator, to meet again in Utica, on the last Wednesday in May, 1834.

C. F. LE FEVRE, *Moderator.*

T. J. SAWYER,
 } *Clerks*
PITT MORSE,

ORDER OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

Wednesday morning.—Prayer by Br. Stephen R. Smith. Annual Address by Br. C. F. Le Fevre. Benediction by the same.

Afternoon.—Prayer by Br. I. D. Williamson. Sermon by Br. T. J. Sawyer, Matt. xxii:37.—Prayer by Br. J. [John] Freeman.

Evening.—Prayer by Br. R. [Rufus] O. Williams.—Sermon by Br. William Whittaker, jr., Isa. xlvi:12. Prayer by Br. Paul Dean.

Thursday morning.—Prayer by Br. N. [Nelson] Doolittle. Sermon by Br. T. F. King, 2 Cor. iv:1,2.—Prayer by Br. A. Peck.

ORDINATION.

Afternoon.—Introductory prayer by Br. Jacob Chase. Sermon by Br. P. Morse, John i:17.—Ordaining prayer by Br. T. J. Whitcomb. Charge and delivery of the Scriptures by Br. S. R. Smith. Right hand of fellowship by Br. I. D. Williamson. Concluding prayer by Br. J. [Job] Potter.

Evening.—Prayer by Br. J. Potter. Sermon by Br. Paul Dean, Matt. viii:11. Prayer by Br. C. F. Le Fevre.

Sermons were delivered on Friday afternoon at New-Hartford, and in the evening at Clinton, by Br. Dean; and in Utica, on Friday evening, by Br. Peck.

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MINISTERIAL DELEGATES PRESENT

D. Skinner, Utica; S. R. Smith, Clinton; G. Messinger, South Bainbridge; Alfred Peck, Montrose, Penn.; C. F. Le Fevre, Troy; T. J. Sawyer, New-York; P. Morse, Watertown; O. [Obadiah] Whiston, Oswego; J. Gregory, Salisbury; O. [Orrin] Roberts, Cedarville; G. Sanderson, Genoa.

MINISTERING BRETHERN PRESENT; WHO WERE NOT DELEGATES

David Biddlecom, Cazenovia; Daniel R. Biddlecom, Deerfield; J. Potter, Cooperstown; I. D. Williamson, Albany; J. Chase and W. [William] Queal, Mottsville [Mottville]; R. O. Williams, Amsterdam; C. S. [Charles Starr] Brown, Oxford; L. C. Brown [Lewis Cresaba Browne], Fort Plain; J. [Jesse] Bushnell, Sullivan; S. [Shaler] J. Hillyer, Brooklyn, L. I.; T. J. Whitcomb, Schenectady; J. Freeman and J. E. Holmes, Hamilton; T. F. King, Portsmouth, N.H.; P. Dean and G. Campbell, Boston, Mass.; T. [Timothy] C. Eaton and W. [William] E. Manley, Clinton; J. [Jeremiah] H. Whelpley, Felt's Mills; N. [Nelson] Doolittle, Lisle; w. Whittaker, jr., Hudson; S. [Savillion W. Fuller, Leyden; J. Britton, Sharon; A. K. Marsh, (late of Vermont,) Plymouth, Chenango county; W. Underwood and A. B. Grosh, Utica; J. Parry, Pompey.

LAY DELEGATES PRESENT.

J. A. Norton and David Dunbar, Central Association; William Monroe, Chenango Association; S. Van Schaack, Hudson River Association; N. Merriam, Mohawk River Association.

CIRCULAR LETTER

To the whole family of mankind the Universalist Convention of the State of New-York sendeth salutations of grace, mercy and peace from God our common Father, and from Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

We have again been permitted to enjoy a cheering and edifying session of brethren gathered together from the various Associations composing this body. We have been assisted in our deliberations, and aided in our ministerial labors by many dear brethren who kindly visited us and shared of our common joys. By the list accompanying the Minutes, it will be seen that *thirty-eight* ministering brethren attended this session—a larger number than ever before honored us with their presence. And when the harmony and order which prevailed are taken into consideration, who can doubt that it was good for us to be together?

The proceedings of the Council are before you. Each measure is important and interesting in its respective sphere. They all speak for themselves. Well matured—carefully considered, and, I believe, unanimously adopted, they commend themselves to a like consideration in you, and adoption by you, and need no further comment at my hands. By them you will learn that letters of fellowship have been granted to three brethren, whose past labors give evidence of future usefulness; and

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ordination was conferred on three others, who, I feel assured, will never be unmindful of the high vocation unto which they have been called.

Assurances of the onward progress and increasing influence of our most holy faith have reached us from nearly every section. Let but Universalists use means in accordance with their faith—"renounce the hidden things of dishonesty"—and *live* their doctrine, by manifesting in their conduct its purity and power, and these assurances will never fail. In these things, our dependence must not be on the ministry alone, but more particularly on the laity—on the people at large in our denomination. The *people*, and not a particular *order* or *profession*, must defend, and advance, and exemplify a cause which is so peculiarly theirs. Let them see to it. I regret that their neglect has given me cause for this monitory exhortation. But where were the lay delegates? Are not our deliberations and our general measures worthy of their attention—of their co-operation when good, and opposition when evil? Or do they suppose we have an infallible and perfect ministry? I hope no cause for this remonstrance will ever again occur.

The services of the sanctuary were well attended. The word was preached in demonstration and with power—was listened to with devout attention and joy—and the praises of God were hymned with the understanding and the heart also. May the word preached long continue to exert its purifying and energetic influence on those who heard, and through them on the several circles of society in which they move.

Finally, Let us, while we gratefully remember the discouragements and difficulties of the past, and feel the bright and joyous anticipations, created by the experience of present prosperity and success, take heed to our steps, carefully ponder our ways, and diligently manifest our gratitude to God, by serving one another in love, so that, whether triumphant or not, we may feel conscious of having done all we could to deserve it. Per order,

A. B. GROSH

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Sat. 15 Jun 1833

Transcribed with notes added on 25 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY