

MINUTES Of the Proceedings of the New York State  
Convention of Universalists. Session of 1840.

1. Met according to adjournment, in the city of Utica, on the last Wednesday (27th) of May, 1840, and joined in prayer with Br. Job Potter.

2. Chose Br. Pitt Morse, Moderator, and Br. G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery, Clerk, for the session.

3. The minutes of the last session were read and approved.

4. Br. S. R. [Stephen Rensselaer] Smith, in a very feeling manner, communicated to the Convention, the melancholy news that Br. Savillion W. Fuller departed this life, in Philadelphia, on the 17th inst., of consumption, aged 37 years; also, that Br. William Underwood died in Litchfield, Herkimer county, on the 26th inst., of dropsy, aged 73 years.

5. Ordered that said annunciation be recorded in the minutes.

6. Brs. J. Potter, S. R. Smith, and O. [Obadiah] Whiston were appointed the committee on ordination.

7. Brs. J. T. [John Temple] Goodrich, E. M. [Edwin Mott] Woolley, and Lyman Birch were appointed a committee on adjournment.

8. Brs. O. Whiston, W. [William] Queal, and W. [William] H. Waggoner were appointed a committee to nominate the preacher to deliver the occasional sermon before the next session of this body, with power to appoint a substitute.

9. Brs. S. R. Smith, O. [Oliver] Wilcox, J. [Job] Potter, B. [Bezaleel] Thayer, and B. [Billy] Titus, were appointed a committee to nominate delegates to attend the next session of the United States Convention.

10. Adjourned till immediately after the afternoon services.

11. *Afternoon*—Met according to adjournment.

12. The committee to name the preacher of the occasional sermon at the next session of the Convention, reported Br. T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer, of New York city. Adopted.

13. Brs. S. R. Smith, D. [Dolphus] Skinner, and J. Potter, were appointed a committee of General Correspondence, whose duty it is to receive and communicate to the proper authorities, all facts relating to the conduct of preachers and associations; and who shall report once a year to the Convention.

14. The Committee to select delegates to the United States Convention, reported as follows:—*Preachers*—C. F. Le Fevre, Pitt Morse, M. B. Smith, Job Potter;—*Laymen*—B. [Benjamin] Caryl, Buffalo; S. [Seth] Doubleday, Cooperstown; S. A. Budd, Carthage; W. Berry, Homer; H. H. Brown, New York; R. J. Stebbins, Clinton. Report adopted.

15. Br. D. Skinner respectfully tendered his resignation of the office of Standing Clerk, because of the difficulty of attending to its duties. Resignation accepted.

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16. Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be returned to Br. Skinner for the faithful manner in which he has discharged the duties of Standing Clerk.

17. Br. G. W. Montgomery, of Auburn, was chosen Standing Clerk.

18. On motion of Br. T. [Timothy] Clowes, the following preambles and resolutions were adopted—

1. Whereas, history has demonstrated that the Gospel of impartial grace advances in proportion as light and knowledge are diffused among the people—and whereas the experience of our denomination proves that our periodicals have been greatly blessed of God in spreading true religious knowledge among the people, and are important aids in devising means for advancing the prosperity of our Zion, therefore

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend the Expositor and Universalist Review to all our able lay brethren, who, in conjunction with our preachers, are often called on to defend and advocate the doctrine of the Restitution—and that our Societies in this State be requested to subscribe for it also, and to keep it in their several libraries, for the use of their present and future ministers.

2. Whereas, the circumstances of the times require *renewed* exertions in favor of the weekly periodicals devoted to the cause of Universalism, therefore

Resolved, That this Convention do recommend to our ministering and lay brethren, their continued and *efficient* support of the Christian Messenger (or Universalist Union,) published in the city of New York, and of the Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate, published in the city of Utica.

19. *Thursday*.—Voted that Br. A. B. Grosh be requested to prepare the minutes of this session for publication in our papers in this State.

20. Brs. S. R. Smith and A. B. Grosh were appointed a Committee to take into consideration a letter from Br. T. C. Eaton, requesting the advice of the Convention in relation to charges alleged against Rev. \_\_\_\_.

21. The Committee on adjournment being unable to agree on the place for holding the next session of the Convention, the Council voted to adjourn, at the close of this session to Watertown, Jefferson County, N.Y.

22. The committee to whom was referred the letter from Br. T. C. Eaton, reported—

That the ministering brother complained of, by settling as the pastor of a society in the bounds and fellowship of the Genesee Association—and by accepting a seat as a member of the councils of that association, and by acting as its officer, *has* placed himself under, and acknowledged the jurisdiction of the Genesee Association, and made himself amenable to its rules and regulations—and, further, that the ministering brother referred to was, at the time of committing the offence alleged, a resident in the bounds

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of the Genesee Association, although said alleged offence was committed in the bounds of the Chautauque Association. We therefore recommend our aggrieved and injured brethren in Chautauque county, to appoint a Committee of inquiry to collect the facts and testimony in the case, and forward the same, well attested, to the Committee of Discipline of the Genesee Association, to whom it properly belongs, for such action as they, in their wisdom, may deem right and proper. Report adopted.

23. Adjourned at the close of the services, on Thursday afternoon, (28th,) to meet in Watertown, on the last Wednesday of May, 1841.

PITT MORSE, Moderator

G. W. MONTGOMERY, Clerk

DELEGATION PRESENT

<i>Associations</i>	<i>Clerical Delegates</i>	<i>Lay Delegates</i>
Allegany	<i>None.</i>	<i>None.</i>
Black River	W. H. Waggoner Pitt Morse	B. Thayer E. M. Fitch
Cayuga	G. W. Montgomery A. C. Barry	John Q. Robinson Lyman Birch
Central	E. M. Woolley Dr. T. Clowes	E. Gray Billy Titus
Chautauque	<i>None.</i>	L. Harrington
Chenango	J. T. Goodrich	L. Eggleston
Hudson River	D. Ackley S. R. Smith	David Zeh
Mohawk River	J. D. Hicks	B. S. Keeler D. Post
New York	<i>None.</i>	Thomas Robinson
Niagara	<i>None.</i>	<i>None.</i>
Ontario	Wm. Queal	E. Cook
Otsego	O. Whiston Job Potter	Levi Smith, Jr.
St. Lawrence	O. Wilcox	<i>None.</i>
Steuben	<i>None.</i>	<i>None.</i>

Total, 14 ministerial, and 14 lay delegates—being only *one half* of the entire delegation.

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MINISTERS PRESENT, NOT DELEGATES

F. Whitaker, West Halifax, Vt.; D. J. Mandell, Westbrook, Me.; H. [Harvey] Boughton, Scipio; N. [Nelson] Brown, Onondaga; D. Biddlecom, Hampton; L. L. Sadler, Troy; O. [Orrin] Roberts, Lakeville; H. Belding, J. S. Kibbe, Richfield Springs; I. Chamberlain, Collinsville; H. B. [Henry Birdsall] Soule, Fort Plain; W. M. [William Millins] Delong, Lebanon; D. Morey, Munnsville; G. [George] W. Gage, New Hartford; P. [Phineas] Hathaway, Amsterdam; L. Hyatt, Otsdawa; D. Skinner, Deerfield; T. D. [Theodore Dwight] Cook, A. R. Bartlett, A. B. Grosh, Utica. Total of preachers, including ministerial delegates, 34.

REMARKS

The Convention enjoyed a very delightful and harmonious session. And while we regret that so many of the delegation were not present to share our joys, and to mingle in its deliberations, we rejoice that the few who did attend, performed their duties as members of the council with perseverance, patience and industry; and were rewarded for their labors by the consciousness of duties well performed, and the prospect of a happy result.

Sermons of varied character, but all excellent of their kind, were preached by Br. N. Brown, on Tuesday evening; Brs. D. Ackley, L. L. Sadler and D. J. Mandell, on Wednesday; and by Brs. P. Morse, and S. R. Smith (who also delivered the usual addresses), on Thursday. These brethren were aided in the services by Brs. Soule, Waggoner, Chamberlain, Woolley, and Wilcox, and by the spirited and appropriate strains of the choir of the Utica society. When we add to this, the delightful weather and season, the attentive and joyous congregations, and the hospitality and social intercourse (pleasing to the hosts, and we trust, to all their guests) which filled the intervals between the services, we have briefly sketched the illumined portions of this "feast of fat things." The shades that tempered its warmth, and sobered to chasteness its enjoyments, were the death of Br. S. W. Fuller, (unknown to many until their arrival here,) and of Br. Wm. Underwood, on the very eve of the Conventional session. The tears dropped to their memory, beamed with the radiance of a hope of reunion; and the sorrowing allusions to our loss, were turned to devout thankfulness that it was their gain.

Another painful circumstance, was the call for our advice in relation to reported difficulties in the western part of the state. The course pointed out in the minutes, is the only one we could recommend as just to all parties—and we think the brethren in each Association will perceive that, in giving it, we have no disposition to refuse the request of the one, or to interfere with the rights of the other. The vote on that, as on most other subjects acted on by the council, was *unanimous*.

The place of adjournment, which caused some discussion, is in a region never yet favored with a meeting of the Convention; and yet is equally central to our large north eastern associations, and to those of the middle portions of the State. It is easy of access from East and West, by lake Ontario and the St.

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Lawrence river; and from the South, by 80 miles stage route from Utica, or by water from Syracuse, via Oswego. It is to be hoped, therefore, that few will find it difficult to attend our next annual session.

The recommendation of the Expositor to more general and substantial patronage, will not, we hope, be looked at as a mere expression of a faint wish; but as an earnest desire. We feel some denominational pride in that manner, as well as a pure zeal for the extended usefulness of our work. It is the *only* work of the kind in our order, and is acknowledged by all acquainted with it, to be highly useful. We boast that we are a reading people—fond of acquiring correct and extensive religious and biblical knowledge, and that our sentiments flourish best where such knowledge is most diffused. Shall the world point to our neglect to support well and truly, this best means of disseminating such knowledge among us, as a practical refutation of our pretensions and professions?—a refutation, too, *furnished by ourselves!* Forbid it, every feeling of honest pride and holy consistency.—In regard to the weekly periodicals recommended to renewed and more efficient patronage, the vote would have been unnecessary, (however grateful to the feelings of the publishers,) had not the pecuniary embarrassments of the past three years, prevented their late and present subscribers from being more prompt and faithful in paying, and in continuing, their subscriptions. And may we not say here, that the aid most grateful to, and desired by, the publishers, is the speedy payment of what is already due them; and next to that, and most useful to the cause, will be a large addition of the names of promptly paying and zealous Universalists to their subscription lists. In return for this gratifying voluntary vote of the Convention, and for any aid which it may lead our brethren to extend to the publishers of our periodicals in this State, I think I can pledge the continuing devotion of the best talents, energies and means of the publishers, to make their papers more and more interesting and profitable to their subscribers and readers—more useful to the cause of God and humanity.

And now, brethren and sisters of every name and nation, we commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, praying that you may increase and abound more and more in every good word and work, until the fullness of God's salvation breaks on the universe, in the dawn of a holy and happy resurrection to immortality. AMEN. Per order,

A. B GROSH

*Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate*, Utica NY, Fri. 7 Jun 1839

Transcribed with notes added on 31 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY