

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
*Of the Universalist Convention of the State of New York*

Met according to adjournment in Cooperstown, May 31, 1853, and after prayer by Br. J. K. Ingalls, chose Br. W. Burbank, Moderator, and Brs. A. [Alfred] C. Barray and T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Whitcomb, Clerks.

Read the names of delegates appointed by the Associations, and after receiving credentials of the substitutes, found the following delegates present at the session:

ASSOCIATIONS	PREACHERS	LAYMEN
Allegany	G. S. Gowdy	None.
Black River	P. Morse	B. Thayer
	S. Jones	E. Palmer
Cayuga	T. J. Whitcomb	S. B. Gaylord
	H. L. Hayward	
Central	D. S. Morey	
	A. B. Grosh	J. Thorne
		N. Mago
Chautauque	S. Simonds	None.
Chenango	A. O. Warren	T. G. Lambe
	J. T. Goodrich	E. Laramore
Hudson River	J. A. Aspinwall	W. U. Chase
	H. Lyon	D. M. Moore
Mohawk	P. Hathaway	A. Yale
		L. Eaton
New York	M. Ballou	W. Burbank
	J. K. Ingalls	L. Seymour
Otsego	A. C. Barray	N. Stevenson
	D. Pickering	J. Devendorf
St. Lawrence	F. J. Briggs	L. Buck
		D. Mack
Steuben, Ontario and Niagara Associations, no delegates present.		

Read and adopted the Minutes of the last session.

Heard and adopted the report of the Committee of Correspondence, that charges have been preferred by a ministering brother of the Black river Association against the St. Lawrence Association and a ministering brother of the latter Association, and that being unable, from various causes, to investigate said charges, they beg leave to report them, with all the testimony received, to the Convention. They also recommended that the Convention appoint a Committee of five brethren to whom shall be referred the subject, with directions to examine, decide and report on the same during the present session, if practicable—if not, that they appoint a sub-committee of three of their number who shall perform the duties of said committee as early as possible, during the recess of the Convention.

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The Moderator appointed, (and the Convention approved,) the following brethren to serve as said Committee of investigation—Brs. M. [Moses] Ballou, J. K. Ingalls, S. Simonds, N. Stevenson, A. Yale.

The Moderator appointed the following committees: On adjournment—Brs. [Pitt] Morse, Ballou and [John Temple] Goodrich.—On delegates to the U. S. C.—Brs. Ingalls, [Phineas] Hathaway and Moore.—On preacher of the occasional sermon—Brs. Seymour, Barray and Goodrich. On publication of Minutes—Brs. [Aaron Bort] Grosh and Whitcomb. On preparation of Business—Brs. [Joseph Aikin] Aspinwall, Moore and Whitcomb.

The Council appointed the following standing Committees: Correspondence—Brs. E. M. Woolley, T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Sawyer, S. R. [Stephen Rensselaer] Smith. Ordination—Brs. J. T. Goodrich, S. [Shaler] J. Hillyer and H. [Harvey] Boughton.

Received and read the Reports from the Associations represented, of which the following is an abstract:—*Alleghany* has 8 societies, 2 meeting houses, 7 preachers, 1 Sunday school, 1 church. *Black river*, the same as last year. *Cayuga*, 13 societies, 11 meeting houses, 8 preachers, 3 Sunday schools, 3 churches. *Central*, 16 meeting houses (including 4 Union houses,) 17 societies, 10 preachers, 1 church and 2 Sunday schools. *Chautauque*, \_\_\_ societies 2 meeting houses, and 6 preachers. *Chenango*, 13 societies, 7 meeting houses, 6 preachers and 3 churches. *Hudson river*, 15 societies, 9 meeting houses, 7 preachers, 5 Sunday schools and 4 churches. *Mohawk*, \_\_\_ societies, \_\_\_ meeting houses, 4 preachers. *New York*, 12 societies, 9 meeting houses, 11 ministers, Sunday schools and churches not reported. *Otsego*, 11 societies, 10 meeting houses, (including two Union houses,) 5 preachers, 5 churches and 2 Sunday schools. *St. Lawrence*, the same as last year.

The following reports from the respective committees were severally heard and adopted. 1. No request for ordination. 2. Br. A. C. Barray, preacher of the next occasional sermon. 3. Salisbury, Herkimer county as the place of the next meeting.\* 4. Delegates to the U.S. Convention, Brs. T. J. Sawyer, J. Potter, T. J. Whitcomb, P. Hathaway, ministers; and B. Caryl, R. Case, A. Mudge, J. M. Hughes, G. Thomas and A. Metcalf, laymen.

The committee appointed to investigate the charges against the St. Lawrence Association, etc., reported, that on examining the Constitution of the Convention (Article 4,) and precedents, they did not feel at liberty (Without express instructions of the Convention) to investigate the charges against the minister, said charges having been preferred by a minister, as an individual merely; but only those against the St. Lawrence Association—thus making it their duty to examine *the facts of the proceedings of the Association*, and *not the facts of the minister's case*, tried by it. Having signified this to the complainant, he submitted a written declaration, stating that as his main object was to procure an investigation of the preacher's guilt or innocence, he

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\*There were no requests from the Western societies.

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withdrew the charges against the St. Lawrence Association, so that the Committee find no cause for further action, and beg to be discharged. *Adopted.*

Resolved, That this Convention tender their acknowledgments to the Methodist society of Cooperstown for their liberality and Christian courtesy in granting us the use of their meeting house on this occasion.

Resolved, that the Clerks forward a copy of the above resolution to the Trustees of the Methodist society.

Resolved, That our thanks be tendered to Br. E. M. Woolley, for delivering the occasional sermon, and that he be requested to furnish the usual copy for publication.

Adjourned on Thursday afternoon to meet in Salisbury, on the last Wednesday in May, 1844.

W. BURBANK, Moderator

A. C. Barray

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T. J. Whitcomb

*Ministers, not delegates, present.*—J. [Jacob] Whitney, Rochester; E. M. Woolley, Bridgewater; G. S. Abbott, Dexter; C. S. [Charles Starr] Brown, Marshall; J. [John] D. Hicks, St. Johnsville; J. [John] S. Stewart, Erieville; S. J. Hillyer, North Salem; Z. [Zenas] Cook, Hamilton; O. [Obadiah] Whiston, J. Potter, Cooperstown; M. B. Smith, Newport; A. C. Thomas, Brooklyn; D. [Dolphus] Skinner, Deerfield; W. G. Anderson, Ford's Bush; G. [Grosvenor] Swan, Richville; W. H. Ryder, Utica; H. Boughton, Watertown; E. E. Guild, South Bainbridge; L. Hyatt, Laurens; C. L. Shipman, North Norwich; J. French, Depauville.—21—Delegates, 18—Total, 39.

Sermons were preached by Brs. Hathaway, Woolley, Ballou, Grosh, Skinner, Jones, Morse, and Thomas.—A Sunday School Address was also delivered by Br. Barray. The deliberations of the Council were harmonious—the congregation so large as to bear division on Thursday forenoon, the singing excellent, and the preaching as good as usual on such occasions. We were kindly received and hospitably entertained. The weather only was unpleasant. As all the business performed is embraced in the Minutes, further remarks appear unnecessary. Per order.

A. B. GROSH

*Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate*, Utica NY, Fri. 9 Jun 1843

Transcribed with notes added on 15 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY