

New York State Convention Minutes of Proceedings 1848

1. Met at Watertown, May 31, 1848.
2. Was called to order by Rev. P. [Pitt] Morse, Moderator of the last Convention.
3. United in Prayer with Rev. J. M. [John Mather] Austin.
4. Made out the roll of Delegates.
5. Chose Br. Job Potter Moderator of the Council.
6. Chose Br. G. L. Demarest, clerk.
7. Approved the Minutes of the last Session.
8. Received the Report of the Trustees and Treasurer of the New York Universalist Relief Fund, and referred the same to a Special Committee, consisting of Brs. J. M. Austin, P. Morse and H. L. Hayward.
9. Received Reports from the New York and Buffalo Associations.
10. Voted that the Annual Address before the New York State Universalist Sabbath School Association, be delivered on Thursday morning.
11. The Moderator appointed the following Special Committees: Brs. T. J. [Thomas Jefferson] Whitcomb, J. J. Austin, M. Thatcher, on Delegates to the *U. S. Convention*; Brs. P. Morse, T. Smith, G. S. Abbott, on *Adjournment*; Brs. J. Douglas, D. S. Morey, G. L. Demarest on *Occasional Sermon*.
12. The Council appointed Brs. J. M. Austin, G. W. [George Washington] Montgomery, O. A. Skinner, *Committee of Correspondence*.
13. Received and adopted the Report of the Committee on Delegates to the United States Convention of Universalists, as Brs. D. [Dolphus] Skinner, *Utica*, O. A. Skinner, *New York*, J. M. Austin, *Auburn*, G. W. Montgomery, *Rochester*, CLERICAL; D. Kenyon, *Newark*, George Ricard, *Williamsburgh*, N. M. Woodruff, *Watertown*, Calvin Cole, *Oxford*, Robert McKinstry, *Hudson*, Josiah Barber, *Auburn*, Lay.
14. Unanimously adopted the following Preamble and Resolutions:—

WHEREAS, It has pleased Divine Providence to remove by death, Br. Ira Curtis, of Cayuga Association, an elected delegate to this body,—Therefore—

Resolved, That this Convention would express its sense of the great loss which the Universalist denomination has sustained in the decease of Br. Curtis, who for many years has been one of the most zealous and influential of its supporters in this State.

Resolved, That this Convention would commend to all believers in the world's salvation, the example set them by the deceased, of industry, faithfulness and devotion, in diffusing its divine light among men, and also of an endeavor to reduce its holy precepts to practice, in his daily intercourse with the world.

Resolved, That this Convention extend its sympathy and condolence to the family of the deceased, and the Association to which he belonged, in the severe bereavement they have been called to experience in his departure from life.

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15. Received from the Central Association, through Br. Potter, the sum of sixty dollars, collected in that Association for the benefit of Widows and Orphans, and transmitted to the Convention with the request that said sum be added to the N.Y. Universalist Relief fund; and unanimously adopted the following Resolution:—

Resolved, that the Convention return its thanks to the Central Association for the money thus tendered, and that the Clerk be authorized to receive and transmit the same to the Trustees of the Relief Fund, with instructions to add it to the permanent fund.

16. Voted, unanimously, that at the close of the religious services of this Convention, a collection be taken up for the benefit of sister Laura Eggleston, of German, N.Y., and that Br. J. M. Austin be requested to present her claims upon the charities of the congregation, and to receive and transmit the sum collected in her behalf.

17. Received a Resolution relating to Fellowship, and referred the same to a Special Committee, consisting of Brs. P. Morse, J. M. Austin, and T. J. Whitcomb, with instructions to recommend any rules on the subject of fellowship, which may be deemed necessary.

18. Received and adopted the report of the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees and Treasurer of the Relief Fund, as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the New York Relief Fund, together with the accompanying Report of the Treasurer of said Fund, having examined the same, beg leave to present the following

REPORT.

The Report of the Treasurer of the Relief Fund, under date of May 22d, 1848, has been examined by the Committee, and they believe it to be correct, and recommend its adoption.

The committee would state that, as the application for relief from the widow of the late Rev. Calvin Morton, forwarded through Rev. G. [Gideon] S. Gowdy, and also the application for relief from the widow of the late Rev. John Freeman, forwarded through Rev. S. R. [Stephen Rensselaer] Smith, were not made in the form and manner prescribed by the Rule adopted by this Convention, on the 27th of May, 1846, nor according to the nature of the bequest, which requires that application for relief should first be made to the Trustees of the Fund, the Convention can not legally grant the said applications. The rule above referred to, reads as follows:

'That any disabled Clergyman or family of a deceased Clergyman, making application for assistance, from the Relief Fund, must accompany that application, with a certificate from the Committee of Fellowship and Ordination, or Standing Clerk of their respective Associations, certifying that

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the Clergyman in whose behalf the application was made, is, or was in full fellowship with the Association, in which he resides, or did reside previous to his death.'

The Committee also recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the New York Universalist Relief Fund be hereby authorized to pay the sum of Fifty Dollars, to the order of Walter Munford, for the benefit of Julius Savilla Eaton, son of the late Rev. Joseph Eaton, late of Portland, N.Y., agreeably to the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Relief Fund be authorized to invest, temporarily, the sum of One Thousand Dollars, of the interest now on hand, or that may accumulate during the present year, in Stock of the State of New York, agreeably to the recommendation of said Board.

19. Unanimously adopted the Resolutions appended to the said report.

20. Returned thanks to Br. P. Morse, for his able Occasional Sermon, and requested a copy for publication.

21. Returned hearty thanks to the friends at Watertown, for the generous hospitality extended to the Convention.

22. Requested Br. Henry Lyon to prepare the Minutes for publication in our denominational papers.

23. Received and adopted the Report of the Committee on Adjournment, proposing that the Convention hold its next session at Richfield Springs, Otsego County.

24. Adopted the following Resolution:

Resolved, That we very much regret the lack of representatives and statistical reports from our Associations, and that they be earnestly requested to attend more faithfully to those important matters in future.

25. Unanimously adopted the following Preamble and Resolutions:—

WHEREAS, it is highly important that there should be a full representation of the various Associations of which this body is composed, and whereas, the payment of the expenses of delegates would greatly facilitate such representation, therefore—

Resolved, That it is the plain and imperative duty of Associations, to make such arrangements as will insure the payment of the expenses of their delegates to this Convention.

26. Received and adopted the Report of the Committee on the preacher of the next Occasional Sermon, that Br. J. M. Austin perform that duty.

27. Received the Report of the Committee on the subject of Fellowship, and unanimously adopted the following Resolutions, recommended by them:—

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WHEREAS, our ministers have uniformly been believers in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, as containing a special Revelation from God, sufficient for both faith and practice—and whereas, by common consent of Universalists no man could be recognized as a preacher among us unless he possessed, or was supposed to possess sincere faith in the Bible as a Divine Revelation—and whereas, the Convention deem it important that the matter which has been commonly understood, should now be more formally required,—Therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the various Associations within its fellowship, to establish some rule requiring that, hereafter, no man shall receive their fellowship as a minister of the Gospel, unless he shall subscribe the following declaration, to be filed by the standing Clerk of the Association, on the Associational book of records, unless some such rule already exists among them. I believe the Bible contains a special revelation from God, sufficient to make us wise unto salvation—sufficient both, for Christian faith and practice, and I will faithfully preach its doctrines, and inculcate and practice its precepts.

And whereas, this Convention deems it highly important that clergymen in removing from one Association to another, should ask the fellowship of the Association into the bounds of which they remove, before being received as ministers in good standing—therefore

Resolved, That this Convention recommend the several Associations in this State, to adopt a rule in conformity to this suggestion, and that, in no case, shall fellowship be granted until the applicant subscribe the above declaration of faith, and bring satisfactory testimonials of good standing in the Association from which he removes.

JOB POTTER, *Moderator*

G. L. Demarest, *Clerk*

DELEGATES PRESENT.—*Allegany Association*—Lay, William Tozer, Ira Bishop; *Black River*—Clerical, P. Morse, L. Rice,—Lay, F. W. Winer, H. Bates; *Buffalo*—Clerical, G. S. Abbott; *Cayuga*—Clerical, Job Potter, D. S. Morey,—Lay, Samuel Richards, Timothy Smith; *Mohawk River*—Clerical, J. Douglas, T. J. Whitcomb,—Lay, Johnson Talcott, Sanford Coe; *New York*—Clerical, Henry Lyon,—Lay, G. L. Demarest, D. Collamore; *Ontario*—Clerical, J. J. Austin, J. [Jacob] Whitney,—Lay, William Payne, James Armstrong; *Otsego*—Clerical, H. L. Hayward, D. C. [DeWitt Clinton] Tomlinson,—Lay, A. Gardner; *St. Lawrence*—Clerical, G. Irvan, L. M. Hawes,—Lay, M. Thatcher, S. Hazleton.

REMARKS.—We had a very interesting season at the meeting of our Convention, as we always have on such occasions. The public services were attended by very large and attentive congregations, completely filling, in every part, the commodious Church at Watertown. Discourses were

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delivered by Brs. Snell, Morse, (occasional,) Tuttle, Potter, D. Skinner, J. J. Austin, (to the State Sunday School Association,) and Lyon. It must be that great good was done in the name of Jesus.

The business of the Council was transacted with the utmost harmony; and the proper spirit seemed to pervade all our deliberations. It was deeply regretted that a number of our Associations were entirely unrepresented, and that so many of those which were represented, failed to send reports of their condition. A Resolution was adopted with reference to these important matters, which, it is hoped, may lead to a better state of things in future.

The Resolution recommending Associations to require a declaration of faith in the Bible, from those asking their fellowship, was *unanimously* adopted, and, we trust, will be heeded. Surely he can have a poor claim to our fellowship as a Christian minister, who does not believe in the Bible, as containing a special and sufficient revelation from God.

The Council resolved to take a public collection for the benefit of our afflicted sister, Miss Laura Eggleston, widely known as a valuable contributor to the columns of our periodicals; and the sum thus raised, amounted to \$80. This will be a great help to her in a time of need.

It will be seen that two applications were made for the benefit of the Relief Fund, which were not presented in the proper form. The Convention is desirous of granting relief in all deserving cases, when it can consistently do so. But it is necessary that the rules, which have been often published, should be observed by the applicant, in order to obtain aid. Any violation of the conditions under which the Fund was bequeathed to the Convention, would forfeit the same, and cause it to revert to the legal heirs of the benevolent donor.

H. L. [Rev. Henry Lyon]

Evangelical Magazine & Gospel Advocate, Utica NY, Fri. 16 Jun 1848

Transcribed with notes added on 10 Oct 2012 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY