

RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: General

EMBRACING THE

MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM A. D. 1706 TO 1716:
MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM A. D. 1717 TO 1758:
MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF NEW YORK, FROM A. D. 1745 TO 1758:
MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK, FROM A. D.
1758 TO 1788.



PHILADELPHIA:

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

JAMES RUSSELL, PUBLISHING AGENT.

1841.

Ordered, That Mr. Taylor write to the people of Monokin and Wiconico, exciting them to their duty to pay what they promise to Mr. McNish.

Ordered, That the next meeting be at Philadelphia, the second Tuesday of May next.

Mr. Davis is to have his Presbyterial Exercise the next meeting, upon Heb. i. ver. 4th, and Mr. McNish upon verse the 5th.

Ordered, That the meeting be adjourned till Monday, at eight in the morning.

May 25th.

Mr. McNish's letter to the people of New Castle read and sustained.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Wilson's letter to the people of Freehold read and sustained.

Mr. Andrews and Mr. Hampton's letters to Connecticut read and sustained.*

* *May 24, 1708.*

To Mr. Davenport, Mr. Webb, Mr. Shove, and Mr. Buckingham.

Reverend Brethren,

Through the good providence of our Lord Jesus Christ assisting us, we, the ministers of the gospel, of the Presbyterian persuasion, in this province and those adjacent, taking into our serious consideration the case and circumstances of our holy religion in these parts, have, to our great toil and labour, and great difficulty to divers of us, by reason of our great distance from one another, formed ourselves into a Presbytery, annually to be convened, for the furthering and promoting the true interests of religion and godliness. In which our undertaking, as we would not have any thing should be advanced that may be justly disgustful to any pious soul, but the contrary, so it is our universal desire to walk in the nearest union and fellowship with the churches in those parts where you inhabit, not knowing any difference in opinion so weighty as to inhibit such a proposal, not doubting of your cordial assent thereunto. And for a testimony of our sincerity and real intentions to act as has been mentioned, we conclude it convenient to lay before you one difficult matter that has been, (to our great trouble and exercise,) laid before us, and also what has been our advice about it; holding it proper so to do, because yourselves have been concerned in a transaction that has in some measure led into it. We find by divers letters that have passed between you and sundry persons in Woodbridge, that you are not unacquainted with the confusions and distractions arising from the accession of Mr. Wade to be the minister of that town, and the aversion of a considerable part of the people to the accepting of him as such, and therefore need only mention what we, after mature deliberation and consultation have advised for the healing the differences among them, upon the application of those that disagree with Mr. Wade made unto us, concluding that if their contentions and animosities continue, it may be of unhappy consequence, viz. That Mr. Boyd, minister of Freehold, should, if desired by the dissenting party, (which, for distinction, may be so termed,) come and preach at Woodbridge one Lord's day every three weeks, in the public meeting house there, if it may, as we hope it will, be admitted; and if it be not allowed of, to prevent any open and visible breach as much as can be, that he should preach at Amboy, or any other place agreed upon, provided it be not within the town of Woodbridge, and have left it to their liberty and discretion, according to the light of their consciences, guided by the infallible word of God, either to join or not to join with Mr. Wade in the time of Mr. Boyd's absence. This we thought, after a great deal of perplexity about it, to be all that we could propose at present for the satisfying the gentlemen that have requested our help and counsel, and as the most ready expedient we could think upon, in the present exigency of affairs among them for their mutual reconciliation and comfort. Moreover, as you have been employed in Mr. Wade's fixing there, and we hope with sincere aims at the good of the place, so long groaning under the unhappiness of the want of a settled ministry, so we humbly conceive you are in duty bound in a special manner to put to your helping hand to rescue them from the miserable inconveniences that now they labour under, by all the ways that you can, to which we hope your advice for mutual forbearance may have much force. The disadvantages by such things as these administered to the power and life of religion and our common cause, with the occasion given to them that would rejoice in our ruin, we need not inform of, and therefore promise ourselves nothing will be wanting on your part for accommodating these differences. And in the mean time we request your charitable constructions upon what we

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Andrews' letter to the people of Woodbridge read and sustained.

Mr. Taylor's letter to the people of Wicomico read and sustained.

At a meeting of the Presbytery at Philadelphia,

May 10, 1709, post preces sederunt,

Ministers: Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Jedediah Andrews, Mr. Nath. Taylor, Mr. George McNish, Mr. John Hampton, and Mr. Joseph Smith.

Elders: Joseph Yard, John Gardner, Alexander Bell, William Fosset, and Robert Wilson.

Mr. Andrews was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Smith, Clerk to the Presbytery.

Ordered, That Mr. Hampton write to the people of Cohanzy to perform their obligations to Mr. Smith.

It was complained of that Mr. Davis did not perform his part at the inauguration of Mr. Hampton.

The business of Mr. Wilson, referring to New Castle, deferred till the next *sederunt*, and also relating to Apoquinimy.

It was also objected against Mr. Davis, that he did not preach at Apoquinimy according to order.

The Rev. Mr. John Boyd being dead, what relates to him ceases.

The Presbytery adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow.

May 11, sessione 2da, post preces sederunt, &c.

Mr. Hampton, according to order, performed his part in writing to the people of Cohanzy, and the letter was approven.

The Presbytery adjourned till 3 o'clock, post merid.

Sessione 4ta. post preces sederunt, ministers, &c.

Ordered, That Mr. Davis be writ to, and that the letter be writ by Mr. Taylor, for his absence and other delinquencies, not preaching at Apoquinimy, not delivering his Presbyterial exercise.

Ordered, That every letter sent by the Presbytery be inserted into a book appointed by the Presbytery for that purpose, and that this be done by Mr. Andrews:

Ordered, That Mr. Davis prepare his Presbyterial exercise on Heb. i. 4, (as was formerly appointed by the Presbytery,) against the next meeting of the Presbytery, and that this be signified by Mr. Taylor's letter to him.†

Ordered, That Mr. Wilson preach at Apoquinimy once a month till the next meeting upon a week day, and one Sabbath in a quarter till the aforesaid meeting, provided always, that the Sabbath day's sermon be taken from the Whitclay Creek people, their time.

Ordered, That Mr. Smith go to the people of Maidenhead and Hopewell, and confer with them on such matters as shall be propounded to him by them, concerning his being called to be their minister; and that Mr. Smith preach to the people aforesaid, on his way to New England, or return from it, or

have directed unto, in so difficult a matter, if it do not prove to be according to your own sentiments, seeing it is according to the best of our light. Thus hoping that our churches and ourselves, in this dark part of the world, shall be remembered in your supplications unto that God in whom are all our springs, and from whom is all help, direction, and success, we subscribe ourselves your brethren in the work of the gospel.—
[Letter Book.]