

MINUTES
OF THE
EARLY PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Baptist Society;
ALSO THE
CHARTER OF INCORPORATION,
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
CHARITABLE BAPTIST SOCIETY,
IN PROVIDENCE, R. I.

PROVIDENCE:
H. H. BROWN, PRINTER.
: : : : :
MARCH, 1823.

At a Quarterly Meeting of the CHARITABLE BAPTIST SOCIETY, holden in the Vestry of the First Baptist Meeting-House, on Monday Evening, March 10, 1828,
NICHOLAS BROWN, Esq. Moderator.

Voted, That the Charter of this Society be printed for the information of its members, together with such Minutes of the Society's meetings, preceding and following the time of its organization, as may be thought advisable, and as tending to excite a greater zeal and interest in the important objects thereof.

Voted, That NICHOLAS BROWN, Esq. be a Committee for attending to the publication of the same.

Attest—SILVANUS G. MARTIN, *Clerk.*



PROVIDENCE, MARCH 11, 1828.

I certify that the above is a true copy from the Records as recorded by me.

Attest—SILVANUS G. MARTIN, *Clerk.*

MINUTES.



At a meeting of the Baptist Society in the town of Providence, at the house of Mr. Daniel Cahoon, on Friday evening, February 11, 1774.

Resolved, That we will all heartily unite as one man, in all lawful ways and means to promote the good of this Society; and particularly attend to and revive the affair of building a meeting-house, for the public worship of ALMIGHTY GOD, and also for holding Commencement in.

Resolved, That this Society convene again on Monday evening next, at Mr. Joseph Brown's, to consider of proper measures to accomplish the above purposes.

At a meeting of the Baptist Society at the house of Mr. Joseph Brown, on Monday evening, February 14, 1774, Rev. James Manning was chosen Moderator, and James Arnold, Clerk.

Resolved, That a new lot be procured, on which to build a new meeting-house, provided one can be had on suitable terms.

II. That a subscription be drawn for the purpose of purchasing a lot, and building a meeting-house thereon.

III. That Mr. William Russell be requested to purchase a lot for the above purpose.

IV. That this Society will abide by and perform whatever contract or contracts the said Mr. Russell shall make, respecting a lot or lots, for the purpose aforesaid.

V. That Messrs. John Brown, Daniel Cahoon, John Jenckes and Arthur Fenner, jun. be a committee to advise with Mr. Russell, in all things concerning the purchasing the lot aforesaid.

VI. That this meeting be adjourned until notice from the above committee; then to meet again at the house of Mr. Joseph Brown.

At a meeting of the Baptist Society at the house of Mr. Joseph Brown, on Wednesday evening, February 16, 1774, Rev. James Manning, Moderator, and Daniel Cahoon, Clerk.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to Mr. William Russell, for his very acceptable and important services to the Society in purchasing a lot of land of Mr. John Angell, for them.

II. That the names of all benefactors to this Society, particularly subscribers for a lot and meeting-house, together with the respective sums by them given, be entered on the Society's records, to be preserved to perpetuity, in grateful remembrance of the donors.

At a meeting of the Baptist Society at the house of Mr. Nicholas Brown, February 21, 1774, Rev. James Manning, Moderator, Nicholas Brown, Clerk.

Resolved, That Messrs. Joseph Brown and Jonathan Hammond, go as soon as may be to Boston, at the expense of the Society, in order to view the different churches and meeting-houses there; and to make a memorandum of their several dimensions and forms of architecture; and get information of their cost as minutely as they can. Also that Messrs. John Brown, Daniel Cahoon and Comfort Wheaton, be added to them in committee, and make a calculation of the cost of a house 70 by 90 feet, whether built of brick or wood, with a tower 20 feet square, and steeple with a bell and clock; which calculation, together with the report from Boston, shall be laid before the Society at their next meeting.

II. That Mr. Nicholas Brown procure a good and sufficient deed, to be signed by Mr. William Russell, conveying the land he lately purchased of Mr. John Angell, to this Society.

III. That Messrs. John Jenckes, Nicholas Brown, Joseph Brown, Edward Thurber, Benjamin Thurber, Daniel Cahoon, Nathaniel Wheaton, Aaron Mason, be looking out and contracting for the oak timber, on the best terms they can; not giving the particular dimensions, until after the next meeting.

At a meeting of the Baptist Society, at the brick school-house, (near the Court-House) March, 1774, Mr. David Howell, Moderator, Daniel Cahoon, Clerk.

Resolved, That Messrs. Joseph Brown, Jonathan Hammond and Comfort Wheaton, be a committee to make a draft of a house, 90 by 70 feet, together with a tower and steeple; and to make an invoice of the timber, and other materials, and ascertain the prices of the same; and that they make report of the same to the Society, at their next meeting.

II. That the house be built of wood and the roof slated.

III. That Mr. John Brown be requested to buy for the Society, either the whole or part of Mr. Amaziah Waterman's lot, adjoining that which Mr. William Russell has agreed to convey to the Society.

At a meeting of the Baptist Society, March 7, 1774, Rev. James Manning, Moderator, James Arnold, Clerk.

Resolved, That the former vote of this Society, ascertaining the dimensions of the meeting-house to be 90 by 70 feet be disannulled; and that said house be built 80 feet square.

At a meeting of the Baptist Society in Providence, at the Baptist meeting-house, on Monday, April 25, 1774, the Rev. James Manning, Moderator, and Benjamin Stelle, chosen standing Clerk to said Society.

Resolved, That a petition be presented to the Honourable General Assembly, praying that a Charter containing certain privileges and immunities, may be granted to said Society.

II. That the Rev. James Manning, Ephraim Wheaton, Nicholas Brown, David Howell and Benjamin Thurber, be a committee to draft a plan of a Charter, and present the same to the Society for approbation, as soon as may be.

III. That Mr. John Brown be the committee man for carrying on the building of the new meeting-house for said Society.

IV. That Messrs. John Jenckes, Daniel Cahoon, Ephraim Wheaton, Nathaniel Wheaton, Daniel Tillinghast, Joseph Brown, William Russell, Edward Thurber, Nicholas Brown, Christopher Sheldon and Benjamin Thurber, they or the major part of them, be a standing committee, to assist and advise with Mr. John Brown, in locating and carrying into execution the building of the new meeting-house, and any other business that may be thought necessary during the recess of the Society, and that said committee meet every Monday evening, or oftener if need require, at such places as they from time to time shall think proper.

V. That the Treasurer, Mr. Ephraim Wheaton, be ordered to collect the subscriptions as soon as may be, and pay them to Mr. John Brown, committee man for building the house, and that he give said Brown general orders to collect subscriptions—also whose receipt for the same shall be a sufficient discharge to the subscribers.

At a meeting of the Baptist Society, May 2, 1774, the Rev. James Manning, Moderator.

The committee appointed for drafting a plan of a Charter, for the purpose of incorporating a number of persons out of the Baptist Society, to be known by the name of *The Charitable Baptist Society*, in Providence, presented the same, and after some amendments and alterations, was unanimously accepted.

Resolved, That Mr. Nicholas Brown act as Moderator, Mr. Daniel Cahoon as Treasurer, and Mr. Benjamin Stelle as Clerk, to the Charitable Baptist Society, for the ensuing year.

THE CHARTER.

L. S.

By the Honourable the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, in New-England, in America, in General Assembly convened at Newport, within and for the said Colony, on the first Wednesday in May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, and fourteenth of the reign of his most sacred Majesty George the Third, by the grace of God, King of Great-Britain and so forth.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING.

Whereas sundry persons belonging to the Congregation assembling for the public worship of Almighty God with the Christian Church called Baptist, or Anti-Pædobaptist, in the town of Providence, being the oldest Christian Church in the State or Colony, and professing to believe that water baptism ought to be administered by immersion only, and that professed believers in Jesus Christ, and no others, are proper subjects of the same, have petitioned this Assembly to grant them a Charter of Incorporation, with the privileges and powers herein after mentioned.

Now, therefore, know ye, that we the Governor and Company aforesaid, do for ourselves and our successors, enact, grant, ordain, constitute and declare, and it is hereby enacted, granted, ordained, constituted and declared, that Paul Tew, John Brown, Nicholas Brown, John Jenckes, William Russell, Daniel Cahoon, Aaron Mason, William Holroyd, Samuel Warner, Christopher Sheldon, Benjamin Stelle, Samuel Thurber, jun. Benjamin Alger, Martin Thurber, Obadiah Sprague, William Wheaton, jun. Timothy Mason, Edward Thurber, Joseph Hewes, James Wheaton, jun. James Arnold, Nicholas Power, Daniel Tillinghast, Dexter Brown, Comfort Wheaton, Martin Seamans, James Wheaton, Simon Smith, William Corlis, Joseph Tillinghast, Charles Easterbrooks, Timothy Sheldon, jun. Charles Smith, Silvanus Jenckes, Edward Knowles, Amos Horton, Nathaniel Saunders, Olney Winsor and Rufus Hopkins, or such or so many of them as shall convene at the Baptist Meeting-House in Providence, on the second Monday in June next, on the business of this Charter, and their successors, shall be forever hereafter, one body corporate and politic, in fact and name, with perpetual succession, to be known in the law, by the name of *The Charitable Baptist Society, in the town of Providence, in the Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.*

And the said Charitable Society is hereby empowered to take, receive and hold all and any voluntary subscriptions, contributions, legacies and donations of any sum or sums of money, or of any real or personal estate: Also to have, take, possess, purchase, acquire, or otherwise receive and hold lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, or other estates, of all which they shall

and may stand seized, notwithstanding any misnomer of this Corporation, and by whatever name or however imperfectly the same shall be described, in donations, legacies, assignments and grants, provided the true intent and meaning of the assignee or benefactor be evident. Also the said Charitable Society is hereby empowered to take, hold and stand seized of all estates aforesaid, solely to and for the use and benefit of the said Baptist or Anti-Pædobaptist Church and Congregation, and their successors forever; and the same to use, occupy and improve towards the support of Pastors, relief of the poor, in schooling their children, or otherwise; or any other religious uses in said Church and Congregation, according to the will of the donors, and to the purposes, trusts and uses to which they shall be seized thereof, or the same shall be designed: Also to lease the real estate, or the same to grant, demise, alien, or hold in perpetuity, according to the tenor of each particular donation, or their property therein; and to let monies on bonds, mortgages or other securities: And shall and may be persons capable in the law, as a body corporate, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered unto, to defend and pursue to final judgment and execution thereon, in all Courts and places, and before all proper judges whatever, in all and singular suit and suits, causes and actions, of what kind soever, in the fullest and amplest manner, by and in the name of their Treasurer for the time being.

And furthermore it is ordained and declared, That said body corporate and their successors forever hereafter, shall and may have a public seal, which they may use for any purposes or affairs as to them shall seem expedient; also it shall be lawful for them the same seal to break, alter and make anew, from time to time, at their will and pleasure.

And it is further enacted, That there shall be an annual meeting of the said Charitable Society, in the said town of Providence, on the second Monday in June, forever; at which time they shall, out of their own body politic, elect a Moderator, Treasurer and Clerk, and such other officers as they shall think needful; and that the Moderator, Treasurer and Clerk be sworn to the faithful performance of their respective trusts.

And furthermore it is enacted, That there shall be a quarterly meeting of said Charitable Society, on the second Monday in September, December and March, forever: That the said Charitable Society shall have full power to appoint any other meetings, at such times and places, as to them, from time to time shall seem necessary or expedient, more fully and effectually to accomplish the charitable purposes aforesaid: And that they have power at any such meetings, to appoint committees, and to transact all such business, as, according to this Charter, may regularly come before them: All which shall be done and determined by a majority of the members present.

And it is further enacted, That whatever monies, or other estates, both real and personal, the said Charitable Baptist Society may become seized or possessed of, shall be and remain a capital stock or fund, and only the interest, yearly profits, or income thereof, shall be applied and appropriated to the use of the said Baptist or Anti-Pædobaptist Church and Congregation.

Provided nevertheless, and it is further enacted, That all donations to the said Charitable Society, by voluntary subscription, contribution, legacy or otherwise (excepting such as shall be differently appropriated by the donors) shall make a capital stock or fund for the support of the Pastor or Pastors of the Church aforesaid; and the yearly interest or income of the same shall be added every year successively to the principal, which shall be thus augmented by interest, and remain principal and interest unappropriated, until the yearly interest or income of said fund, so raised, shall amount to one hundred pounds lawful money, per annum: After which time the said sum of one hundred pounds shall yearly be paid by the said Charitable Society, to the Pastor or Pastors for the time being, of said Baptist, or Anti-Pædobaptist Church, and their successors forever. *Provided notwithstanding,* That when and as soon as a capital stock or fund shall be by this means raised to produce one hundred pounds lawful money per annum, that then the interest or yearly income of all donations made afterwards to said Charitable Society, the use and purpose of which shall not be particularly specified by the donors, shall be appropriated as a majority of the said Charitable Society shall order and determine at any regular meeting.

And it is further enacted, That Nicholas Brown be the first Moderator, Daniel Cahoon the first Treasurer, and Benjamin Stelle the first Clerk, of the said Charitable Society, to continue in their respective offices until the second Monday in June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.

And it is further enacted, That the said Charitable Society, at any of their meetings, may elect such persons as they shall think proper, to become members of the same, and make such rules, orders and by-laws, and alter the same, as they from time to time shall judge necessary for the good order of said Society; provided, that such rules, orders and by-laws are not contrary to the laws of this government: And that any seven members of the said Charitable Society, convened at any regular meeting (the Moderator, Treasurer or Clerk always to be one) are hereby declared to be a quorum of the said Society.

And it is further enacted, That all donations of whatsoever kind, or howsoever made, to the said Charitable Society, together with the names of the donors, and the purposes and uses for which said donations shall be made, shall be entered on record by the Clerk for the time being, as also their yearly income, and its appropria-

tion from time to time forever: And that the Treasurer's accounts be exhibited and audited at every annual meeting of the said Society. *Provided nevertheless and it is further enacted,* That if ever the whole number of the said Charitable Society for the time being shall be reduced below seven, then and in such case, all monies, bonds, mortgages, deeds, notes, obligations, books and papers, of every kind, together with all the estate, both real and personal, at that time belonging to the said Charitable Society, shall be given up to, and the sole property thereof be vested in, the Baptist, or Anti-Pædobaptist Church and Congregation aforesaid, for whose use and benefit the said Charitable Society is instituted, to be received by a committee by them appointed for that purpose; and shall be punctually appropriated by them to the purposes, trusts and uses specified by the donors to the said Charitable Society, or to which they are by this Charter empowered to appropriate the same, and no otherwise.

Provided furthermore, and it is further enacted, That no part of this Charter shall be construed or understood to grant any power or powers to the said Charitable Society to raise any sum or sums of money any otherwise than by free and voluntary subscription, contribution, legacy or donation. And in case, at any time hereafter, through misapprehension, or mistaken construction, of the powers contained in this Charter, any laws shall be enacted, or any matters done and transacted, by this Corporation, contrary to the tenor hereof, such laws, acts and doings shall be in themselves null and void; but shall never be adjudged into an avoidance, defeazance, or forfeiture of this Charter, but the same shall remain entire to the said Corporation, in perpetual succession forever. And all their acts conformable to its power, tenor, true intent and meaning, shall be and remain in full force and legal validity.

IN TESTIMONY OF WHICH GRANT, and of all the articles and matters therein contained, I JOSEPH WANTON, Esquire, Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief of and over the said Colony, have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Seal of the said Colony to be affixed, this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-four, and fourteenth of the reign of his most Sacred Majesty George the Third, by the grace of God King of Great-Britain and so forth.

J. WANTON.

By his Honour's command,
HENRY WARD, Sec'y.

[It appears from the records that the Baptist Church was founded in 1639, and was the first of the denomination in America. Its Elders have been Roger Williams, Chad Brown, William Wickenden, Gregory Dexter, Thomas Olney, Parndon Tillinghast; and then Ebenezer Jenckes, who was the first Pastor born in America, James Brown, (grandson of Chad) Samuel Winsor, Samuel Winsor, jr. James Manning, John Stanford, Jonathan Maxey, Stephen Gano.]

At the General Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, holden at Providence, on the fourth Monday of February, A. D. 1808.

AN ACT to enlarge the powers of "The Charitable Baptist Society in Providence."

Whereas the said Society have by their petition represented unto this Assembly that they have no means for raising money for defraying the expenses of repairs on their meeting-house, other than by voluntary subscriptions and donations, which is not only attended with many inconveniences and delays, but operates unequally on the members of the Society.

And whereas the said Society have further represented that the holders of pews in said house have agreed, that all expenses of repairs on said house and its appertanances, shall in future be defrayed by taxes on the pews, and have prayed this Assembly to pass an act authorizing the said Society to assess and levy on such pews all such sums of money as may be hereafter necessary for that purpose.

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly and by the authority thereof it is enacted, That the said Society at any legal meeting thereof, shall be and hereby are authorized and empowered to assess and levy on said pews all such sum or sums of money as they may think necessary to defray the expense of any repairs or additions which may be ordered by said Society, to be made on said House or its appertanances, and also for the services of the Sexton.

SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all sums of money which shall be assessed on said pews in virtue of this act, shall be apportioned on the same, according to a valuation thereof, made by Messrs. Ephraim Wheaton, Nathaniel Wheaton and John Mason, in the year 1788, and unanimously adopted by said Society, at a meeting thereof, on the 11th day of August, A. D. 1788.

SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted,* That if the owner or owners of any pew in said house, shall neglect or refuse to pay any sum or sums which may be assessed on such pew for three months after notice of such assessment, the said Society shall be and hereby are authorized to sell such pew to the highest bidder at public auction, giving three weeks previous notice of the time and place of sale, in the Providence newspapers, and the money arising from such sale, after first deducting the assessment due on said pew, and expenses of collection, shall be lodged in the hands of the Treasurer of said Society, to be paid to such delinquent or delinquents on request.

A true copy—witness,

SAMUEL EDDY, Sec'y.

At a meeting of the Charitable Baptist Society, at the meeting-house, June 13, 1774. This being the first meeting of said Society after incorporation, the following persons mentioned in the Charter being present, viz. Messrs. Nicholas Brown, Moderator,

Daniel Cahoon, Clerk, (being previously engaged to the faithful discharge of their offices) Edward Thurber, Joseph Hewes, John Brown, Daniel Tillinghast, Aaron Mason, Christopher Sheldon, Joseph Tillinghast, Nicholas Power, William Holroyd and William Corlis.

Voted, That Mr. Benjamin Thurber and Mr. David Howell, be admitted members of this Society.

The following form of a subscription for the purpose of raising a fund for the use of the Baptist Church and congregation in this town, was unanimously agreed upon by all the members present, viz.

Whereas the Honourable Governor and Company of this Colony, have granted a Charter of incorporation to certain persons belonging to the Baptist congregation in the town of Providence, by the name of the Charitable Baptist Society, in said town, the design of which, as may more fully appear, (reference thereto being made) was to raise a permanent fund for the use of the Baptist Church and congregation in said town, and effectually secure it as well as what property they are already or may be possessed of for their use, and whereas said Charter doth not empower them to raise any monies for the uses specified, any otherwise than by voluntary subscriptions, legacies and donations, which clause in said Charter is most especially agreeable to the minds and principles of said Baptist Church and congregation, they being the successors and descendants of the first Christian inhabitants of this Colony, who fled hither to enjoy and to secure to themselves and posterity religious as well as civil liberty, more fully and amply than they could in any other part of the British Dominions, and being desirous therein still to continue and preserve inviolate that religious liberty not only procured at so dear a rate for them by their pious ancestors, and transmitted down through many generations unto the present day, but also authorized and established by JESUS CHRIST, the Head and only Law-Giver to his Church, and being a natural right which God himself the Creator and Governor of the universe has bestowed on every individual of the human race, most fully, freely and amply to enjoy the liberty of conscience and private judgment in whatever refers immediately to his worship, in that he hath assured us that each one must give an account for himself unto God. And whereas notwithstanding it is thought by this Society expedient and agreeable to gospel order that those who labour in word and doctrine as ministers, preachers, pastors or elders, should receive such compensation from their respective flocks over which they preside, and in whose service their time is spent, as their wants from time to time may require, and the circumstances of those ministered unto may afford, as also that suitable provision be made for the poor of the Church, by supplying them with religious books, and educating their children, and otherwise relieving them, and other religious uses. Therefore we the subscribers taking into consideration the various modes of raising money for the necessary uses, which are now or have been practised in Christendom, and being fully and clearly of opinion that all

compulsive measures by penal laws, either from civil authority or the majority of a particular society, disfranchising any member or members who refuse to pay any tax or proportion that may be assessed on him or them, are anti-Christian and intolerant, and the most eligible method of defraying such necessary charges, is by raising an adequate fund for that purpose. In order, therefore, to raise a fund for the use and benefit of the Baptist or Anti-Pædobaptist Church and congregation in the town of Providence, which may be beneficial both to ourselves and posterity, we do promise and engage for ourselves, to pay unto Mr. Daniel Cahoon, Treasurer of the Charitable Baptist Society, or his successor in office, the sum of one shilling, at every stated meeting, (monthly) when we are present, and when absent from the same do agree that we be charged with said sum and sixpence more, to be paid by us the next time we can attend, unless sick or abroad, and as much more as is by us the subscribers affixed to our respective names, and that this subscription we will henceforth continue to pay so long as we continue members of said Charitable Baptist Society as by Charter established.

In witness we have hereunto set our hands, this thirteenth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, in the town of Providence, and Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.

Voted, That Messrs. David Howell, Joseph Brown, Aaron Mason and Daniel Cahoon, be a committee to draw a body of laws for the better regulation of this Society. The meeting stands adjourned to the 27th inst.

At a meeting of the Charitable Baptist Society, holden by adjournment, June 27, 1774, at the Baptist meeting-house.

Voted, That Mr. Benjamin Stelle, appointed Clerk to this Society by Charter, necessarily absent on the second Monday of June, be continued in his office, who was accordingly solemnly engaged to the faithful performance of the same.

II. That the Clerk at the Society's expense procure a large, well-covered book for records, and cause all the acts and resolves of the Baptist Society, from February 11, 1774, until the second Monday in June following, to be well recorded in the same, as also all the acts and resolves of the Charitable Baptist Society, from their incorporation, with the Charter, deeds of lands that may be made to the Society, &c. to the present time.

III. That the Moderator, Clerk, and Mr. David Howell, be a committee to procure at the Society's expense, a common seal for the Society; the device, motto, size, price, &c. are left to their discretion.

[It appears that Judge Daniel Jenckes deceased this year, aged 73 years, having been a member of this Church 48 years.]

The following By-Laws, prepared by the committee appointed at their last meeting, was received and unanimously adopted, viz.

Resolved, That there shall be a meeting of this Society, on every second Monday in every month in the year, at such time and place as the Society shall appoint, in the town of Providence.

II. That whenever and as often as six members of this Society shall judge needful to have a meeting before the next stated meeting or adjournment, and shall sign a written request for the same, to the Moderator, Treasurer and Clerk, or either of them, then they or either of them, shall have power to notify a meeting at such time and place as they may think fit, under their hands, which notification shall be handed to as many of the Society as are to be found at their respective dwellings.

III. That the Treasurer of the Society shall at the next monthly meeting after he is chosen, give bonds to the Society with two sureties, whose sufficiency and the value of the bond shall be determined by a majority of the members present at said meeting, which said bond shall be lodged in the hands of the Clerk for the time being. And it shall be in the power of the Society at any regular meeting, to demand larger bonds of the Treasurer at their pleasure, with which if he refuse to comply, he is disqualified to act, and another eligible one chosen.

IV. That there shall be a Standing Committee chosen by the Society annually, (of which the Treasurer for the time being always to be one) for the purpose of loaning the Society's funds, and transacting the prudential affairs of the Society, which Committee whenever there shall be the sum of five pounds lawful money in the funds or Treasurer's hands, shall put the same out on interest, with two good and sufficient sureties, for a term not exceeding one year, for the use of the Society as is provided in their charter, and all bonds or other securities for monies or other estates belonging to this Society, shall be lodged in the hands of the Treasurer—and the Clerk shall keep a record of the same.

V. That the Treasurer for the time being, shall keep a regular and particular account of all donations made to the Society by subscription, contribution, legacy or otherwise, of all money or other estates both real and personal, as also the names of the donors, if known, and purposes for which said donations may be made, and their yearly profits or income; which accounts together with all securities belonging to the Society shall be brought to every quarterly meeting for the perusal of any of the members present, and that the Clerk may be furnished with all necessary materials for the lasting records of this Society, agreeable to Charter.

VI. That the Clerk for the time being shall take an account of the names of all the members, the times of their admission, deaths, or dismission, as also all officers and committees, and record the same.

VII. That when any officer shall be removed by death or otherwise, another shall be chosen in his stead, at the next monthly meeting, and when any officer is absent from any meeting, the members present shall choose another in his stead, to act for that meeting only.

At the first annual meeting of the Charitable Baptist Society, holden at the old meeting-house, June 12, 1775, Paul Tew, Esq. was unanimously chosen Moderator for the ensuing year, agreeable to Charter, who for sufficient reasons declined accepting

the same; after which Mr. Joseph Brown was chosen Moderator, Mr. Benjamin Stelle, Clerk, and Mr. Daniel Cahoon, Treasurer, for the ensuing year.

Voted, That the thanks of this Society be presented to Mr. Nicholas Brown, who has served us in the capacity of Moderator, for the last year with great faithfulness and to the good acceptance of this Society.

Voted, That Messrs. John Brown, David Howell, Aaron Mason and William Holroyd, be a committee for letting the Society's monies, and transacting the prudential affairs of the same.

Voted, That the committee for loaning the Society's funds, &c. be a committee to audit and adjust the Treasurer's accounts, and make report to the next monthly meeting.

At a meeting of the Charitable Baptist Society, in Providence, holden at the meeting-house, on Monday, 27th of March, 1786, Dr. James Manning, Moderator, Olney Winsor, Clerk, *pro tem*.

Voted, That the Society's committee, consisting of Messrs. Nicholas Brown, John Brown, David Howell, Edward Thurber and Daniel Tillinghast, be authorized and directed to unite with the Church committee, in addressing any person they may judge proper, to come and preach in this meeting-house on trial, for the office of Pastor.

At a meeting of the Charitable Baptist Society, at their meeting-house, on the 8th of May, 1786, David Howell, Esq. Moderator.

Voted, That the Clerk be directed to transcribe a fair copy of the original subscription paper for donations to this Society, for the purpose of procuring signers at their annual meeting, on the second Monday of June next, ensuing this date, and that Messrs. Nicholas Brown, John Brown, David Howell and John Jenckes, be added to the committee appointed at the last meeting to obtain subscribers to the said paper.

At a meeting of the Charitable Baptist Society, on the 21st of May, 1787, Mr. Nicholas Brown, Moderator, Mr. John Rogers, Clerk.

Voted, That Messrs. Nicholas Brown, John Brown and John Jenckes, be a committee to get the bell re-cast, as soon as possible, after a sufficient sum be raised by subscription for that purpose.

At a meeting of the Baptist Church and Congregation, on the 28th of June, 1790, David Howell, Esq. Moderator. Present: James Manning, Nicholas Brown, Pardon Sheldon, John Whipple, Stephen Randall, John Davis, Jonathan Maxcy, Benjamin Thurber, James Wheaton, Christopher Sheldon, Aaron Mason, John Mason, Welcome Arnold, Deacon Wheaton, Jeremiah B. Howell, Joseph Tillinghast, John Hill, Timothy Sheldon, jun. Silvanus Martin, Philip Martin, Samuel Davenport, Edward Thurber, William Holroyd.

Whereas Mr. Stephen Gano, in pursuance of an invitation sent to him from the joint committee of this Church and Congregation, has come and preached for us to general acceptance:

Resolved, That this Society recommend to the Church to call a meeting of all the male members of the Church and Congregation, at such time as they may think proper, to determine whether they will call Mr. Gano to supply the pulpit on trial as our pastor, in case the Church shall previously approve of that measure.

Resolved, That the following persons, viz. Messrs. David Howell, James Manning, Nicholas Brown, Welcome Arnold, John Mason, Christopher Sheldon, Edward Thurber, Philip Martin, Aaron Mason and Deacon Wheaton, with such others as may be appointed by the Church, be a committee to devise and report at the next meeting of this Society, such permanent measures as they may judge proper to be adopted by this Church and Congregation, for raising in future an adequate and permanent fund for supporting their standing Pastor.

At a meeting of the Charitable Baptist Society, holden on Monday, July 5, 1790, Mr. John Mason, Moderator.

Resolved, That application be made to the Rev. Stephen Gano, to obtain his consent to tarry and preach for us one year on trial, and that the following persons, viz. Messrs. Nicholas Brown, David Howell, Joseph Tillinghast, Christopher Olney, John Rogers, John Whipple, Edward Thurber, Christopher Sheldon and Daniel Tillinghast be a committee, to join a committee which the Church have appointed in order to wait on Mr. Gano for the above mentioned purpose, and to agree with him on the terms.

At a meeting of the Baptist Church and Congregation, July 12, 1790, John Mason, Moderator.

Resolved unanimously, That the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, lawful silver money, be assessed by this Society, as a salary for one year to the Rev. Stephen Gano for his services in the ministry, in case he will consent to tarry with us for that space of time—and that the committee appointed by this Church and Congregation to wait on Mr. Gano, be authorized to agree with him on the above terms for one year.

July 18th.—This day being the Sabbath, all the male members of the Church and Congregation, were after divine service in the afternoon, requested to tarry, when they were fully informed by Dr. Manning, what the committee and the Society at their last meeting had done, respecting inviting the Rev. Stephen Gano to preach for us one year, of all which they fully approved, and unanimously directed their committee to write to Mr. Gano and to request him to come and tarry with us one year on the terms offered him, being one hundred and fifty pounds lawful silver money.

Attest—GEORGE BENSON, Clerk.

[It appears that Doctor Gano's engagements were such, that he did not accept this invitation; but two years afterwards on a further application, he agreed to the request, and came to this town in October, 1792, and has continued to this time, nearly 36 years.]

At a meeting of the Charitable Baptist Society, on the 10th of September, 1792, Deacon Wheaton, Moderator.

Whereas the Rev. Mr. Maxcy has in a letter dated the 7th inst.

resigned his appointment as our Minister, and it appears by a committee from the Church that they have accepted his resignation, and resolved it to be their unanimous opinion, that application be immediately made to the Rev. Stephen Gano, to supply the pulpit for the space of six months, in which application they request the concurrence of the Society. It is therefore

Resolved, That this Society do unanimously concur with the Church in their vote to apply to the Rev. Stephen Gano to supply the pulpit for the space of six months.

Resolved, That Messrs David Howell, Nicholas Brown, Silvanus Martin, James Arnold and Olney Winsor be a committee of this Society to unite with the Church committee for the purpose of employing a suitable person as a messenger to repair to the residence of the Rev. Stephen Gano, and request him to supply our pulpit for six months, agreeably to the preceding resolutions of this Society.

At a meeting of the Baptist Church and Congregation, March 11, 1793, David Howell, Esq. Moderator, George Benson, Clerk.

Resolved, That the vote of the Church, passed the 28th ult. respecting the Rev. Stephen Gano be read, and is as follow:—

“Resolved, That this Church express an unanimous desire to invite the Rev. Stephen Gano to serve us in the capacity of an Elder, during the term of one year from the first day of May next ensuing, and that a committee be appointed to lay this resolve before the Congregation and request their concurrence therein.

Whereupon it was unanimously voted by the Society, that they concur with the Church therein, and that the following persons be appointed to join the committee of the Church, in order to impart the said resolution to Mr. Gano, and to request his answer, viz. Messrs. Welcome Arnold, David Howell, Nicholas Power, Olney Winsor, Christopher Sheldon, Nicholas Brown, Silvanus Martin, John Mason, Stephen Randall and Aaron Peck.

It appears from the preceding records, that the subject of erecting a new meeting-house was discussed in February, 1774, and with a zeal characteristic of the men of that day, it was, the next month voted to proceed, and May 28, 1775, the house was finished and dedicated. Sermon by Rev. James Manning, from Genesis xxviii, 17, *“This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”*

In the year 1791, the Society sustained a great bereavement in the death of John Jenckes, Nicholas Brown and Rev. James Manning. The latter died July 29th, in the 54th year of his age.

At a meeting of the Society April 7, 1795 (John Mason, Esq. Moderator) it was unanimously voted, that the funds of the Charitable Baptist Society be increased by subscription to the full amount of the sum required by the Charter, in order that the interest thereof might be applied towards the support of the minister, conformably to the true intent of the said Charter. Proposals for the above object were accordingly issued, and a subscription paper commenced, which was headed by John Brown, Esq. with the generous sum of One Thousand Dollars. [He was a descendant of Chad.] The amount of this fund at the present time is \$6600 in bank stock, at par, yielding an annual income of about \$400, when the dividends are at 6 per cent. The Society also own a parsonage house and lot in good repair.

In the year 1824 a Society's Library was commenced in the Vestry, and the following persons chosen the Library Committee, viz. Rev. Dr. Gano, David Howell, Nicholas Brown, Nathan Waterman, jun. and H. H. Brown. The collection of books though small at present, will probably become extensive in time. A large book-case has been provided, sufficient to hold several hundred volumes. Also a smaller case to hold books for children at the Sabbath School.