The Baptist Board Minutes.
Continued, with notes on page 283.

July 29, 1728

Present. Mr Wallin
Mr Gill Mr Arnold
Mr Rudd Mr Townsend

A letter from Portsmouth being Read wherein they Mention their Want of Minister the following Answer was Agreed to.

Brethren
Yours we Rec'd & not to Enter into the Difference between you & Your Pastor as you Desire, we wou'd help You to a Minister Its Necessary for us to know, what Encouragement You can give him, or what You can Raise in Case Such a one shou'd offer, or if any shou'd be willing to Come down to Assist You whether You wou'd Defray his Charges

We Remain
Yours Sam'l Wilson
in ye Name of the whole

Sec

Sep't 23, 1728

Some friends Came from Waltham Abby to ask the Advice of the Ministers abt settling a Baptiz'd Church & Building a Meeting place there, It was Agreed that it was Expedient they shou'd first give up themselves to one another in the Lord in a Church State, & then Promise to give them all assistance they Can towards building a Place [which was done.]

Oct' 19th 1728

Having Rec'd two Letters from ye People of Ringwood in Hampshire Concerning Mr Jope A Letter
was Writt & Agreed to the Copy of wch is in ye Book [on a loose sheet? not extant. See June 11, 1734].

Jany 20th 1728

Present Mr Ridgway Mr Gill Mr Rudd Mr Wilson Mr Tom's.

Three Persons from Deptford Applyd for Advice One said he Came from Mr Beamonts because he was not Sound in ye faith, and all agreed for the Same Reason they Cou'd not Set Down with Mr Biddle, and added, the Charge of his being Guilty of Lying in the Pulpitt because he Laid Down Sometimes three or four heads, & promisd to Speak to 'em, And yet Never Explained or Insisted on any of them. They added they had Set up a Meeting Licensd the place, And (tho No Church) had Call'd Out wth Mr Floods Approbation and in his Persence a Person to Preach, Who had Preach'd for Mr Flood at Richmond whilst he Servd them at Deptford.

The Answer of the Board was That they Lookd upon the Whole of their Conduct as Yet to have been Disorderly & Irregular That they had Cast a great many Unjust Reflections upon Mr Biddle whom We valued & Esteem'd, And We Cou'd not but be Surpriz'd that whilst they appeard to be so Zealous for the Gospell, they Discov,erd So Little of a Gospell Spirit. That We Saw no Manner of Reason to Set up Another Meeting at Deptford Whilst they had Such Provision, and therefore Coud not but Advice them to Desist from all further Attempts of this kind. 28

Signd Samll Wilson Sectr.

Sep' 29th 1729 Present

Mr Wallin Mr Ridgway
Mr Arnold Mr Gill
Mr Rudd Mr Jon Wilson
Mr Townsend Mr Rees
Mr Wilson Secr
Agreed to alter this Meeting from Munday To Tuesday Afternoon at three a Clock for Several Reasons then Assign'd. 29

April 14th [1730] Present
Mr Wallin Mr Gill Mr Townsend Mr Arnold Mr Brine Mr J. Wilson Mr Rudd Mr Gifford. 30
Agreed to meet Every Tuesday at \(\frac{1}{2}\) an hour after three Clock Upon the forfeiture of two pence to be determind by the Majority of the watches present unless the person be sick or out of town. Mr Gill Excepted agt it.
Agreed that the Book be kept in a Cupboard & that 2 keys be given the one to the Secretary & the other to a Member agreed on by the Board. 31

June 9th 1730. Present
Mr Wallin Mr Gill Mr Arnold Mr Wilson Mr Townsend Mr Brine Mr Gifford
A Letter from one of Mr Sam Wilsons Members directed to Mr Gill desiring this Board to persuade Mr Wilson to Reced from the Resolution to build a new meeting place was Read 32
Agreed that this Board cannot consider any matters of Difference, Except both Parties desire their advice & Mr Gill do acquaint Him wth this Agreement.

April 6 1731.
The Opinion of several Ministers & Messengers appointed to Hear & Examine ye Difference between Many of ye People under ye Care of Mr John Wilson Glass House Yard especially Mr Gold & Mr Freeman as stated before them March 23d 1730/1. viz.
It seems but too plain to Us ye Exercise of Xn Love & forbearance So much recommended in ye Gospel has been greatly wanting in the General
& yt instead thereoff, a sp. of Jealousy Contention & Emulation has prevaild among too many off Members w[ch in time occasiond this Unhappy Breach.

We are of opinion that Mr Freeman gave too just occasion of offence to Mr Gold by calling him Fool, Blockhead &c; & that supposing Mr Goulds Carriage to Mr Freeman cannot be justifiyed in every part, yet Mr Freemans Words & Carriage to him must be blameable as being very disagreeable to ye Rules of ye Gospel & even to ye Rules of humane society.

We also apprehend that considering ye steps Mr Gold took to Make Mr Freeman sensible of his Evil, & ye manner in which He & ye other Brethren were Recd by Mr Freeman, too just Occasion was given for Mr Gold to bring ye Case before ye Church. And We are farther of opinion from w't we are informed pass'd at ye Ch meeting that there was Reason to Admonish Mr Freeman to consider ye Nature of yt Offence, and avoid ye like for time to come, but as yt supposes some proper time allow'd to observe yt effect yt admonition might have, We cannot but think yt yt ye other step of withdrawing from him &c was too hasty & disagreeable to ye Patience Long suffering & meekness which Christ & ye Gospel recommends to his Churches.

But notwithstanding this, We can by no means approve of that meeting obtain'd in such an uncommon Manner ye following Lords Day at noon as a regular Church meeting, or esteem any thing therein transacted as valid Acts of ye Church w'ever number of Members might be then Present.

And as we hope Those Who have separated themselves from ye Church W'n they consider in a cool & Christian Spirit, such their hasty separation, will blame themselves for yt yt irregular Conduct; so we are obliged to declare the step they have taken alto-
The Baptist Board Minutes

gether unjustifyable, Which instead of promoteing is ye likely way to bring them & ye Laws of Christ into Contempt, & is a Practice which leads to break his Churches and a Scandal upon our holy Profession.

Upon the whole we cannot but declare that we are greatly grived on Acc't of ye pres't unhappy Differences & take leave upon this Occasion Seriously & heartily to Advise both Parties to humble themselves befor ye Lord by joyning together both in public & private Prayer labouring togethr in ye strength of Christ to put on Bowels of Compassion & Tenderness One towards Another forgiveing Each other for his Sake, that a Spirit of Peace & Unity May be ag'n restored amongst You, & ye pres't Division (which so plainly threatens yr own future Honour & Race as well as ye Reputation of ye Several Churches of ye baptist Denomination) may speedily & Comfortably be healed.

And we think it Proper before we sign this Paper to wipe of a Reproach too often cast upon ye minis.. ters In General, viz that they are against encourageing Ministerial Gifts in ye Churches by now declaring it wou'd rejoice o' hearts to find ye Churches Ready to try ye Gifts in Each Congregation, & to hear yt any regular Church hath sent forth any Person whose abilities and Conversation give an encourageing Prospect for Usefulness in so honourable a Station.

Humphry Friend  Edwd. Wallin
Geo Warren   Wm Arnold
Ebenezr Briggs  Sayer Rudd
David Selby  John Brine
Joseph Woods  A. Gifford
Cha: Bowker  S. Wilson

The Original of this Copy was orderd to be tyed up, with ye Papers yt concerned this Case.
Octr 26 1731
Present Mr Wallin Mr Gill
Mr Arnold Mr S Wilson
Mr Jno Townsend Mr Philips
Mr Dew Mr Machin
Mr Moreton Mr Jn Wilson
Mr Ed Townsd Mr Brine
Mr Gifford

A complaint being sent by or Bro Anth How of Colebrook against Freeman as an Irregular & disorderly Preacher. Agreed that ye following Letter be sent to ye Church under His care Hon'd Friends

Being informed yt one Edw Freeman hath been in yr Parts, & among some of yr Friends under yr Pretence of being a Minister of ye Gospel We have thought Proper to give You Notice that He is so far from being an Approved Minister that None of Us can Esteem Him worthy of Regard as an Orderly Member of any Church Nor do we know of any, regular Church or Minister who esteem or Encourage Him as such. 33

Decr 28 1731
Present Mr Gill Mr Sam Wilson
Mr Arnold Mr John Wilson
Mr Edm Townsend Mr Brine
Mr Phillips Mr Dew
Mr Moreton Mr Grant
Mr Fuller Mr Gifford

Notice being given this board from ye Trustees & Managers of ye Library in Red Cross street that they are Agreed to permit all ye Pastors and Setled Ministers of or Denomination ye Use and Perusal of ye sd Library. Agreed that the following List be remitted to ym by the hand of or Bro Gill; and signed by Him; and that He be desired to meet ye General Baptists
in order to compleat ye General List and present it accordingly.  

Copy of our List

| Mr. Wallin | Mr. Gill | Mr. Arnold |
| Mr. Phillips | Mr. Rudd | Mr. Dew |
| Mr. Taylor | Mr. Jno. Wilson | Mr. Brine |
| Mr. Edmd Townsend | Mr. Rees | Mr. Sam Wilson |
| Mr. Biddle | Mr. Matthews | Mr. Gifford |

Agreed that Mr. Ebenezer Fuller be admitted a member of this Board.

April 17, 1733

Present

| Mr. Wallin | Mr. Brine | Mr. Wilson |
| Mr. Arnold | Mr. Sayer Rudd | Mr. Jno. Townsend |
| Mr. Gill | Mr. Jno. Rhudd | Mr. Flood |
| Mr. Dew | | Mr. Gifford |

Whereas Mr. Farmer reflected in a very unkind and unhandsome manner upon ye whole Body of the Baptists, & seemd to justify it in ye presence of ye Body of Independt ministers. Agreed that the following Letter be sent to ye sd Body. viz.

Rev’d Brethren

The Body of ye Baptist Minrs of ye Calvinist Perswasion in & abt Londn having considered ye affair debated in yr Presence at Sn’s Coffee House March 12 1732/3 viz Mr. Farmers Treatm of Mr. Wilson together with his unkind & unjust Reflection on ye whole Body of ye Baptists cannot but represent ye great uneasiness to you apprehending yt they were not treated with yt Respect ye Nety of ye thing called for.

Wherefore in Order to maintain yt peace & Love wth has so long subsisted between us we desire yt five or six Pastors of yr Body may be appointed to give a like number of Pastors among us a meeting at such Place as you may think proper, yt this affair may be amicably adjusted
The Baptist Board Minutes

We are Rev'd Brethren wth grt Respects yrs
Sayer Rhudd Jn Gill
Jn Rudd Jn Brine
A Gifford Edw Wallin
Sam Dew
Wm Arnold
Jn Townsend

Ps We desire yt Mr Farmer may be pres't at ye sd meeting

April 24. 1733
Present

Mr Wallin Mr Rees
Mr Wilson Mr Dew
Mr Biddle Mr Sayer Rudd
Mr Gill Mr John Rhudd
Mr Arnold Mr Brine
Mr Flood Mr John Townsend
Mr Phillips Mr Gifford

Agreed That Mr Gill and Mr Arnold carry ye afore mentiond Letter: which they did and reported that that yr were not ministers eno' to return an answr.
Agreed that they, go again this day, fortnight, and desire it.38

May, 8. 1733

Present

Mr Wilson Mr Wallin Mr Arnold
Mr Gill Mr Dew Mr Townsend
Mr Brine Mr Gifford

Mr Gill and Mr Arnold reported yt they had been with ye Brethren of ye Independt Perswasion abt Mr Farmer &c who returnd ye following Answr.
That they dislik'd & abhor'd Mr Farmer's Treatment of Mr Wilson in particular much more of his
treatment of the Baptists in general & desir'd yt they
would let ye affair drop for ye sake of Peace
Agreed to comply wth their Request

July 3, 1733
Pres't Mr Biddle in the Chair
Mr Gill Mr Jno Townsend Mr Moreton
Mr Dew Mr Brine Mr Jno How
Mr Curtis Mr Ed: Townsend Mr Wilson
Mr Arnold Mr Gifford

Whereas Mr How of Folkston acquainted this board
that Dr Edw'd Jarvis left by will ye Congregation under
ye sd Mr How's Care upwards of ye sum of 1000l we
being satisfyed by ye advice of able Council that they
have an undoubted Right to it are unanimously deter-
mined to assist & stand by Him to the utmost of our
Power. 59

Ocr 2d [1733] Present
Mr Gill Mr Biddle Mr John Rudd Mr S. Rudd
Mr Gifford Mr Townsend Mr Petto Mr Dew Mr
Townsend Jr Mr Morton Mr Flood

Upon a Letter from Mr [Philip] Jones of Upton Agreed!
that a Letter be Sent by Mr Gifford to Mr Jones to
acquaint him that whereas Certain Brethren have
lately been in town to obtain Mony for Building a
Meeting It is the Opinion of this Board that it wou'd
be more Adviseable for Him to Come up about a
Month after Christmas. 40

Six brethren appearing from the Church lately under
the Care of Mr. Sayer Rudd Declar'd that whereas
they were now without a Pastor they Desir'd the
Gentlemen of this Board to Assist them by preaching.
It was resolv'd Unanimously, to Assist them as far as
suited our Convenience. 41

A Message being Sent from the board to the Brethren
meeting at ye British Coffee house to Desire their
Concurrence in the Affair of the late Dr Jarvis's
Will It was agreed by them that Six of their pastors shou'd Meet Six of our pastors at North's Coffee house October 15th at three o clock in ye afternoon. The Brethren from us appointed were Mr Gill Mr Arnold Mr Gifford Mr Wilson Mr Brine Mr Dew.

Novembr 20th 1733

Present
Mr Gill in the chair
Mr Arnold, Mr Wilson, Mr Brine, Mr Gifford,
Mr John Rudd Mr Dew, Mr Morton, Mr John Townshend; Mr Flood, Mr Phillips, Mr Abraham Rudd, Mr Carter, Mr Brown & Sayer Rudd.

This board having read a letter from Mr [Joseph] Harrington [of White Street, Southwark], it was agreed to return the following answer
Sr, Yours of Septembr 4th 1733 to the ministers meeting at Blackwell's Coffee House has been read.

We observe that the greatest part of it relates to some difference between you and your church & Mr Arnold and his church, the which we were strangers to before you acquainted us with it by your letter, Mr Arnold having never taken any notice of it to us, and which we must leave to be made up between your selves, unless you jointly agree to refer it to us.

We apprehend that the main thing you have in view in your letter, is to have a free conversation with us the ministers, meeting at the above place: The difficulty with us is, the scandal you lie under on account of some part of your conduct particularly at Coventry. If you are willing to submit to a close examination on this head, that we may be able to judge for ourselves, and give the people satisfaction under our care, who are frequently objecting to your character, we shall be ready to do you all the justice in our power, and concur with you in any thing that may conduce to the glory of God, the good of his
interest, and the peace, comfort and advantage of each other.

Novemb'r 20th 1733

A. Gifford
Jno. Rhudd
John Townsend

[These signatures are autograph which is very exceptional. They show spellings preferred.]

Dec'r 18th [1733]

Present Mr Brine in the chair
Mr Gill Mr S. Rudd Mr Dew Mr Gifford Mr Ridgway Mr J. Rudd Mr Phillips Mr J. Townsend
Mr Flood Mr Morton Mr Wilson

Mr Gill reported that he had Delivered the Message to Mr Harrinton & that he agreed to submit to any Method this board shoud think proper to Inquire into his conduct at Coventry or Elsewhere

Agreed that Mr Gill & Mr Brine Draw up a Letter to the Church of Coventry upon this affair & that it be brought to the board to be approved of by the brethren

Febry 26th 1733/4

Prest Mr Arnold in the Chair.
Mr Wilson Mr Jno. Townsend Mr Browne
Mr Machine Mr Gill Mr Jno. Rhudd
Mr Anth How Mr Curtis Mr Moreton
Mr Sayer Rhudd Mr Dew Mr Jones
Mr Flood Mr Gifford Mr Brine
Mr Phillips Mr Kenword [a deletion]

Three messengers from the Church late under ye Care of Mr Wallin informed the Board that the said Church being dissatisfyed with Dr Rhudd's sentiments concerning the Doctne of ye Trinity, declared in a Paper
deliver'd in; desire the farther assistance of this Board;
Agreed that we do assist Them in the best and
most proper manner we can.
Agreed that Mr Sayer Rhudd & Mr John Rhudd
be desired to withdraw [two words deleted]
Whereas Mr Sayer Rhudd and Mr John Rhudd
have this day, openly declared that, "The Trinitarian
Doctrine appears to (them) to be entirely humane,
consisting of words & phrases of mens own inventing,
& which are no where to be met with in Scripture;
such as three persons and one, divine Essence"
Agreed Nemine Contradicente That the said Mr Sayr Rhudd & Mr Jno Rhudd be no longer admitted to
sit with us as members of this Society.

March 4. 1734
Prest Mr Gill in the Chair
Mr Wilson Mr Dew Mr Curtis
Mr Edmd Townsend Mr Jno Townsend Mr Brown
Mr Braithwait Mr Machin Mr Phillips
Mr Moreton Mr Jones Mr Gifford
Mr Brine
Agreed that any member of this Board may have a
Copy of Dr Sayr Rudd's Declaration refer'd to in ye
last Minutes.
Two Messengers from the Church late under ye Care of Mr Jno Rhudd presented Reasons for desiring Mr Jno Rhudd to desist from exercising the office of a Pastor & desired ye Assistance of ye Board agreed to Assist ym as far as we conveniently can.

May 21. 1734.
Prest Mr Gill in the Chair
Mr Wilson Mr Jno Townsend
Mr Brine Mr Curtis
Mr Biddle Mr Machin
Agreed that Mr Fall & Mr Griffiths have liberty to sit at this Board.

Agreed that ye following 'Answer be given to Mr Harringtons Letter. viz.

The Church of Coventry wholly, declining giving us any Acc't of your Conduct from an apprehension as we are since informed' of your Readiness to take advantages ag't any, yt shall impeach your Character We are obliged to 'drop your Case till you can engage them to comply with our Request.

Agreed that we have a meeting of Prayer Wensday y.e 29th Inst at Bro Braithwaits place upon ye Acc't of ye Removal of several Honourable & usefull mins to begin at 10. & end at 2.

June 11. 1734. Mr Gill chaimn

Prest Mr Brine Mr Dew Mr Ridgway
Mr Petto Mr Biddle Mr Fall
Mr Edmd Townsend Mr Machin Mr Curtis
Mr Jn Townsend Mr Moreton Mr Phillips
Mr Gifford

Mr Caleb Job haveing applied to several Brethren for Encouragement & they haveing given him for answer to ys purpose "that for some reasons they " could not receive him into their pulpits, nor recom- " mend him to any of ye Congregations in or about " Townsend are destitute but if they could serve him by " teaching school or educating youth they would be " willing as a fellow creature & they hoped a fellow " Xn." Agreed that Bro Brine &Bro Dew be messen- gers to inform him from this Board that ye above mentiond answer having been reported to ys board they, are determined to abide by it.
### The Baptist Board Minutes

**July 16, 1734**

Present. Mr Gill in the Chair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr Braithwait</th>
<th>Mr Biddle</th>
<th>Mr Wilson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Edm Townsend</td>
<td>Mr Griffiths</td>
<td>Mr Brine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Fall</td>
<td>Mr Curtis</td>
<td>Mr Machin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Moreton</td>
<td>Mr Flood</td>
<td>Mr Dew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Phillips</td>
<td>Mr Gifford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agreed that Mr Abraham West have leave to sit with us at this Board.

Two Messengers from ye Church under ye care of Bro Moreton desiring ye Assistance of ye Brethren yt meet at ye board; Agreed to improve some time in prayer at Glass house street [Westminster] beginning at Ten & ending at Two

**Sept 3, 1734. Mr Wilson Chairmn.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prest</th>
<th>Mr Dew</th>
<th>Mr Braithwait</th>
<th>Mr West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ed Townsend</td>
<td>Mr Ridgway</td>
<td>Mr Griffiths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Curtis</td>
<td>Mr Moreton</td>
<td>Mr Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Phillips</td>
<td>A Gifford</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr Dew presented ye Request of ye Ch: at Northampton desiring our assistance to build yr meetinghouse. Agreed Nem: Contrad.

That in conformity to several Resolutions formerly made we do not as a board of ministers receive any such case.

**Sept 17, 1734**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prest</th>
<th>Mr Gill chairman</th>
<th>Mr Edm Townsend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Wilson</td>
<td>Mr Biddle</td>
<td>Mr Braithwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Griffiths</td>
<td>Mr Fall</td>
<td>Mr Curtis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Phillips</td>
<td>Mr Dew</td>
<td>Mr Ridgway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr West</td>
<td>Mr Moreton</td>
<td>A. Gifford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agreed that Mr Clendon Dawkes be admitted to sit with us as a member of this society.
Octr 1. 1734

Pres't A. Gifford Chairman

Mr Gill                  Mr Wilson                Mr Braithwait
Mr Ed Townsd            Mr Phillips               Mr Fall
Mr Curtis                Mr Griffiths             Mr West
Mr Flood                 Mr Dawks                Mr Jno Townsd
Mr Ridgway               Mr Dew

A Letter from ye late Mr Arnold's people signifying the several steps taken since ye late pastors death. Agreed yt ye ansr given ym be That we are glad to hear of their unanimity & heartily wish ym well.

Mr Hodgchkins of Newcastle upon Tine &c acquainted us with ye circumstances of yr Church there & desired us to assist in advising them to a minister. Agreed to consider the case & give ym an answer.

Novr 19. 1734     Mr Gill Chairman

Pres't

Mr Brine      Mr Ridgway              Mr Braithwaite
Mr Wilson     Mr Dawks                Mr John Townsend
Mr West       Mr Griffiths            Mr Edwd Townsend
Mr Fall       Mr Curtis               Mr Phillips
Mr Dew        Mr Morton               Mr Biddle

B Gifford communicated ye contents of a lett'r fro ye Southmoulton desiring ye advice of ye Brethren wt ans'r to give Agreed Nem con yt B. Giff'd be advised to give ye following Answer viz.

That if Mr Machin stands ye best in yr affections he has ye prior right, but yt if Mr Machin has ye greatest Interest in yr affections Mr Machin who has been consulted declares he is willing to relinquish any right he may have by virtue of yr call.

Decr 3d 1734

Mr Gill chairman         Present
Mr Wilson                Mr Griffiths
Mr Braithwait            Mr Biddle
A Letter from Dr Sayer Rhudd was read & ordered to be laid up among the Papers relating to ye Board

March 25th 1735
Present Mr Gill in the chair
Mr Brine Mr Wilson Mr Dew Mr Braithwaite Mr Phillips Mr Biddle Mr Moreton Mr Dawks Mr Edm Townsend Mr Griffiths Mr Machin.
A Long Letter from Dr Sayer Rhudd being received Agreed to Adjourn the farther Consideration of it to Saturday Next
March 29th 1735. Present Mr Gill in ye Chair Mr Brine Mr Wilson Mr Braithwaite & Mr Dew. The Letter being read by Mr Gill & Considerd Agreed that the following answer be Considerd by us at the Next Meeting—
That it appears to us from this Letter that Dr Sayer Rhudd is now of the same sentiment as to the Doctrine of the Trinity or Three Persons & One God, as he appeared to us to be by the manuscript delivered to us feb. 26. 1733/4 whch he Declared to Contain a Confession of his faith respecting that article, and upon whch We Determined no more to meet him as a member of this Society.

April 1st 1735 Mr Wilson in ye Chair Present Mr Brine Mr Braithwaite Mr Biddle Mr West Mr Dawks Mr Moreton Mr Machin Mr Phillips Mr Jon Townsend
Dr Rhudds Letter being read by Mr West Agreed that it appears to us He is of the same sentiment now as when He Deliverd the Manuscript refered to Above.
And that the article above be transcrib'd by Mr Gill & Mr Brine & Deliver'd to him as our answer.

April 8th 1735. Present Mr Gill Mr Brine Mr Biddle Mr Ridgway Mr West Mr Dawks Mr Phillips Mr E. Townsend Mr Curtiss Mr Braithwaite Mr Griffith Mr Jo: Townsend Mr Dew—Agreed that instead of the phrase as he appeared to us to be in ye Vote Respecting Dr Rhudd it be inserted We Apprehend him to be.

The Minute of March 29th being transcribed & Deliver'd to Dr Sayer Rhudd by Mr Gill & Mr Brine they receiv'd an Immediate Answer from him Sealed wch was prepared before they had Deliver'd the Minute & being read to the Society was laid up Among the papers belonging to it.

May 27th 1735. Present Mr Gill Mr Dew, Mr E. Townsend, Mr Dawkes, Mr Curtis Mr Morton, Mr G. Townsend, Mr Braithwaite—Mr Birch, Mr Foskett & Mr Pewtress messengers from Mr Gifford's church reported yt that church at a meeting appointed by Mr Gifford & his friends were come to a resolution yt Mr Gifford should continue no longer a pastor to 'em nor preach any more among 'em & desired yt the ministers of this board would assist 'em by preaching to 'em & to have our answer the next Tuesday.

Novr 11th 1735

Present Mr Gill in the chair Mr Dew Mr Brine Mr Braithwaite Mr West Mr Daux Mr Curtiss Mr John Townsend Mr Flood Mr Morton Mr Ridgway Mr Ed Townsend Mr Wilson Whereas a charge of sodomitical attempts, offerd by Mr Andrew Gifford to Mr Phillips & others was laid before this Society by Six of its members, of wch he has had an Exact Copy given him in writing, 'Agreed
that Mr Edward Ridgway, & Mr Joseph Flood go to the said Mr Andrew Gifford, and acquaint him that he is Desird to attend this Society at Blackwells Coffee house at the usual time, of Meeting on Tuesday Next or Tuesday Sevenight, or to send an answer to the said Charge by letter within that time, otherwise he will be excluded this Society,

S. Wilson Secretary

See a farther A'ct page 67th [after the next three entries.]

Novr 25th 1735

Present Mr Wilson Chairman
Mr Gill Mr Brine Mr Braithwaite Mr Griffiths Mr Philipps Mr Hannell Mr Curtiss Mr Ed d Townsend Mr Dawks Mr Ed d Ridgway Mr John Townsend Mr Burch the Elder Mr Evans Mr Pewteris Desired the Ministers to agree to have the Monthly Meeting at the Meeting place in Little Wild Street to wch request the Ministers agreed.
Mr Morton desiring a copy of the charge agt Mr Gifford might be deliver'd to him as from this Society Agreed that Mr Braithwaite be 'desird to give Mr Morton such a copy, to be carried by him to Mr Gifford.

Oct 5th 1736 Present
Mr Gill Mr Stennett Mr Brine Mr Braithwaite Mr Wiles Mr West Mr John Townsend Mr Phillips Mr Curtiss Mr Ed d Townsend Mr Morton Mr Dawks Mr Ridgway Mr Dew S. Wilson
A report being made by Mr Braithwaite that several scandalous things were said of Mr Morgan Griffiths a member of this Board. Agreed that Mr Braithwaite & Brine Inquire into it & Report the truth to the Board the next Meeting

S. Wilson Secrt
October 12th 1736

Present: Mr Gill, Mr Dew, Mr Ridgway, Mr Morton, Mr John Townsend, Mr Curtiss, Mr Dawks, Mr Ed Townsend, Mr West, Mr Brathwaite, S. Wilson.

Agreed that Mr Gill, Mr Brathwaite, Mr Dew, Mr Brine, Mr West, Mr Wilson be a Committee with any of the Board to draw up petitions on the behalf of widows & children of our brethren deceased & recommend them to the gentlemen concerned in ye' Widows fund. Agreed that Mr John Haden, a member of Bro' Wilson's church, called out by them to the work of the ministry, be admitted a member of this Board, accordingly, he was receiv'd.

Mr Brathwaite reported according to an Order of October 5th 1736 that He had been with Mrs Maul, the mother in law of Mrs Griffiths in company with Mr Brine who reported he was chargeable with Pride, Passion, Swearing & Abuse of his wife & notorious Lying. Agreed that Bro' Ridgway & Bro' Morton bee appointed Messengers to Acquaint Mrs Griffiths herewith, & Desire his Attendance next Board to answer this Charge.

Whereas a Message was sent from this Board to Mr Gifford According to an Article contain'd page 62d And no answer sent from Mr Gifford to this board Answerable to that Message. The following Agreement was unanimously came to, but omitted to be entered at that time but remaining in the Secretary's hand is to this Effect

Agreed that Mr Gifford being Consider'd at this Board meerly as a public Preacher of the Gospel, We have nothing to do as Members of this Society to Consider his Repentance as a private Christian, However we are still of the same mind that the account brought us by Mr Russell & Paine is too general relating cheifly
to the Corruptions of Nature & not the particular Crimes He stands chargd with.

Having a Serious Concern for the Glory of God &
the Honour of the Interest of Christ among us We
cannot think it our Duty to meet with him here as a
Minister.

Jan 18th 1736/7

Mr Paine by Mr Wilson desird the assistance of the
brethren to open Mr Giffords meetinghouse.

Agreed that we can by no means comply with the
said request. Present Mr Gill Chairman Mr Braith-
waite Mr Dawks Mr Ed Townsend, Mr John Towns-
end Mr Morton Mr West Mr Phillips S. Wilson Secr

August 9th 1737

Present Mr Gill Mr Ridgway Mr Braithwait Mr Curtiss
Mr J. Townsend Mr E Townsend Mr Dew Mr Stennet
Mr Brine S. Wilson

Mr Simson of Floor, presented a Case, desiring assis-
tance as to a meeting place, Upon reading &
considering it; Agreed He be advis’d to withdraw
it, for the present, So many of the Like being
recommended this Year already And it is farther
agreed, if the Case appear in the same light to us,
next Spring, to Give it the precedence of any, other,
& Incourage it as far as we can.

Feb: 28th 1737-8

Present Mr Gill
Mr Stennett Mr Ridgway, Mr Braithwaite Mr Brine
Mr John Townsend Mr Brine Mr Flowers Mr Morton

Agreed to receive Mr Anderson a member of Mr
Gills church call’d out by them to the ministry as a
member of this Board. Agreed to the following List
of approvd ministers to be transmitted to the General
Body.
The Baptist Board Minutes

Mr Biddle Mr Braithwaite Mr Brine Mr Dew Mr Dawks Mr Davenport Mr Flower Mr Flood Mr Gill Mr Anderson Mr Morton Mr Rees Mr Ridgway Mr Ed: Townsend Mr Jo. Townsend Mr Wilson Mr Stennett Mr Kenward Mr West Mr Curtiss

S. Wilson Secr

July 31. 1739

Present

Mr Gill Mr Braithwaite Mr Stennett Mr Dawkes Mr E. Townsend Mr Anderson Mr Curtiss Mr Flower Mr Morton Mr Ridgway.

The people at Malmesbury made application to have their case recommended to our friends in order to collect money for the building a meeting house. It was agreed it was not advisable to proceed at this time but that it would be best to come up to town about February next and that in the mean time we shall take care to recommend no other case till that presents.

Decr 11. 1739 Present

Mr Gill Mr Braithwaite Mr Stennett Mr Dawkes Mr Brine Mr Curtiss Mr Townsend Mr Ridgway.

Mr Stennett reported the church under his care had called out Mr Jos: Palmer to preach the gospel, and desired he might be admitted to set with us at this board. Wch was unanimously agreed to and he took his place accordingly. The church at Crockerton applying for advice & assistance as to building a meetinghouse agreed to consider it next to that of the church at Malmesbury.

March 25. 1740

Present Mr Gill Chairman Mr Stennett Mr Braithwaite Mr Brine Mr J. Townsend.

Mr Stennett reported the Church under his care had
call'd out his son Mr Jos: Stennett to the Ministry. On a motion that he be admitted to set with us a member of this board it was unanimously agreed to.

June the 3d 1740 Mr Wilson reported the church under his care had call'd out to the ministry Mr Benj: Beddome & Mr Saml James on a motion they be admitted to set as members of this board it was unanimously agreed to.

A letter from Guildford was read 'Agreed to postpone the consideration of it till next meeting.

Present at this meeting Mr Gill Stennett Dew Brine Morton Townsend Edm Townsend John Ridgway Stennett Junr Dawks Wilson

June 10th 1740 Present
Mr Gill Stennett Braithwaite Dawkes Morton Flower Ridgway Dew Townsend Ed Townsend John Anderson Beddome Jones Mr Brine Machin Wilson

A motion being made on the reading of part of a letter from one of the people at Guildford who are dissatisfied with Mr Phillips. It was agreed that Mr Wilson acquaint them that if they send up two of the Brethren to ask the advice of the ministers they will hear them & give them the best advice they can. Agreed that Mr Ed Townsend acquaint Mr Phillips with this.

June 24. 1740
By adjournment at the Kings head Swithin's Alley Present
Mr Gill Mr Stennett Townsend Townsend Machin Dawks Dew How Wilson

Agreed that the people who are dissatisfied with Mr Phillips be advisd to Continue together & pray one with another and watch over one another in love waiting for the issues of providence, and avoid every thing wch may have the appearance of resentment, or reflection
Aug: 12. 1740
Some brethren from the church at Frimley, having
desir’d advice on a difference between them & Mr
Seely their pastor relating to the Imprudence of his
conduct—And the brethren having wrote to Mr Seely
about it, He this day Appeard in Person and after a
long hearing of the case, It was agreed to advise him
to go down & humble himself to the church for the
offences he has given them and give them fresh assur­
ances that he will relinquish all communication with
that woman—And that if he does not like the advice
to leave the people peaceably,

Aug. 26. 1740
Present Mr Gill Mr Stennett Mr Dew Mr Flower
Mr Stennet junr Mr Townsend senr & junr Mr Brine
Mr Dawks Mr Wilson
A letter being read from the people at Guildford
desiring our assistance in recommending a minister
Agreed to desire Mr Curtiss to go down & serve them.

Decr 1741 Mr Benjamin Wallen was admitted a
member of this Board.51

Jan: 13th 1740/1 Three friends from the people late
under the care of Mr Freeman attended the Board.
desiring in ye name of the Body, advice as to their
being acknowledged as a sister Church expressing;
their readiness to comply wth anything Judgd proper
for that purpose. Agreed to take the matter into
consideration & give them some advice this day, fort­
night.

Jany 27th 1740/1
The minute of Jan: 13th being read over agreed to
advise the people late under the care of Mr Freeman
to dissolve wt they call their church state and that
those who came out of the world and stood in no
relation to any church (if they judge it meet) form themselves into a church, and that the rest apply to the churches to wch they stood related for a dismission.

March 19th 1740/1 The church at Crokerton having made no application for assistance as to the building of their meeting house since Decr 1739. Agreed that the church of Bildestone under the care of Mr Millar be incourag'd to send up their messengers to collect the charity of London friends about may next.

April 14. 1741
Mr Sleap & another friend came from the people meeting at Newport markett with an answer in writing to our advice wch Mr Sleap read to this purpose.
"That if bearing their testimony agt persecution, "immorality & contending earnestly for the faith were "marks of a church, we ought to allow them as such, "till we cou'd disprove them. That they had the "gospel preachd, ordinances regularly administred. "And they thought we had stretchd our ministerial "authority in desiring them to dissolve, wch was "without precept or precedent.
Agreed that they have misrepresented the case, Whereas they suggest we requird their Dissolution, & stretchd our ministerial authority. We only gave them advice agreable to their desire wch they well know they are at liberty to take or refuse, and that the paragraph they referr to was not ours but from another body.

June 2. 1741
Mr Wilson reported Mr Meredith Townsend was calld out to the work of the ministry & desird to be admitted a member of this society. Agreed that he be admitted & he was accordingly.

July 7th 1741
The church at Wantage apply'd by letter for releif
as to building a meeting place. Agreed to receive it & recommend it as soon as the two instances already before us are considered.

Two friends Ricd Price & Wm Chapman from the congregation of particular Baptists at Chatham desired advice & assistance as to their Separation from the Presbyterians on account of Sabellianism & other errors. Agreed to advise them to continue in prayer to be careful as to discipline & walk & that if the case be as they represent on conversation wth their minister they would give them all Incouragement—Mr Symmonds & Gowen Messengers from the Church asked assistance for the people at Beccles as to a meeting place. Agreed to consider it in its order.

Novr 10th 1741
At a Board held Ocr 20th Mr Coombs a Member of Mr Wilsons Church was admitted a Member of this Society. Ocr 27th Mr Acourt from Mr Ed: Townsend's Church was also admitted. 52

Janr 19th 1741/2
A letter from Mr Bevois was read relating to a difference between him and Mr Anderson, Agreed that Mr Anderson be desired to comply with his request that the matter be left to three persons under arbitration bonds one chose by Mr Bevois another by Mr Anderson (both of the same trade with them) & a third by this Board. To wch Mr Anderson agreed & for this Board Mr Wallen was chosen a Referree. A copy of this was sent by the Secretary to Mr Bevois.

Feb: 16. 1741/2
Several Letters being read relating to an agreement between the churches at Folkstone & Ashford as to Mr Greens serving the Folkstone people. Agreed that Folkstone people shoud be satisfied with the proposal
of the People at Ashford that Mr Green serve them once a fortnight—53

Mr Gaskin presented a Petition from Mr Acourt relating to Collecting mony for him. Agreed that as we have recommended B. Lawrence it is not adviseable whilst he is soliciting our friends, for us to sign Mr Acourt's case, but that it be desir'd of Mr Townsends Church to sign a Letter for him if they think proper.

July 13th 1742 Mr Russell applied for advice to settling in an orderly way with the people late under the care of Mr Harrinton. Agreed to give him our advice this day fortnight Mr Wills case of Eversholl as to help in building a meeting place being omitted to be set down in its proper place. Agreed it be the next considered when the people of Beckles have finishd—54

July 27th 1742
Mr Russell appearing the advice given him by the Brethren was That the People late under the care of Mr Harrinton be desir'd to request the several churches to send two messengers & their minister to meet some of their brethren to consult of proper measures as to their comeing into order

Aug 24. 1742
Capt Norris presented the case of the church at Wisbech as to Building a meeting place agreed to receive it in its Turn.
Mr Coombs reported Mr Russell was below & desir'd to come up & be admitted as a Member of this Board, on wh a Committee of the Pastors were appointed to consider that case, who accordingly being formed into a Committee after some conversation with Mr Russell, appointed Mr Gill & Mr Wallen to Inquire
into some affairs relating to Mr Russell & make a report in a months time.

Sep' 14th 1742

A report was made to the Brethren by Mr Gill concerning Mr Russell, And it was agreed Mr Dew be Desir'd to Acquaint him He is desird to attend the Brethren at their next Meeting.

Sep' 20. 1742

Mr Russel proposing to be admitted a Member of this Board upon hearing the report made by the Messengers appointed to inquire into the said Mr Russells affair agreeable to Minutes of Aug. 24. 1742 And Attending to his Defence It was unanimously agreed (Mr White excepted) that all circumstances considered He ought not be admitted a Member of this Board, And further it is the advice of this board that he do not continue in the Ministry apprehending it will not be for the honour of Religion.

Agreed the Church meeting in White street be acquainted that for several reasons this board has found it necessary to refuse Mr Russel admittance as a Member wch Reasons the Board is ready to give when She thinks fitt to apply for them, That this notice be given in writing and that Mr Wallin send the notice to Mr Sam'l Wilson Distiller at Deptford member of the said church

Nov'r 23. 1742 The People at Basaleg in Monmouthshire applying for relief as to building a Meetingplace Agreed to receive at in its turn wch will be after the people at Wisbech

Jan'r 4th 1742/3

Agreed that the Churches are desir'd to send two Deputies wth their Minister to Mr Dew's Meeting place on Tuesday next at three oclock precisely to consider
of some affairs to be laid before them Mr. Kenwood & Mr. Stinton came as Messengers from the Church under the care of Mr. Flowers [Unicorn Yard] with the following Question Whether a person ought to be continued in ye. fellowship of the Church who shall receive the sacrament in the Church of England to Qualify himself for executing an office of trust or profit when at the same time he does not incurr any penalty if he refuses to accept the place to wch he is Elected—Present fourteen Brethren. Agreed unanimously that it is absolutely unlawful for any Member of a Gospel Church to commune with the Church of England on any consideration whatsoever.

Blackwells Coffee house

Feb: 1 1742/3 An abusive Letter was sent to the Brethren highly reflecting on the Ministers & Deputies of the several Churchs subscrib'd Tho: Bevois It was agreed that the said letter be delivered to Mr. Dew to lay before the Church under his care Mr. Dew promising when he had so done, To return it again

Feb: 8th 1742/3
A Letter being read from Mr. John Townsend signifying his Desire to be stroke out of our List Agreed that his request be comply'd with And that he be no longer look'd on as a Member of this Society

March 8. 1742/3
A Letter was drawn up & orderd to be sent to the Church under the care of Mr. Dew complaining of Mr. Bevois a member & officer in that Church for his conduct in sending a letter referr'd to in the minute of Feb: 1st And S. Wilson & Mr. Wallin were appointed to deliver it to the said Church at their next Church meeting
April 26, 1743 / S. Wilson reported Mr Meredith Townsend had declared himself to be a Pædobaptist & joined himself to a people of that persuasion. Contrary to the advice of the Church he stood related to, and that the Church had dealt with him for that disorder. On which it was agreed that he be declared to be no longer a Member of this Society.

July 26, 1743
Mr Vesey applying for the people at Cullimton as to building a meeting house agreed to receive the Case & that it be recommended to our friends after the case of Baseleg in Wales.55
Mr Dew reported that the Church under his care took the Ministers Letter into consideration & charged Mr Bevois with the Abuse he had offered to the Ministers for which & conforming to the Church of England he was cut off from the Community.

Aug 16, 1743
Agreed to receive Crockerton Case after Cullumton case is finished.

July 17th, 1744
Agreed to receive the Case of the People at Boston as to building a meetinghouse & that it be considered after the case of Crockerton.56

[Until 1747 a variety of hands held the pen.]

Aug 21, 1744
Agreed to receive the case & recommended after Boston case

[See after the next four dates.]

Memorandum Jan 22d: 1744-5
The cases of Mrs Eliz Sutton Joanna Sampson, Hannah pointing & Agnes Cully, were recommended to the managers of the widows Fund. Also Mrs Brewster Mrs Germain Mrs Hawkins & Mrs Miriam Burford & likewise Mrs Machin & Mrs Sibley57
Feb. 19. Mrs Booth Mrs Richardson & Mrs Herbert
Mar. 5 A Letter was read from ye Church at Warwick representing ye necessity for a Minister to settle with them with a particular account of ye circumstances Bro Wilson observd' yr was a prospect of 2 or 3 gifts to be calld out in about a twelve month from his church. Agreed Mr Wilson be desird to write & suggest this prospect having no other Person immediately in View likely to serve them

Memo Further cases recommend'd to Widdows Fund. Mrs Petto Mrs Hoar Mrs Gilmor Mrs Shepard

Mem'dm on ye other side is a copy of a minute respecting Mr Flower Church taken 27th Novbr ye

Inserting of wch in its place was omitted

March 5. 1744/5 A Letter from ye Church under the care of Mr Braithwaite complaining against the church meeting on ye Maze Pond being presented to ye Board was read. A copy of ye sd Letter being moved for by Mr Wallin Resolved A copy of ye sd Letter be grant'd to ye Church complained of & Mr Wallin be intrusted with ye said Letter in order to take a copy of the same.

March 26 1745 A Letter with a copy of a Letter sent to sometime since to ye Church under ye care of Mr Braithwaite together with a copy of an answer given by ye sd church to ye messengers of ye church meeting at ye Maze Pond to ye request for ye dismissal of a Member was presented to ye elders by persons deputed from ye church last mentioned. The sd Letter & copy were read Resolved that Mr Braithwaite be acquainted with it & a copy of the said writings be grant'd if required.

Mem'd A minute taken Novbr 27. 1744

Present

Mr Gill, Mr Townsend, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Dawkes, Mr Brine, Mr Wallin, Mr Dew, Mr Stennet
A Message being brought from the Church meeting in Unicorn Yard by Mr Kenward Mr Stinton, Mr Lyons Mr Lyons, Mr Pickering Mr Sawkins Mr King & Mr Parker acquainting us their being destitute of a Pastor Thy desired us to assist them in afternoons, till they were provided Agreed that we assist them in our Turns, in afternoons as their circumstances shall require & we have opportunity.

Aprill 2. 1745. Mr Braithwaite was informed of some writing relating to the Church under his care delivered in by Messengers from ye Church meeting at ye Maze Pond pursuant to a Resolution last Board. A copy of the said writings being requested by Mr Braithwaite It was granted him accordingly.

May 14 1745
Mr Wilson reported the Church under his care had called out Mr Jno Needham and Mr Josiah Thompson to preach the Gospel desiring they might be admitted to set at this Board which was unanimously agreed to and They took their place accordingly.

Septr ye 20th 1745 A Motion being made To Set apart a day for Sollemn humiliation & prayer on ye Accet of ye present Situation of the affairs of ye Nation. Agreed that a day be Sett apart on ye above Occation & That it be on Thursday ye 28th Instant & That The Several Churches of our denomination in ye Countrey be invited To Join with us on This Ocation & on ye day Above Mentioned & That each of The Ministers be disrd to write To Them to inform Them of it.

Tuesday August 20 1745
A Letter from ye Church at Deptford under the care of Mr Biddle requesting ye Board to use their
Interest in ye behalf under their distressed condition wch according another writing appeared to be their being deprived of ye meeting house
Resolved it is ye opinion of this Board the People aforesaid go in a Body with thire Pastor & a Minister provided to preach for them & assert their right to occupy the place on the day of their turn in course
Agreed Mr Templeman be & he is hereby desired to carry a copy of this minute to Mr Biddle & his people

Sept ye 10th 1745 Pursuant to ye above Minute in Relation to the affair of ye Church at Debtford Brother Townsend being Requested to go down ye Last Lords day did accordingly Go & with Some of the Members entered The Meeting place & being their Some Time The Minister & Some of The people on ye other side came into ye Place upon which Mr Thumane Adressed him self to Them & accerted Their Right to The Liberty of The place & That it was The day on which it was Their Turn upon w[The Minister That came to preach erased] one of Those people made a proposition to This purpose ye as Their were Two Ministers came down The day should be divided between Them which Accordingly was agreed To & also [The Minister Concerned for ye Other people erased] promised That a day Should be apointed for both parties to Meet in order Talk over The Affair & That it should be Speedily Fixed.

Tuesday May ye 18th 1746
Mr Wallin Reported That Mr Aaron Spurier being a member in full communion with ye Church under under his care was by ye said Church Sent forth in ye work of ye Ministry & accordingly had preaced at ye Maze Pond & at Limehouse & therefore Requested
he ye said Aaron Spurier might be admited a member of this board but Mr Braithwaite objecting to The same disird ye case might be postponed to This Day month at which Time he would be prepared to give in his objections & That ye Several members of This Board might be in informed of it yt So they might attend to Consider ye Same which was Agreed unto;

[Wilson resumes the pen]
July 7th 1747 Mr Charles Miles was presented to the Board as a proper Member being regularly Calld out to the Ministry. It was unanimously agreed to receive him
Augt 4th 1747 Mr Samuel Stennett was presented to the board being regularly calld out to the Ministry. It was unanimously agreed to receive him

Augt 19th 1747
A message being deliverd by six Brethren from the Church at Limehouse acquainting this Board they had calld Mr A. Spurrier to the Pastoral office among them, & that they desird any three Pastors we shoud depute to assist in the work of setting him apart & the rest of us woud attend on the occassion on the last thursday in this month.
The Brethren being desird to wthdraw after some debate it was unanimously agreed That the Brethren be desird to acquaint the Church at Limehouse that whereas there is a difference subsisting between two of our Churches wth relation to this Brother, & several Pastors being absent it is our request that they woud postpone the Ordination for one month that we may have an opportunity to meet all together & consider if we can find out any expedient on this occasion that may tend to the Harmony of all Churches & the honour of the Interest, for wch we are greatly concernd.
Augt 25. 1747
Mr. Wilson reported Mr. Lewellin was called out to the Ministry by the Church under his care & that He preach'd publickly last Lords day, and accordingly propos'd him to be a member of this Board wch was unanimously agreed to.

[Next three entries in another hand.]

Agust ye 25th 1747
It is ye unanimous advise of ye Brethren yt Brother Spurrier be desired to Repeat his Confession in ye Terms of ye Paper delivered to ye church under ye care of Mr Braithwaite & declare he is sincere in the acknowledgement yt he humbly disires ye censure of ye church may be Removed, upon which he is desired to Signify That as he is call'd to ye Pastoral office in Mr Rees church he desires They would give him a Line of Recommendation

Tuesday, ye 22d Septtr 1747
Present Anderson in ye Chair Mrs Brine Townsends, Thompson Templeman Leweling Mr Braithwaite Junr Reported from his Father yt ye affair of Mr Spurrier was Ishued to ye generel Satisfacti'On of ye Church & that they had given him a Letter of dismissal To ye Church at Limehouse Signed by all ye brethren present at ye said Church Meeting
It being moved & seconded That Mr Spurrier be admitted a member of this board it was Agreed! Nemaine Contra &c That he should be admited & accordingly was admited

Tuesday ye 20th Octo: 1747
Agreed yt Two meetings of prayer be caryd on at 2 Diferent places on acc't of ye mortality Among ye Cattel & ye War in which ye Nation is ingaged & ye decay of ye Vital Power of Religion & To begin on
Thursday[altered, but not to Friday] ye 30th Octr at
5 a Clock in ye evening at Mr Dews meeting place

[Wilson resumes]

Decr 1st 1747. Mr Gill presented the case of the
church at Ashford in Kent relating to the building
of a Meeting place Agreed to receive it & that it be
considerd the first convenient season.

The above case was Considered June 1748

Feby ye 23d 1747 Mr Stennett preferred the case of ye
People at Charlford Bottham in Glostershire Relating
to ye building of a meeting place Agreed To Receive
it & that it be considerd next to ye case above
mentioned

This case has been confirmed

July ye 19th 1748 Mr Stennet preferred ye case of
ye church at Reading in Berkshire Relating to ye
Repairs of a Meeting house Agreed to the same be
Recived & That it be Considered next to ye Case
above mentioned

May ye 2d 1749
Doctr Gill Reported Mr Henery Scoffield was called
out to ye Ministry by ye Church under his care & that
he preached publickly in Thier place at ye same Time
Request he might be admited a member of this Board
which accordingly was Unanimously agreed to

June 1749. Mr Austin presented the case of the
church at Limehouse relating to the Repairs of their
Meeting place Agreed it be recommended after that of
Reading

July 11th 1749 The church at Rye in Sussex sent a
Letter for a Minister Agreed Mr Wallin recommend
in our Name Mr Rogers of Chatham
Octb'r 10: 1749
Mr Jocelyn a member of the church at Plymouth represented the case of ye said church that their meeting house required to be rebuilt desiring the assistance of friends in London Agreed the case be recommended next to that of Limehouse

March 20th 1749/50
Application being made to us from the church at Devonshire Square late under the care of Mr Braithwaite signifying that they had Calld Mr Stephens to be their Pastor & Desiring the Brethren to attend & assist in his ordination
It was declar'd to them that there was some Uneasiness among the Brethren relating to Mr Stephens being publickly concernd at the Tabernacle. To wch the Brethren from Devonshire Square reply'd that They woud desire Mr Stephens to attend the Ministers next Tuesday.

March 27th 1750
Mr Stephens Attended & gave an account of his Total Separation from the Methodists to the Satisfaction of the Brethren
Agreed to receive Mr Stephens as a Member of this Board.
Agreed that a committee be appointed to consult with the Brethren at Devonshire square about the Time of Mr Stephen's Ordination
Agreed that Dr Gill Messrs Stennet Wallen & Wilson be that committee
A motion being made that a Day of Humiliation be kept by the Churches on Account of the late alarming Providence in the two Shocks of an Earthquake Agreed that If we have no Notice of such a Day from the Publick That We fix on a Day on Tuesday Next
April ye 3d 1750
haveing had some incouragment to expect a day of humilliation on acct of ye Late providence of the two Shocks of an earthquake would shortly be apointed by ye Government it was agreed To wait Till This day Month to know Their Mind in This affair & if a day is not apointd Then to Fix on one to be Kept by our Several Churches, The Commitee apointed to Conscult The Brethren at Devonshire Square about ye time of Mr Stevens ordination Reported They had mett The above brethren & had agreed to Thursday, ye 10th of May for the Same, May, 1st No Notice being given of a Day of Humili­ation from the Government agreed to keep Thursday, the 14th of June next & that Notice be given to the Churches

July, ye 31st 1750 Mr Simonds presented ye Case of ye Church Namely a branch of the Church at Beckles meeting at Rusehall in Suffolk for ye building a meeting house Agreed it be considered next To ye case of Limehouse62

26. An attendance of only five after no minutes for sixteen months needs explanation. The Gloucestershire Coffee-House ceased to be the place of meeting, Blackwell's being chosen instead. Blackwell was a member of the church now under Rudd, at Devonshire Square, as appears by the last minute. In 1725 Joseph Jenkins held the books and papers of the older Fraternal, at the British Coffee-House, and he only gave them up in 1728 on payment of two guineas. A new list was made of that Fraternal, showing Burroughs, Cornthwaite (a schoolmaster, unable to attend regularly), Ingram, Kinch, Morris, Abraham Mulliner, Randall, Smith; Foster joined soon. Thus at the time the older society was the stronger and the more numerous. It may be seriously doubted whether it is accurate to say that the Three Denominations consisted then of three Boards, one of which was the Blackwell's Coffee-House Fraternal: the list of 37 just given in the text shows members of both Fraternals and others too; the committee included Burroughs and Kinch of the British.
27. Ridoutt says that John Howe of London came in 1727 and stayed only a year: Joseph Curtis came from Wapping for a year, and then refused a call because of one dissentient voice.

28. Deptford had the ancient General Baptist church, probably dating from the days of Elias Tookey, 1624; in 1697 William Alcock and William Woodham were Elders; John Gale preached on Sunday mornings till his death in 1721; it subscribed for the baptistery in Horsleydown in 1716 and nominated John Yeomans trustee. Biddle was a member of this Board, which defends him and considers his church adequate to the district. He continued till 1749, in good standing here and with the Fund. Beamont was not a Baptist; in 1663 he was reported to government as living in Southwark, and combining with Bragg, Cobb, Veninge, to hold meetings. Some of his sermons are to be seen at Oxford, Rawlinson, MSS E97-103.

29. Several changes took place at this time, quite unnoticed in these brief minutes. Angel Alley had some troubles, and quitted the Fund; Ridgway ceased attending here, although he continued as a minister recognized on one of the Three Denominations. In 1730 Noble died at the age of 71 on 12 June; Richardson the tenant of Devonshire Square died; Morton resigned Cripplegate, and was succeeded by John Brine of Kettering, from Coventry; he was at once invited to join the British Society, which was being reorganized.

30. Thomas Harrison of Wild Street came into bad odour over a funeral sermon; in January 1728/9 he desired to be relieved of the morning service, in July he resigned, conformed, and in October attacked the Baptists. Andrew Gifford, assistant to George Eaton of Nottingham, was called in December, and ordained in February 1729/30. He joined the British Society as well as this.

31. Trouble arose this year between two Baptist churches in and near Guildford, which led to a joint meeting of the two Societies. This is an instance how very imperfectly Wilson recorded even important business, and may account for the order that the book be kept on the premises, accessible to some one else.

32. Wilson's church proposed to quit Wapping, where it had worshipped seventy years at least: it did actually build in Rosemary Branch, Rosemary Lane, Goodman's Fields, afterwards named Little Prescot Street. As often happens in such cases, a few people clung to the old site in Johnson's Street, Old Gravel Lane; they presently called John Rhudd, brother of Sayer Rudd.

33. Ivimey modernised these two documents and re-told the story. He did not explain that John Phillips was the Teaching-Elder.
The Baptist Board Minutes

of Colliers' Rents, who held office 4 March 1730/1 to 12 May 1732, according to Walter Wilson, iv. 323. John Machin is more of a puzzle; but as he appears here just between the death of Richardson and the election of Clendon Dawkes, it is probable he was helping the Devonshire Square tenants. The next minute shows that he was not a pastor or settled minister.

34. The Library was due to the liberality of Dr. Daniel Williams. At its new home on Gordon Square it bears his name, and the trustees still show the same liberality, extending it also to country ministers.

35. Here is an authoritative list of fifteen Particular Baptist pastors; Joseph Matthews was of Cherry-garden Lane, Rotherhithe; Taylor is unknown; Harrington is not on the list; Fuller and Grant were evidently only ministers, not pastors.

36. At this point minutes cease for sixteen months, during which the principal changes in the ministry were:—Artillery Lane, John Weatherley succeeds John Kinch deceased; Maidenhead Court, Samuel Dew succeeds John Noble deceased; Wapping remnant calls John Rhudd before August 1732; Westminster loses John Wilson by death. Weatherley joined the British Society, which invited Dew and Rhudd, apparently without result.

37. John Farmer was the new assistant to Mr. Rawlin at Fetter Lane. Wilson iii, 457.

38. Many assemblies are far more touchy about their own dignity, than solicitous to do their work.

39. The first church at Folkestone was the General Baptist church under Edward Morris, dating from Commonwealth days. In 1728 four members quitted it "on account of their denying the divinity of Christ and other important doctrines of the gospel, and united with Mr. and Mrs. John Stace and Mr. John Bayley in the attempt to establish the cause of Christ in this town." They built in Mill-bay, allied with Calvinists at Canterbury and Shallows near Margate, and called John Howe from Portsea; he came in 1730 and lived in Folkestone, as pastor of the church in Thanet. Thus there were two ministers, two churches, and the will was ambiguous which was intended.

40. The Upton church was Calvinistic Seventh-day; Townsend had come from Natton, not far away.

41. Sayer Rudd had insisted on visiting France against the will of the church, which declared his pastorate at an end. At this stage there was no mention of doctrine, and Rudd himself concurred in this resolution.
42. This matter dragged on for three years at least. The last minute in the British Society's quarto book refers to it being sent to arbitration in 1736. At that stage we lose the help of those minutes as the folio book which continued, is not accessible.

43. This large attendance included many who were never pastors; they were probably "ministers" duly called out by their churches. The minutes are very irregular in their record of election.

44. This is apparently the James Fall of Horsley Down who in 1735 became pastor of Watford, not his son who 18 years later became pastor of Little Alie Street.

45. The Baptist church at Northampton had a small meeting-house already, on the Green, which was not large enough for a much increased membership. The church had been formed in 1701 by the dismissal of members from Steventon in Bedford, where Daniel Negus was pastor. Since then Nathan Brown, Mawbey, John Collins, and Boomer had shepherded the flock. A second Baptist church had been formed on 16 November 1732, and in the presence of Brine had ordained Charles Rodgers as pastor. It had tried to use the College Lane premises, but the trustees there encouraged the formation of a new church, with eleven members, to whom they gave the use of College Lane. The second Baptist church therefore migrated to the Green, where Boomer resigned, the two churches united, and Rodgers was pastor to 36 men and 41 women. This is the only Baptist church, for College Lane had Pedobaptist pastors and was but a tiny concern. Gill, Brine, Dawkes and other Northants worthies befriended the Green till after 1748. Only with 1759 did College Lane begin to flourish, under John Collett Ryland.

46. The church at Newcastle was endowed with a meeting-house and manse on Tuthill Stairs by George West in 1720. Since then a Mr. Weir had done uphill work against a Mr. Durance, but details are not available till in 1749 James Kendall of Gateshead wrote to the Northern Association on behalf of the church.

47. The second time the name Machin occurs, is clearly a mistake. It is a question whether "South" Moulton is not another mistake. Of the Devon church at this time we know nothing; and it would more naturally appeal to Bristol than to London. But at North Moulton in Northants, John Painter had ended a useful career, and Thomas Stanger had not yet begun. Machin was dismissed by Limehouse on 22 May 1737 to Bridlington, where he became pastor till his death in 1743.
48. This minute is not recorded in the writing of Wilson the secretary.

49. The other side of this story is in the opening minutes of the Kingsgate Church book. John Payne in October 1734 gave to the Little Wylde Street church, twelve silver cups for use at the Lord's table. In April 1735 a difference arose; Gifford and over a hundred members withdrew, though they were the majority. They worshipped in Red Cross Street, then in Bear Yard, and on 16 February 1736/7 opened a new meeting-house on the south side of Eagle Street, just where the present building stands. Arbitration awarded the cups to Payne, and he gave them to the pastor and deacons of Eagle Street. It would appear that church and pastor were boycotted by the other churches and ministers till Gifford's death in 1784. The Wild Street church invited Joseph Stennett the younger from Exeter, and he joined the Society. As to the charge against Gifford, Woollacott of Wild Street in 1858 tells us that the church book is almost a blank; he implies that the charge related to events alleged to have occurred in the Academy at Bristol, since when Gifford had married and had been widowed. We may probably disbelieve the charge, for had it been true, he was liable to be hanged; Woollacott says his life henceforward was exemplary; he certainly was instrumental in expanding the Academy to a College, and became its great benefactor.

50. This authoritative list of Particular Baptist ministers may be expanded and complemented with the names of the *General Baptist elders in London, to show all the ministers on the General Body, as in the list of 1727:—(William Anderson, Horsleydown); John Biddle, Deptford; George Braithwaite, Devonshire Square; John Brine, Cripplegate; *Joseph Burroughs, Paul's Alley; *Robert Cornthwaite, Mill Yard; Curtis; Peter Davenport, Eastcheap; Clendon Dawkes, Devonshire Square tenant; Samuel Dew, Eastcheap; Thomas Flood, Richmond; Thomas Flower, Unicorn Yard; *James Foster, Paul's Alley; *Samuel Fry, Fair Street; Andrew Gifford, Eagle Street; John Gill, Horsleydown; Joseph Harrington, White Street; Kenward; *Joseph Morris, Glass-house Yard; William Morton, Swallow Street; *Abraham Mulliner, White's Alley; *George Mulliner, Park (date doubtful); *Matthew Randall, Virginia Street; David Rees, Limehouse; Edward Ridgway, "Angel Alley" in Petticoat Lane; *James Smith, Hart Street (disband this year); Joseph Stennett, Wild Street; Edmund Townsend, Cripplegate Sabbatarian; John Townsend; John Weatherley, Artillery Lane; Abraham West, Maze Pond; Samuel Wilson, Prescot Street.

In 1739 Maitland published his History of London, with a map
and an account of the parishes. At page 516 he sums up the places of worship, and the numbers are somewhat unexpected:—Anglican 68, Baptist 33, Presbyterian 28, Independent 26, French 21, Quaker 12, German 8, Jewish 3, besides 15 miscellaneous including the nonjuring and ambassador's chapels. The Baptist places are as follows; Maitland is only responsible for the topography, * denotes General Baptist, † denotes subscribing to the Particular Baptist Fund; the numbers show the order in which the churches originated, not the order in which they occupied these premises. Missing numbers indicate extinct churches.

The migration of London Baptist churches from site to site, often to share a building with another church, or to occupy a building previously used by another church, has rendered it desirable to draw up a chronological list, identifying each church by a number, retained irrespective of the place used at any moment. The list is given, with notes, in “A Baptist Bibliography,” of which the first volume is reviewed in this issue. The numbers will enable ready comparison with notes 84, 97.

2. *Fair Street, Horsleydown; Samuel Fry.
3. †Rosemary Branch, Rosemary Lane; Samuel Wilson, (Curtis).
5. †Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate Street; George Braithwaite. Also another church, 29; Clendon Dawkes.
8. †Little Wood Street, Cripplegate; John Brine. The Seventh-day church, 27; Edmund Townsend.
11. *Pennington's Street, Virginia Street; Matthew Randall.
12. *Pepper Street, Southwark; Samuel Hands succeeding George Mulliner.
13. *Mill Yard, Ragfair; Seventh-day; Robert Cornthwaite and Peter Russell.
14. Paul's Alley, Redcross Street, (Barbican); Joseph Burroughs and James Foster.
19. *Glass-house yard, Pickax Street, (Goswell Street); Joseph Morris.
22. Unicorn Yard, Horsleydown Lane; Thomas Flower, (Kenward).
23. Pinners’ Hall, Old Broad Street; Jeremiah Hunt, a pedobaptist; church therefore reckoned by Maitland as Independent, though it was the headquarters of the Particular Baptist Fund.
24. †Maidenhead Court, Great Eastcheap; Samuel Dew. (Davenport).
25. Rotherhithe; John Biddle.
28. *Deptford; outside Maitland's area; quite possibly disused at this time, or else Richard Barron.
32. Church Lane, Limehouse; David Rees.
33. *St. John’s Court, Little Hart Street (Covent Garden); just dissolved, the elder and most of the members joining number 1.
34. †Maze Pond Street, Southwark; Abraham West. Maitland also mentions the former home, Flower-de-luce, Tooley Street; but it cannot be told whether there was a separate church here, or even whether it was still used for worship. (J. and M. Townsend).

36. Angel Alley, Whitechapel; Edward Ridgway.

37. New Way in the Maze; possibly used by Warren, successor to Thomas Warburton of Tooley Street.

38. Sheer's Alley, White Street, Southwark; Joseph Harrington.

40. †Little Wild Street, Great Wild Street; Joseph Stennett the second.

41. Artillery Lane, Spittlefields; John Weatherley.

42. Brewers' Hall, Addle Street.

43. Glass-house Street, Swallow Street (Westminster); William Morton.

44. †Goat-yard passage, Horsleydown; John Gill. (Anderson).

45. Beech Lane, near Whitecross Street (Glovers’ Hall); John Pryor.

46. Collier's Rents, White Street, Southwark. Now in pedobaptist hands.

47. Cherry-garden Lane, Rotherhithe; Joseph Matthews.

48. Johnson's Street; Old Gravel Lane; the former home of number 3, dying since John Rhudd.

49. Newport Market. An evanescent church under Freeman, not classed as Baptist by Maitland, nor acknowledged by the Board; see Jan. 1740/1.

50. Eagle Street, Red Lion Street, Holborn; Andrew Gifford.

51. Snow's Fields. Another evanescent church under Sayer Rudd. Besides these, Maitland also catalogued the ancient baptistery in Dipping Alley, Horselydown, which was certainly registered for worship, but was used only as needed; e.g. on the Sunday next after 9 September 1739 for John Clarke and William Dring. Also a place at Vinegar Row, Shoreditch Fields, as to which we know nothing.

51. Benjamin Wallin was son of Edward Wallin, of Maze Pond, where he was now pastor after the death of Abraham West. The date is written 1741, but the sequence suggests it was a blunder for 1740.

52. William Coombs soon went to Church Lane, Limehouse, as co-pastor with David Rees.

53. The Baptist Magazine for 1820 has a centenary sketch of the Folkestone church, drawn from its own book. It states that in 1728 some people headed by a minister, not pastor, G. Green, left the old General Baptist church of Hythe and Folkestone, then tending towards Socinianism. They united with three members of the Particular Baptist church of Canterbury, resident in Folkestone, and built a meeting house. The pastor of the P.B. in Canterbury, Folkestone, Thanet, was John Howe, 1729-1750; he came to live in Folkestone 1730. Ivimey was
informed, iv. 515, that George Green was ordained pastor at Ashford 1753 till death in 1761. The present entry implies that in 1741 Green was already there.

54. The Eversholt people had William Gates of Gamlingay and James Grant of Wellingborough to preach at the dedication this year.

55. Members of the Up Ottery church had worshipped at Cul-lompton since 1700; under the auspices of Prescott they now built, and organized as an independent church 1745.

56. Crockerton dated from 1669. Boston had long had a G.B. church, and the P.B. church did not organize till 1770.

57. Isaac Poynting of Worcester, 1715-1740. Richard Culley of Worstead 1717-1725. James Brewster of Ingham, 1714-1724. Henry Hawkins in the Western Association 1723. The Burfords belonged to the Lyme district, William Sheppard of Frome joined the Bristol Fund 1738. Mrs. Elizabeth Booth left £50 to the P.B. Fund, but as this was paid in 1742, she cannot be the widow referred to. Petto had been at Guildford in 1715. Machin died at Bridlington 1743.

58. One of many signs that Dew's meeting house, in Maiden-head Court, Great Eastcheap, where Brine and Gill conducted a lecture on Wednesday, was the chief place of meeting for Baptist united effort. The only other places of meeting within the walls of the city were Curriers' Hall and Pinners' Hall, each used by two churches.

59. Chalford dates from 1740.

60. Rye was just separating from Sandhurst on the question of the laying on hands at ordination. Charles Rodgers did actually come in 1754, the Northampton pastor, and promptly built a meeting house, as will appear.

61. This was not the great earthquake of 1755, extending from Scotland to Asia Minor, and wrecking Lisbon.

62. Baptists in this district had a very intermittent church life. A group held together from 1645, combining both Baptists and Pedo-baptists; in 1714 this first Pulham church dissolved, and most members joined Norwich. The present effort was due to Milliot living at Rushall in Norfolk and Simmons living at Beccles in Suffolk. When the latter died in 1766, the nine survivors at Beccles united with three others to form the church of Shelfanger-and-Rushall; meetings at Rushall died out about 1774. Such is the account in the Pulham Messenger of 1903.