

Dear Monthly Meeting Clerk:

Our Yearly Meeting's Committee to Revise Faith and Practice has adopted a protocol of directly advising each monthly meeting when a proposed revision to our Book of Discipline is being considered. I write to advise you that, at Fall Sessions, one such proposal was given a first reading.

The proposed language appears below, and is intended to replace similar language that now appears at p. 122 of the 2014 printed version of *Faith and Practice*:

SPIRITUAL CARE OF MEMBERS. *Seeking divine guidance in their discernment, members of ministry and counsel should seek to:*

- foster the spiritual growth of the meeting membership and enhance their religious life and fellowship, including especially the nurture and strengthening of corporate worship of the meeting;*
- consider individual needs for guidance and to make provision for personal counsel and assistance in matters of interpersonal relationships among members;*
- assist individuals and families confronting problems pertaining to illness, financial matters, marital relations, and decisions of conscience, keeping in mind at all times the limits of ministry and counsel's expertise;*
- review annually the spiritual condition of the meeting and its membership and to write the State of the Meeting reports;*
- develop programs and conferences, study groups, and public meetings to disseminate information regarding Friends' spiritual concerns and to assist members and attenders to deepen the life of the spirit;*
- where desired by local meetings, consider qualifications and make recommendations concerning recording gifts in ministry or engagement of pastors or meeting secretaries;*
- foster a meeting culture that encourages the emergence of gifts, and assures support and accountability for Friends who carry individual gifts in ministry.*

These proposed revisions were prompted by the adoption, at Summer Sessions 2015, of a modification to our discipline on "Care of Ministries and Recording of Gifts in Ministry." This modification was adopted by the Body after the printing of the 2014 version of *Faith and Practice*, and may be found at pp. 55-57 of the 2015-16 Yearbook (the one with the yellow cover). The proposal now before us makes clear that monthly meeting Ministry and Counsel has the responsibility to identify and support Gifts in Ministry, as well as all gifts within the monthly meeting.

The Committee to Revise Faith and Practice asks that you bring this proposal to the attention of your meeting, and convey any suggestions or concerns directly to the Committee at FPeterPhillips@gmail.com.