

FAITH & PRACTICE - CARE OF GIFTS AND RECORDING OF GIFTS IN MINISTRY

The following document was given a first reading at Spring Sessions 2015. The document has not yet been revised. Following the first reading, Friends offered their feedback to the Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice*. That committee will consider at Summer Sessions the feedback it has received, and may refer their revisions to Ministry Coordinating Committee for review. If that review takes place, and pending the outcome, the proposed changes may be brought to the floor of the Yearly Meeting for a second reading for approval.

The following document is that version which was presented at Spring Sessions 2015. Friends wishing to offer additional feedback may contact Irma Guthrie, clerk of the Committee to Revise Faith and Practice.

FAITH & PRACTICE - CARE OF GIFTS AND RECORDING OF GIFTS IN MINISTRY

The section currently labeled RECORDING OF GIFTS IN MINISTRY beginning on p. 126, is proposed to read as follows:

CARE OF MINISTRIES AND RECORDING OF GIFTS IN MINISTRY. In cases when a member has given public ministry which is sustained, consistent and enlivening and has rendered this service to such an extent as to afford a basis for judgment as to the nature of those gifts and calling, the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel should carefully consider whether there is evidence of a gift in the ministry that should be officially recognized. Friends should bear in mind that such recording of gifts of ministry is a recognition of the gift of the Spirit to the community and a recognition of the need for care and nurture of that gift.

When the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel is satisfied that a member carries a gift in the ministry that they consider to be of suitable character, they should report this to the monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting approves, the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel should prepare a minute for the consideration of the yearly meeting's Ministry Coordinating Committee, which, in turn, should refer the proposal to a designated committee for examination and recommendation. If, after due consideration, the way seems clear, the designated committee shall forward their recommendation to the Ministry Coordinating Committee, who may approve the recording and furnish a copy of its minute to the monthly meeting of which the individual is a member. The action should also be reported to the yearly meeting for record. If Ministry Coordinating Committee does not approve a proposal to record, they should so inform the originating meeting.

The recording of an individual's gifts in ministry carries a responsibility on the part of Friends in the monthly, regional/quarterly and yearly meetings to nurture, support and hold accountable the individual in the exercise of those gifts, including by being present during the exercise of the gifts, knowing the spiritual condition of the individual, hearing reports of the ministry, etc.

In naming the gift of ministry, the monthly meeting carries the primary responsibility for nurture and oversight of the gift throughout its life cycle, including naming changes in the gift and its possible withdrawal. Care committees, peer groups, etc. may provide structures for this work, which may also be carried by the regional/quarterly meeting.

In recording the gift of ministry, Ministry Coordinating Committee carries a concern for both the individual carrying the gift and the meeting in which the gift is manifested.

In cases where the gift has been withdrawn, a proposal to rescind the action recording the member as a minister may originate with the overseers or ministry and counsel of the

monthly meeting of which the minister is a member or with the Ministry Coordinating Committee. Final action rests with the Ministry Coordinating Committee. The individual concerned and the monthly meeting to which that person belongs shall be notified before final action is taken, and care should be exercised that any rights involved are fully safeguarded.

The status of a minister is transferable with the certificate of membership from one monthly meeting to another and from one yearly meeting to another. It is expected, however, that a minister planning to engage in the pastoral ministry in another yearly meeting will endeavor to meet the requirements of the yearly meeting to which transfer is made.

NOTE: SAME TEXT, SHOWN WITH EDITS INDICATED

New text is indicated in square brackets and in bold. Deleted text is shown by strikethrough font.

~~RECORDING OF GIFTS IN MINISTRY~~ **[CARE OF MINISTRIES AND RECORDING OF GIFTS IN MINISTRY]**. ~~Some meetings may wish to continue the practice of recording ministers. In cases when a member has spoken in the~~ **[given]** public ministry ~~to the edification and spiritual help of the congregation~~ **[which is sustained, consistent and enlivening]** and has rendered this service to such an extent as to afford a basis for judgement as to the nature of those gifts and calling, the meeting on ministry and counsel should carefully consider whether there is evidence of a gift in the ministry that should be officially recognized. ~~While a spoken message may be helpful in its place and should be esteemed and encouraged accordingly, not every person who speaks in public should be given official recognition. Friends should bear in mind that such recognition~~ **[recording of gifts]** in ministry is ~~not only a seal of approval of one who is locally helpful but that it also involves extension of service beyond the local community. Recorded ministers not only have opportunity for service among Friends generally, but, because of the increase in interdenominational activity, such recognition opens the way for contacts and associations with ministers and members of other religious groups.~~ **[a recognition of the gift of the Spirit to the community and a recognition of the need for care and nurture of that gift.]**

When the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel is satisfied that a member ~~has~~ **[carries]** a gift in the ministry that they consider to be of suitable character ~~and aptitude~~, they should report this to the monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting approves, the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel should prepare a minute for the consideration of the yearly meeting's ~~Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel~~ **[Ministry Coordinating Committee]**, which, in turn, should refer the proposal to a designated committee for examination and recommendation. If, after due consideration, the way seems clear, the ~~Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel~~ **[designated committee]** shall forward their recommendation to the ~~Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel~~ **[Ministry Coordinating Committee]**, who may approve the recording and

furnish a copy of its minute to the monthly meeting of which the individual is a member. The action should also be reported to the yearly meeting for record. If ~~they do~~ **[Ministry Coordinating Committee does]** not approve a proposal to record, they should so inform the originating meeting.

[The recording of an individual's gifts in ministry carries a responsibility on the part of Friends in the monthly, regional/quarterly and yearly meetings to nurture, support and hold accountable the individual in the exercise of those gifts, including by being present during the exercise of the gifts, knowing the spiritual condition of the individual, hearing reports of the ministry, etc.]

[In naming the gift of ministry, the monthly meeting carries the primary responsibility for nurture and oversight of the gift throughout its life cycle, including naming changes in the gift and its possible withdrawal. Care committees, peer groups, etc. may provide structures for this work, which may also be carried by the regional/quarterly meeting.]

[In recording the gift of ministry, Ministry Coordinating Committee carries a concern for both the individual carrying the gift and the meeting in which the gift is manifested.]

~~In case a member who has been recorded as a minister appears to have lost the gift and usefulness in the ministry~~ **[cases where the gift has been withdrawn]**, a proposal to rescind the action recording the member as a minister may originate with the overseers or ministry and counsel of the monthly meeting of which the minister is a member or with the ~~yearly meeting on ministry and counsel~~ **[Ministry Coordinating Committee]**. Final action rests with the ~~yearly meeting on ministry and counsel~~ **[Ministry Coordinating Committee]**. The individual concerned and the monthly meeting to which that person belongs shall be notified before final action is taken, and care should be exercised that any rights involved are fully safeguarded.

The status of a minister is transferable with the certificate of membership from one monthly meeting to another and from one yearly meeting to another. It is expected, however, that a minister planning to engage in the pastoral ministry in another yearly meeting will endeavor to meet the requirements of the yearly meeting to which transfer is made.