

194

Local Meetings on Ministry and Oversight, either as such, or as local Pastoral Councils are now organized for Pastoral work, and that, in several instances this is the result of the work of this Council - when visits have been paid other religious work was entered upon.

On behalf of the Committee
Richard Henry Thomas.

The following report to the Yearly Meeting in regard to the condition and work of the ministry and of the membership of this body was presented and read and approved and directed to be laid before the Yearly Meeting.

REPORT OF THE YEARLY MEETING ON MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT.

Reports have been received from all of our subordinate Meetings on Ministry and Oversight. Those which make special reference to the Ministry state that it has seemed to be suited to the needs of the Meetings, and otherwise helpful and instructive.

In addition to the regular Meetings for Worship attended by our ministers, a number of Meetings have been held by appointment for some of them, as will appear in the report of the Pastoral and Evangelistic Committee.

In regard to the condition and work of its membership, the reports indicate that the members of this body are in unity with one another, and that many of them manifest an interest in the spread of the Gospel and conversion of sinners, and in the spiritual welfare of our membership generally, and also an increasing desire to meet the responsibilities resting upon them as members of this Meeting, and to enter more actively into the service of the Church.

They also indicate a general care as to daily reading of the Scriptures, and to seasons of prayer, and as to presenting a good example to others in uprightness of life.

BALTIMORE, Eleventh month 11th, 1902.

195

The following summary of the exercise of this Meeting at its previous session, when considering the reports from the Quarterly Meetings on Ministry and Oversight - was presented, read and approved; and the Clerks were directed to have Copies prepared, and to send one to each of our Local Meetings on Ministry and Oversight, with a request that it be read in that Meeting.

At Baltimore Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, held 11th mo. 11th, 1902, the following minute was adopted and directed to be sent to our subordinate Meetings on Ministry and Oversight:

A Summary of the Exercise of the Meeting in Considering the Reports Received from Subordinate Meetings:

Are we, as members of the Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, living close to the Lord Jesus Christ? Our particular meetings cannot be in a strong, vigorous state, unless the Meetings on Ministry and Oversight are so. We need earnest, united prayer that the unconverted be converted, and that believers be kept in a state of life and health and strength. "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." The storehouse is open to us as we fulfill the conditions. Are we so abiding in Him, and are His words abiding in us?

There are two kinds of unity. First, that which comes from a readiness to yield, one to another, desiring only that the right thing may be done. The second is a result of living so close to Jesus Christ that we see things so nearly alike as to be able to go on unitedly in effective work.

It is no light thing to be in the position of Minister, Elder or Overseer in a Meeting; these are not positions of honor, but of responsibility and service. Only those should be placed in these positions who are fitted spiritually, and who have the work at heart. While other members, not being right, may hinder the work, members of the Meeting on Ministry and Oversight, not being right, block the work.

We must come up individually into a personal religious experience, putting spiritual things first, if our meetings are to grow and prosper. We may say, "we have not the time" - "there is danger of making financial failure;" but we must have more faith in God: He is not a hard master. What has He done that we should doubt Him? The key He gives us in the Sermon on the Mount puts first the kingdom and His