

The Clerks also read the proposed report for the Yearly Meeting on the condition and work of the Ministry and of its membership, with some alteration it was approved & directed to be sent to the Yearly Meeting, it is as follows

REPORT OF THE YEARLY MEETING ON MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT TO THE YEARLY MEETING.

Dear Friends:

According to the requirements of the Discipline, the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight presents to the Yearly Meeting its annual report on the condition and work of the Ministry and its membership.

We believe there is an earnest concern amongst our Ministers that the Ministry should be adapted to the needs of the congregation, and with many there is a prayerful seeking for a message from the Lord for each Meeting; the reports from our various Meetings would indicate that this has largely been the case.

We are feeling the loss this year of three (3) of our active Ministers, two by death and one by resignation, all of Baltimore Quarterly Meeting. It is now three (3) years since a gift in the Ministry has been acknowledged amongst us, and during that time five (5) Ministers, all active and helpful, have been removed.

Should not this arouse us to serious thought? Are not the admonitions of the Apostle Paul much needed at this time? "Quench not the Spirit." "Despise not prophesying." "Follow after love and desire spiritual gifts." And then again in the same chapter he closes it with, "Wherefore brethren covet to prophesy."

In the four or five Meetings within our limits, that have no acknowledged Ministers, there appears to be a prayerful desire on the part of the membership to supply the need.

We believe a baptized Ministry is essential for the growth of any Meeting, and we would encourage vocal exercises from the body of the Meeting, in all our Meetings. It is only as we are faithful in the exercise of a gift, however small, that the Ministry is developed.

How necessary that we have a baptized Eldership; we believe many of our Elders have a live concern to build up and help the gifts that appear in the Church, but some meetings appear to lack a "nursing Elder."

We sympathize with our Overseers in their difficult and sometimes arduous duties. The exercise of "watchful care and affectionate oversight" can be done only as we live near our Lord, and have His help. In some of our Meetings there appears much need along this line.

May we never underrate the office of Overseer; it is one of the most important to the growth of the Church.

We have been reminded at this time that the work of the Church is primarily the salvation of souls, and we hope that each one of our members, having this thought in view, will earnestly endeavor to magnify the office to which the Lord and the Church has called him.

Signed,

SAM'L R. NEAVE, Clerk.

Then adjourned

Sam'l R. Neave
Clerk

At Baltimore Yearly Meeting on Ministry & Oversight held by adjournments from the 9th of 11th Month to the 13th of the same. 1886
By reports from the subordinate Meetings the following Friends were appointed as Representatives to this Meeting viz.

From Baltimore Quarterly Meeting. -

John C. Thomas, Mary McCullough.
Lydia W. Harland, Margaret H. Elliott
Sam'l R. Neave, Annie D. Stabler,
Howard M. Hoge, and Lindsey D. Clark.

From Dunning's Creek 4 Months Meeting.

John Scott Miller, & Annie Way Smith.

From Virginia Half Years Meeting.

Richard A. Ricks, Robert T. Harris.

Josephus Byrd, Fannie M. Pethlow.

Lizzie R. Raiford, Geneva M. Bradshaw
and Margaret M. Harris.

Who were present except 3 for the absence of some of whom reasons were given.

Minutes were read for the following Friends who are now in attendance.

Viz. Charles E. Paslee a minister
with a minute from Dover Quarterly