

# Alaska Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

## Handbook of Faith, Practice & Discipline

While credit should not go to any one person in particular, thanks to the many who have contributed to the original and to the revision of the older "DISCIPLINE" handbook, and the newer "FAITH & PRACTICE."

Thanks be unto God our Father, by whose Spirit men and women have been guided in laying out these guidelines for both the individual, and the churches.

We pray that this same Holy Spirit be present among those who turn to this manual for guidance.

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## **HISTORICAL STATEMENT**

The Society of Friends, generally called Quakers, arose in England about the middle of the seventeenth century, under the preaching of George Fox and his friends. They proclaimed the truth that man's salvation is a personal matter between the own soul and God, and does not depend upon the intervention of the Church in any of its offices, or by any of its officers, in the administration of any rite, ordinance or ceremony whatever. They accepted the doctrine of the Apostolic Age of the Church, and distinctively emphasized the truth that the Holy Spirit enlightens every soul to reveal its condition and make the individual feel the need of a Savior.

This clear and vigorous message as to the freedom and the spirituality of the Gospel attracted multitudes of people who had sought the truth in the endless disputations of the times. The Society was organized with a great number of adherents. They took the title of Society of Friends in accordance with the declaration of the Master: "Ye are my Friends if ye do whatsoever I command you."

The distinguishing doctrines of Friends have, from the beginning, led them into special lines of service that have resulted in great good to mankind. They opposed slavery, war, the use of liquors. They advocated prison reforms, missions, and many other forms of Christian activity for the good of humanity.

Friends came to America soon after the body arose in England. Yearly Meetings were founded in New England, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and North Carolina before the close of the century. Later others were formed in the Central and Western states, California Yearly Meeting being formed in 1895.

The first General Conference of Yearly Meetings was held in Richmond, Indiana, in 1887, and was attended by delegates from London and Dublin Yearly Meetings, and from those on the American continent, except that of Philadelphia which was unofficially represented. It was afterwards decided to hold similar conferences of the American Yearly Meetings once in five years. They were held in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1892 and 1897. At the later conference it was felt that a closer union of the Yearly Meetings and a uniform discipline would be desirable. A committee was appointed in furtherance of this purpose and this Constitution and Discipline was prepared and adopted in 1902 by fifteen Yearly Meetings, California Yearly Meeting being one of them.

The Kotzebue Sound Mission was opened by missionaries from California Yearly Meeting having been sent here in 1897. Since that time a force of workers has been continued on the field and funds furnished to develop the work, until the forming of an independent Yearly Meeting, Alaska Yearly Meeting, in 1970.

## **DISCIPLINE**

## **FAITH AND PRACTICE**

## **ALASKA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS**

**PART I**  
**THE CHURCH AND ITS DENOMINATIONS**

**CHAPTER I**  
**The Church**

1. The church of Jesus Christ is made up of those persons who, through repentance of their sins and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, have been born into His kingdom by the Holy Spirit. By the Revelation of the Holy Spirit they look to Christ, as their Prophet, Priest and King, and by the Spirit's baptism and power, are enabled to resist temptation and to live in obedience to God's holy will.

2. A Christian denomination is an organization of those believers who hold similar views of the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and maintain certain practices based upon these teachings, and who associate themselves for fellowship in worship, and for united effort in the promotion of truth and righteousness. The denomination of Friends is such a Christian body.

**CHAPTER II**  
**The Declaration of Faith Issued by the Richmond Conference in 1887**  
(Simplified and adapted for Alaska Friends)

It is under a deep sense of what we owe to Him who has loved us that we feel called upon to offer a declaration of those fundamental doctrines of Christian truth that have always been professed by our branch of the Church of Christ.

*GOD THE FATHER*

We believe in one holy, (Isa. 6:3, 57:15), Almighty (Gen. 17:1), all-wise (Rom. 11:33; 16:27), and Everlasting (Ps. 90:1, 2) God, the Father (Matt. 11:25-27), the Creator (Gen.1:1), and Preserver (Job 7:20)(Col. 1:17) of all things.

*THE LORD JESUS CHRIST*

We believe also in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who was in the bosom of the Father. In Him was life (Jn 1:4), and the life was the light of men. (Jn. 1:4) He is the Eternal Word (Jn. 1:1), who was with God and was God, revealing Himself in infinite wisdom and love, both as man's Creator (Col. 1:13-16) and Redeemer; (Col. 1:14) for by Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on the earth, visible and invisible. Conceived=20of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 1:20), born of the virgin Mary, (Matt. 1:23-25, Lu. 1:35), the word was made flesh, (Jn. 1:14), and dwelt amongst men. In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the God-head in bodily form (Col. 2:9).

He became obedient (Phil. 2:8) unto death, even the death of the cross, and became the atonement for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the world; (I Jn. 2:2)

in whom we have redemption through His blood, (Eph. 1:7) the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace. He was buried and rose again the third day (I Cor. 15:4) according to the Scriptures, becoming the first fruits (I Cor. 15:23) of them that sleep, He ascended into heaven, and hath sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, now to appear in the presence of God for us (Heb. 1:3, 9:24). With the apostles who beheld His ascension, we rest in the assurance of the angelic messengers, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11, also vs. 7). With the Apostle John, we would desire to unite in the words "Amen; even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20). He is the One Mediator of the new and everlasting covenant, (I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:15) the great High Priest whose priesthood is unchangeable (Heb. 4:14; 7:24). He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them (Heb. 7:25).

He is the Head of His church and all true Christians are members of this church, by whatsoever name they may be called by men. They have washed their robes and made them white in His precious blood, (Rev. 7:14) and He has made them priest unto God and His Father (Rev 1:6). He dwells in their hearts by faith, and gives them of His peace. His will is their law, and in Him they enjoy true liberty, a freedom from the bondage of sin.

#### *THE HOLY SPIRIT*

We believe that the Holy Spirit is, in the unity of the eternal Godhead, one with the Father and with the Son (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). He is the Comforter, "Whom," saith Jesus Christ, "The Father will send in my name" (Jn. 14:26). He convinces the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement (John 16:8). He quickens them that are dead in trespasses and sins, and opens the inward eye to behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. (Eph. 2:1). Coming in the name and with the authority of the Risen and ascended Saviour, He is the precious pledge of the continued love and care of our exalted King. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them, as a realized possession, to the believing soul (Jn. 16:14). Dwelling in the hearts of believers, (Jn. 14:17) He opens their understandings that they may understand the Scriptures, and becomes to the humbled and surrendered heart, the Guide, Comforter, Support and Sanctifier. Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "He will bear witness of me" (Jn 15:26).

We believe that the essential qualification for the Lord's service is bestowed upon His children through the reception and baptism of the Holy Spirit. (I Cor. 12:13). This Holy Spirit is the seat of reconciliation to the believer in Jesus, (Eph. 1:13, 14) the witness to his adoption into the family of the redeemed (Rom. 8:15,16).

We believe in no principle of spiritual light, life or holiness inherent by nature in the mind or heart of man. But we do believe in the influence of the Holy Spirit, bestowed on mankind, in various measures and degrees, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### *THE ETERNAL GODHEAD*

These three, God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are one in the eternal Godhead (Matt. 28:19, Jn. 10:30; 17:21) to whom be honor, praise and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen.

#### *THE HOLY SCRIPTURES*

It is the belief of Friends that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God; that, therefore, there can be no appeal from them to any other

authority whatsoever; that they are able to make wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Jesus Christ (II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Pet. 1:20, 21). "These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (Jn. 20:31). The Scriptures are the only divinely authorized record of the doctrines which we are bound, as Christians, to accept, and of moral principles which are to regulate our actions. No one can be required to believe, as an article of faith, any doctrine which is not contained in them; and whatsoever anyone says or does, contrary to Scripture, though under profession of the immediate guidance of the Holy Spirit, must be reckoned and accounted a mere delusion.

#### *MAN'S CREATION AND FALL*

It pleased God in His wisdom and goodness, to create man out of the dust of the earth, and to breathe into his nostrils the breath of life, so that man became a living soul; formed after the image and likeness of God, capable of fulfilling the divine law, of holding communion with His maker (Gen. 2:7; 1:26, 27). Being free to obey or disobey, he fell into transgression, through unbelief, under the temptation of Satan, (Gen. 3:1-7) and, thereby, lost that spiritual life or righteousness, in which he was created; and, so death passed upon him, as the certain consequence of his sin (Rom. 5:12). As the children of fallen Adam, all mankind bear his image. They partake of his nature, and are involved in the consequences of his fall. To every member of every successive generation, the words of the Redeemer are alike applicable, "Ye must be born again" (Jn. 3:7). But while we hold these views of the lost condition of man in the fall, we rejoice to believe that sin is not imputed to any, until they transgress the divine law, after sufficient capacity is given to understand it; and that infants, though inheriting his fallen nature, are saved in the infinite mercy of God through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ.

#### *JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION*

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). We believe that justification is of God's free grace, through which, upon repentance and faith, He pardons our sins, and imparts to us new life. It is received, not for any works of righteousness that we have done, (Titus 3:5), but in the unmerited mercy of God in Christ Jesus. Through faith in Him, and the shedding of His precious blood, the guilt of sin is taken away, and we stand reconciled to God.

Sanctification is experienced in the acceptance of Christ in living faith for justification, in so far as the pardoned sinner, through faith in Christ, is clothed with a measure of His righteousness and received the Spirit of promise; for, as saith the Apostle, "Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:11). We rejoice to believe that the provisions of God's grace are sufficient to deliver from the power, as well as from the guilt, of sin, and to enable His believing children always to triumph in Christ (2 Cor. 2:14). Thus, in its full experience, sanctification is deliverance from the pollution, nature, and love of sin. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2). To this we are every one called, that we may serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life (Lu. 1:74, 75). "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth

you who also will do it" (I Thes. 5:23, 24). Yet the most holy Christian is still liable to temptation, is exposed to the subtle assaults of Satan, and can only continue to follow holiness as he humbly watches unto prayer, and is kept in constant dependence upon his Savior, walking in the light, (I Jn. 1:7) in the loving obedience of faith.

#### *THE RESURRECTION AND FINAL JUDGMENT*

We believe, according to the Scriptures, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, (Acts 24:15) and that God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ whom he hath ordained (Acts 17:31). For "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10).

We sincerely believe, not only a resurrection in Christ from the fallen and sinful state here, but a rising and ascending into glory with Him hereafter; that when He at last appears we may appear with Him in glory. But that all the wicked, who live in rebellion against the light of grace, and die finally impenitent, shall come forth to the resurrection of condemnation. And that the soul of every man and woman shall be reserved, in its own and distinct and proper being, and shall have its proper body as God is pleased to give it.

We believe that the punishment of the wicked and the blessedness of the righteous shall be everlasting; according to the declaration of our compassionate Redeemer, to whom the judgment is committed, "These shall go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matt. 25:46). "And it is appointed unto man once to die, but after that the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

#### *BAPTISM*

We would express our continued conviction that our Lord appointed no outward rite or ceremony for observance in His church. We accept every command of our Lord in what we believe to be its genuine import, as absolutely conclusive. The question of the use of outward ordinance is with us a question, not as to the authority of Christ, but as to his real meaning. We reverently believe that, as there is one Lord and one faith, so there is, under the Christian dispensation, but one baptism, (Eph. 4:4, 5) even that whereby all believers are baptized in one spirit into the one body (I Cor. 12:13). This is not an outward baptism with water, but a spiritual experience; not a putting away of the filth of the flesh, (I Pet. 3:21) but that inward work which, by transforming the heart and settling the soul upon Christ, brings forth the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, in the experience of His love and power, as the risen and ascended Savior. No baptism in outward water can satisfy the description of the apostle, of being buried with Christ by baptism unto death (Rom. 6:4). It is with the Spirit alone that any can thus be baptized. In this experience the announcement of the forerunner of our Lord is fulfilled, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Matt. 3:11). In this view we accept the commission of our blessed Lord as given in Matthew 28:18, 19, 20, "and Jesus came to them and spake unto them saying, `All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world". This commission, as we believe, was not designed to set up a new ritual under the new covenant, or to connect the initiation into a membership, in its nature

essentially spiritual, with a mere ceremony of a typical character. Otherwise it was not possible for the apostle Paul, who was not a whit behind the chiefest apostle, (2 Cor. 11:5) to have disclaimed that which would, in that case, have been of the essence of his commission when he wrote, "Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel" (I Cor. 1:17). Whenever an external ceremony is commanded, the particulars and the mode are carefully stated. There is an utter absence of these particulars in the scriptures, which confirms our persuasion that the commission must be construed with the spiritual power which the risen Lord promised should attend the witness of his apostles and of the church to him, and which, after Pentecost, so mightily accompanied their ministry of word and prayer, that those to whom they were sent were introduced into an experience wherein they had a saving knowledge of, and living fellowship with, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### *THE SUPPER OF THE LORD*

Intimately connected with the conviction already expressed is the view that we have ever maintained as the true supper of the Lord. We are well aware that our Lord was pleased to make use of a variety of symbolical utterances, but He often gently upbraided His disciples for accepting literally what He intended only in its spiritual meaning. His teachings, as in His parables or in the command to wash one another's feet, was often in symbols, and ought ever to be received in the light of His own emphatic declaration, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life" (Jn. 6:63). The eating of His body and the drinking of His blood cannot be an outward act. They truly partake of them who habitually rest upon the sufferings and death of their Lord as their only hope, and to whom the indwelling Spirit gives to drink of the fullness that is in Christ. It is this inward and spiritual partaking that is the true supper of the Lord. Christ, the blessed Comforter communicates to the believer and to the church, in a gracious, abiding manifestation, the REAL PRESENCE of the Lord. As the great remembrancer, through whom the promise is fulfilled, He needs no ritual or priestly intervention in bringing to the experience of the true commemoration and communion. "Behold," saith the risen Redeemer, "I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me" (Rev. 3:20). In a special manner, when assembled for congregational worship, are believers to partake together in a spiritual way of the body that was broken and of the blood that was shed for them.

### *WORSHIP*

Worship is the adoring response of the heart and mind to the influence of the Spirit of God. It stands neither in forms nor in the formal disuse of forms. It may be without words as well as with them, but it must be in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). We recognize the value of silence in worship, not as an end, but as a means toward the attainment of the end; a silence of holy expectation before the Lord. This worship depends not upon numbers, and may be the confession of the soul prostrate before God, or may be prayer, song, thanksgiving, praise or the simple exercise of faith in the heart of those who love Him.

We believe the preaching of the gospel to be one of the chief means, divinely appointed for the spreading of the glad tidings of life and salvation through our crucified Redeemer,

for the awakening and conversion of sinners, and for the comfort and edification of believers. As it is the prerogative of the great Head of the church alone to select and call the ministers of His gospel, so we believe that both the gift and the qualifications to exercise it must be derived directly from Him; and that, as in the primitive church, so now also, He confers spiritual gifts upon women as well as upon men, agreeable to the prophecy recited by the apostle Peter, "it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17).

The great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is not only a command to the church but it is a great commission to be accepted in all humility.

#### *PRAYER AND PRAISE*

Prayer is the outcome of our sense of need of God. He who uttered the invitation, "Ask and it shall be given you," (Matt. 7:7) is Himself the Mediator and High Priest who, by His Spirit, prompts the petition, and who presents it with the acceptance before God. With such an invitation, prayer becomes the duty and the privilege of all who are called by His name. A life without prayer is a life practically without God. Prayer is not confined to the closet. When uttered in response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, it becomes an important part of public worship. A life of prayer cannot be other than a life of praise. As the peace of Christ reigns in the church, her living members accept all that they receive, as from His pure bounty, and each day brings them fresh pledges of their Father's love.

#### *LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE IN ITS RELATION TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT*

That conscience should be free, and that in matters of religious doctrine and worship man is accountable to God alone, are truths which are plainly declared in the New Testament.

It is the duty of Christians to obey the enactments of civil government, except those which interfere with our allegiance to God. We owe much to its blessings. Through it we enjoy liberty and protection, in connection with law and order. Civil government is a divine ordinance, (Rom. 13:1, 1 Pet. 2:13-16) instituted to promote the best welfare of man, hence government officials are to be regarded as God's ministers who should be a terror to evil doers and a praise to them that do well. Therefore, it is with us a matter of conscience to render them respect and obedience in the exercise of their proper functions.

#### *PEACE*

We hold that all war is contrary to the plain teachings of our divine Lord and Law-giver, and the whole spirit of His gospel, and that no plea of necessity or policy, however urgent or peculiar, can avail to release either individuals or nations from the paramount allegiance which they owe to Him who hath said, "Love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44; Lu. 6:27). When nations conform their laws to this divine teaching, wars must necessarily cease.

We would, in humility, but in faithfulness to our Lord, express our firm persuasion that all the exigencies of civil government and social order may be met under the banner of the Prince of Peace, in strict conformity with His commands.

### *MARRIAGE*

Marriage is an institution graciously ordained by the Creator Himself, for the help and continuance of the human family. It is not a mere civil contract and ought never to be entered upon without a reference to the sanction and blessing of Him who ordained it. It is a solemn engagement for the term of life, (Matt. 19:5, 6) designed for the mutual assistance and comfort of both sexes, that they may be helpmates to each other in things temporal and spiritual. To this end it should imply concurrence in spiritual as well as temporal concerns, and should be entered upon discreetly, soberly, and in fear of the Lord.

### *OATHS*

We rest upon the plain command of our Lord and Master, "Swear not at all," (Matt. 5:34) and we believe any departure from this standard to be damaging to the cause of truth and to that confidence between man and man, the maintenance of which is indispensable to our mutual well being. This command, we believe, applies not to profane swearing only, but to judicial oaths also.

### *THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK*

We would express our thankfulness to our Heavenly Father that He has been pleased to honor the setting apart of one day in seven for the purposes of holy rest, religious duties, and public worship; and we desire that all under our name may avail themselves of this great privilege. May the release thus granted from other occupations be diligently improved. On this day of the week especially ought the households of Friends to be assembled for the reading of the Scriptures and for waiting upon the Lord, and we trust that, in a Christianly wise economy of our time and strength, the engagements of the day may be so ordered as not to frustrate the gracious provision thus made for us by our Heavenly Father, or to shut out the opportunity either for public worship or for private retirement and devotional reading (Col. 2:16, 17; Heb. 10:24, 25; Rom. 14:5, 6).

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **Spiritual Gifts**

It has pleased the head of the church to make use of men and women in the accomplishment of His purposes; to this end He continues to bestow special gifts upon all members of the body, for the propagation of the Gospel (Ro. 12:4-8; I Cor. 12:4-12).

Spiritual gifts, precious as they are, must not be mistaken for grace; they add to our responsibility, but do not raise the pastor above his brethren or sisters. They must be exercised in continued dependence upon our Lord; and blessed in that ministry in which man is humbled, and Christ and His grace exalted. "He that is greatest among you," said our Lord and Master, "let be as the younger; and he that is chief as he that doth serve. I am among you as he that serveth" (Lu. 22:26, 27).

The exercise of these gifts is a powerful means by which the church brings the truth to the individual consciousness, interprets and proclaims its message, and reveals its scope and purpose. There are varieties of gifts in the ministry, and in a properly organized body provision is made for the exercise and development of them all.

There is a gift of teaching the truth. Those who possess this gift are enabled to contribute to the establishment of membership and the expansion of the conception of divine things.

There is the gifts of speaking to states and needs of individuals, and of congregations. This prophetic ministry is characterized by its spiritual vision, the self-evidence of its message and its fitness for the situation. It is a gift of seeing truth immediately and of effectively teaching it to others.

There is a gift of exhortation, which is an ability for making an appeal to the hearts of men, and for stirring them to a sense of God's love and of His purpose for man ± the power of moving and convincing souls; those who possess this gift are peculiarly fitted for evangelistic work.

There is also the pastoral gift, which consists especially in ability to do personal work with individual or with families. This gift fits the possessor of it to comfort those who mourn, to lead the members into a closer religious life, to arouse in the young an interest in the things of the Spirit, and to impress others with a sense of the scope and reality of the spiritual life. It is the gift of shepherding and feeding the flock.

The church cannot make or appoint pastors; it can only recognize gifts where they exist and properly provide for their exercise and development as a sacred bestowal of the Head of the Church. And while on the one hand, the Gospel should never be preached for money, (Acts 8:20; 20:33-35) on the other, it is the duty of the church to make such provision that it shall never be hindered for want of it.

## **PART II**

### **THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

#### **CHAPTER I**

#### **THE DENOMINATION OF FRIENDS**

##### *Section 1.*

The denomination of Friends, Alaska Yearly Meetings, is composed of a yearly meeting and monthly meetings. A bond of union is maintained by correspondence between them; by issuing and receiving the credentials of ministers for special service; and by joint participation in religious and benevolent causes.

##### *Section 2.*

1. The Friends recognize and emphasize the fundamental and essential truth that Jesus Christ is the Head of the church; that He dwells in the hearts of believers; that, as they seek for His guidance, their understandings are enlightened and they are enabled to do His will. Associated with this is the further truth that the Head of the church is pleased to confer upon each believer some special gift or gifts which he is to exercise with such ability as may be possessed. Members have equal rights and privileges in the denomination, modified only by the gifts they have received and their faithfulness in the exercise thereof.

2. Position in the organization relating to spiritual matters result from the official recognition of these gifts by the body rather than from appointment to office.

3. There are no distinction in the rights, privileges or responsibilities of the members because of sex or race.

4. The business of the organization is transacted in meetings in which every member of the body has a right to participate.

##### *Section 3. Waiting for Guidance*

Friends believe that God will guide His people both in their individual lives and in the decisions of the church. Business meetings are to be held in a genuine spirit of worship. The purpose of business meeting is to discover together the will of God for His church before reaching a decision it is important for the group to seek together for the guidance of God. When God is leading, there will be unity in the decisions reached.

##### *Section 4. Length of time in holding office*

All officers of the Monthly Meeting and of the Yearly Meeting shall be appointed each year unless otherwise stated. All officers hold their positions until new ones are appointed. Where numbers permit, a person should not hold the same office for more than six years in a row. A person may be named again after at least one year out of a particular office.

#### **CHAPTER II: MEMBERSHIP**

The Friends admit into active membership all who make a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose lives testify to their union with Him, and who accept the doctrine of the Gospel as held by Friends. Children of members and other persons leaning toward the Friends may become associate members. Children of members become associate members at the time of dedication.

Associate members may become active members by signing the application for active membership in the Friends Church. This application is reviewed by the Ministry and Counsel. Upon approval by the Ministry and Counsel, their application is referred to the Monthly business meeting and upon their approval they become active members. The clerk shall inform the applicant of the action of the monthly meeting. A time in the worship service should be given as recognition of new members.

#### *TRANSFER TO OR FROM OTHER CHURCHES*

Members moving to a village or city where there is another Friends Church should transfer their membership to that church. The Monthly meeting shall issue a certificate of transfer to the Monthly Meeting where the member is moving, when requested by the member. Certificates of transfer should be mailed to the clerk or pastor.

#### *CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LETTERS*

When an applicant for membership brings a letter or certificate from another church, it should first be presented to the meeting of Ministry and Counsel.

#### *RECORDS*

An up-to-date record of membership shall be kept by the Recording clerk of each church. All changes in membership shall be recorded within 30 days after final action is taken.

Recorded ministers should be listed as recorded ministers when their membership is changed from one church to another.

#### *MEMBERSHIP DISCONTINUED*

Membership in the Friends Church is a privilege and responsibility. Any active member who is not attempting to live a consistent Christian life and who is not regular in attendance and support (unless prevented by circumstances beyond his control) should request, in writing, that his membership be discontinued or changed to Associate. When any active member continually neglects attendance, fails to contribute to the support, and is generally inactive in the work of Friends, the Ministry and Counsel, after due consideration, may recommend to the monthly meeting that his name be removed or changed to associate membership.

#### *APPEAL*

If a person whose name has been dropped or changed from active membership is not satisfied with the action of the monthly meeting, he may, within two months, file an appeal with the Yearly Meeting through the Board of Administration. The decision of the Yearly Meeting shall be final.

### **CHAPTER III MONTHLY MEETING**

## ***Section 1. Organization and Functions***

### *Duties and Responsibilities*

A Monthly Meeting is a regular organization of a Friends Congregation which has been established by the Yearly Meeting. It is made up of all persons who are on its membership list. All members may attend the Monthly Business Meetings, but only Active members may hold office and share in decision making. The Monthly Meeting makes all final decisions for the local church except those decisions made by the Yearly Meeting. It shall meet in regular monthly sessions and care for all business needing attention at that time. It has the authority to receive, transfer and dismiss members; to hold and administer property for the use of the meeting; to secure and use funds and to take any action for the improvement of the spiritual life of the church and her members.

### *Special sessions*

Special meetings of the Monthly Meeting may be called when there is an important item of business which should be cared for before the next regular Monthly Meeting. Such special meetings shall be called by either the Presiding clerk or Assistant clerk. Notice of a special meeting shall be given at any regular meeting of the congregation.

A Monthly Meeting may adjourn to meet at the call of the clerk.

### *Organization*

A Monthly Meeting is duly organized and may care for business when it has been established by the Yearly Meeting.

## ***Section 2. Appointment of Officers***

All officers of the Monthly Meeting shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee not later than December of each year and shall take office after being dedicated the first Sunday in January. They shall serve until their successors are appointed.

### *Nominating Committee*

In January of each year, the Ministry and Counsel with the pastor will select a nominating Committee of 3 or 5 members, and shall give the name or names to the January Monthly Meeting for approval or disapproval. They shall serve for 3 years, one third of the number shall be appointed each year.

### *Clerks*

Upon nomination of the Nominating Committee, the Monthly Meeting shall approve a Presiding Clerk, an assistant Presiding Clerk and a Recording Clerk.

The Presiding Clerk shall prepare an agenda ahead of the Monthly Meeting session; shall see that all business is properly presented, that sufficient time is given for prayerful consideration of each item of business, announce decisions when made, sign documents on behalf of the Monthly Meeting and see that the decisions and actions of the Monthly Meeting are carried out. He may meet with the Monthly Meeting committees and work with the pastor and other members of the Meeting to the end that the program of the Meeting may go forward.

The Assistant Presiding Clerk shall preside when the Presiding Clerk is absent. He shall assist the Presiding Clerk in other matters as requested.

The Recording Clerk shall keep an accurate set of minutes showing all matters acted upon by the Monthly Meeting. After the minutes have been approved by the Monthly Meeting, they shall be kept in permanent form in a minute book. The minutes of each meeting must be signed by the Presiding Clerk and the Recording Clerk and dated correctly.

The Recording clerk shall keep correct record of all matters relating to membership, such as births, marriages, and deaths; members joining by application or transfer and members transferring to other churches.

If neither the Presiding Clerk or Assistant Presiding Clerk is present, the meeting shall be called to order by the Recording Clerk, after which a temporary Presiding Clerk shall be named.

#### *Treasurer*

The Nominating committee shall nominate a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to be approved by the Monthly Meeting. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse funds as directed by the Meeting through the finance committee. He shall keep a regular account of money so received and disbursed, and submit a complete financial report at the end of the fiscal year. He should submit a monthly report to the Monthly Meeting.

#### *Trustees*

The Nominating Committee shall nominate for approval by the Monthly Meeting three or more Trustees who shall serve for three years, one third of the number shall be appointed each year. The Trustees shall act under direction of the Monthly Meeting. The Chairman of the Trustees shall be named by the Monthly Meeting each year.

### ***Section 3. Committees***

In addition to the Nominating Committee, mentioned above, the Monthly Meeting shall name such other committees as are needed to care for the operation of the church. Such committees may include: Finance and Stewardship, Christian Education, Christian Social Concerns, and Outreach.

#### *Finance and Stewardship*

The Finance and Stewardship Committee shall have charge of securing and dispersing funds for the operation of the meeting.

#### *Christian Education*

The Christian Education Committee shall have general oversight over the Sunday School, selecting teachers, superintendents and other officers, which shall be approved by the Monthly Meeting. This Committee shall select lesson materials and shall be concerned for training of the teachers and for the promotion of the Sunday School, week-day Bible classes and Vacation Bible School (VBS).

It is urged that Sunday School Superintendents see that teachers will be present and prepared for Sunday lessons.

### *Christian Social Concerns*

The Christian Social Concerns Committee shall be concerned with the application of Christian principles to individual and community life. It shall promote the use of peaceful methods of settling differences in all areas of conflict and the promotion of good will among men. It shall provide information and education in opposition to abortions, the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, harmful drugs and other harmful narcotics. It shall be concerned for social justice and for the physical and spiritual well-being of individual and group life.

### *Outreach*

The Outreach Committee shall be concerned with the spread of the message of Jesus Christ through evangelism at home, in neighboring communities, in the State of Alaska, and to other areas of the world. It shall work with the Yearly Meeting in establishing new Friends Churches in Alaska.

### *Reports*

Each Committee shall make reports to the Monthly Meeting at least once each year and may report whenever there are items of importance and concern.

## ***Section 4. Representatives to Yearly Meeting***

Each Monthly Meeting is allowed two representatives and alternates except where one representative is sufficient.

In addition to these Representatives, all members of Ministry and Counsel and all pastors are automatically members of the Yearly Meeting Representative body.

Representatives shall be nominated not later than May of each year by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Monthly Meeting to begin service on July 1.

### *Duties of Representatives*

1. To represent their local Monthly Meeting in the business of the Conference meeting.
2. To report to their Monthly Meeting the business actions of the Conference meetings, reports do not need to include everything that happened at Conference.

## ***Section 5. Ministry and Counsel***

Membership on the Ministry and Counsel shall consist of persons who are active members living consistent Christian lives. They shall be persons who possess the proper spiritual gifts and qualifications of spiritual maturity and understanding of the Scriptures in line for the duties of elders. (I Tim. 3:8-12)

### *Membership of the Ministry and Counsel*

Each Monthly Meeting shall have a minimum of three elders in addition to the pastor who make up the meeting on Ministry and Counsel. The Presiding Clerk of the Monthly Meeting may also attend meetings of the Ministry and Counsel, but shall have no vote on business matters. The pastor shall not be a voting member.

Members of Ministry and Counsel shall be nominated by the nominating committee and approved by the Monthly Meeting for a term of three years. Approximately one-third of the members should be appointed each year. Elders may serve only two consecutive terms,

(6 years) but may be named again after at least one year off of Ministry and Counsel. It is recommended that immediate family members not serve on Ministry and Counsel at the same time.

### *Organization*

Upon nomination of the Nominating Committee, the Monthly Meeting shall approve a clerk and a secretary for Ministry and Counsel from among the membership of Ministry and Counsel. Written minutes of the business of Ministry and Counsel shall be signed by the Clerk and the Secretary and shall be kept in permanent form.

Meetings of Ministry and Counsel shall be held each month. Special meetings may be called by the Clerk or at the request of any two members of the Ministry and Counsel.

### *Duties*

The Meeting on Ministry and Counsel, in cooperation with the Pastor, it shall be their duty to exercise watchful care and affectionate oversight for the maintenance of a consistent moral life by the members of the Meeting; to extend care and reproof in all cases of disobedience, and to restore, if possible, such offenders to an orderly life and to full fellowship with the Meeting. All matters of membership shall be presented to the Ministry and Counsel before being considered by the Monthly Meeting. It is the duty of this body to stimulate regular attendance at services of worship, to encourage the development and use of spiritual gifts given to others, to encourage associate members to become active members as soon as they are ready, to be concerned with the worship activities of the church and to work with the pastor for the extension and well-being of the church.

The Ministry and Counsel shall work with the Yearly Meeting Superintendent and Board of Administration and the pastor in the calling of a pastor.

Monthly reports on all business handled by this Body shall be given to the Monthly Meeting. Each year this body shall make a report in writing to the Yearly Meeting of the spiritual condition of the membership, of the attendance upon public worship, of family devotions, of the conduct of members in their relation to one another and to the world; of Christian work in which the members are engaged, and of such other matters as may pertain to the affairs of the meeting.

It is the duty of this committee to have general oversight of the shepherding of the flock, to be watchful of the interests of absent members, to visit families of attenders of meetings, to extend a special care to those attenders who are not active members and to invite them to join in membership when they are prepared to do so. They shall extend a watchful care over the Associate members, and encourage them to become Active members as soon as they are prepared to do so.

Names of members who have died during the year shall be forwarded to the General Superintendent.

## ***Section 6. Pastors***

### *Calling Pastors*

Arrangements for calling a pastor shall be made upon recommendation of the Ministry and Counsel, the General Superintendent and the Board of Administration, and with the

consent of the pastor. A pastor shall not be engaged or dismissed without the action of the Monthly Meeting, in counsel with the Board of Administration, except when it becomes necessary for the Board of Administration to act for the Monthly Meeting.

#### *The Pastor and his relation to the Congregation*

The pastoral year shall begin August 1 and end July 31 the following year, however dates may vary by mutual agreement between the Monthly Meeting and the Pastor. The meetings may arrange for a "Continuous Service" call which may be ended by a notice by either the Meeting or the Pastor not later than April 30 of any year. When a pastor is serving under a "Continuous Service" call, the Ministry and Counsel should review the service of the pastor in the January or February meeting each year.

It is very desirable that the pastoral relation should be interrupted as little as possible, therefore, Meetings and Pastors should use every effort to work together for as long as seems mutually helpful.

Pastors must recognize that they are not to dominate the business of the Meeting and that they are to serve under the direction of the Ministry and Counsel, but to act in the capacity of pastor and counselor, keeping himself well informed in regard to all departments of church work and be at all times in subjection to the advice and counsel of the Ministry and Counsel.

The Pastor should attend meetings of important committees of the church and attempt to keep all groups working together in harmony and love.

The pastor must give careful attention to preparation for preaching, for teaching and for leading the congregation in reverent worship. He should give opportunity for quiet worship and for expression by other members of the congregation.

It is the duty of the pastor with the Ministry and Counsel to have general oversight of the shepherding of the flock, to be watchful of the interests of absent members, to visit the families of attenders of meetings, to extend a special care to these attenders who are not members and to invite them to join in membership when they are prepared to do so. They shall extend watchful care over Associate members, and encourage them to become Active members as soon as they are prepared to do so.

The pastors should always endeavor to work in harmony with the Ministry and Counsel when inviting anyone to supply the pulpit.

The Pastor shall at all times be in submission to the Meeting. He shall have the right to protest against anything which he may believe to be contrary to the truth and teaching of the Friends Church or present any concern he may have, such protest of concern shall be made in writing to the Ministry and Counsel, which shall take action in the matter and if necessary refer it to the Board of Administration for final decision.

If the Pastor cannot accept the decision of the Board of Administration he should resign, rather than promote discord. Should he refuse to accept such a decision or endeavor to influence others against Alaska Yearly Meeting after it has decided the matter, he shall be deemed an offender, and shall be dealt with as instructed by the Board of Administration.

#### *Pastor's Salary*

Arrangements for the pastor's salary shall be made by the Monthly Meeting in cooperation with the Board of Administration.



## **CHAPTER IV YEARLY MEETING ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS**

### *MEMBERSHIP, PURPOSE*

A Yearly Meeting is made up of all persons who are members of the Monthly Meetings under it. Alaska Yearly Meeting shall meet together in official business session twice each year, at the time of Mid-year conference and at Yearly Meeting time. The purpose of these gatherings shall be for inspiration, evangelism, Christian fellowship and to conduct business which relates to the Yearly Meeting organization and to the Monthly Meetings which are a part thereof. All members of all Monthly Meetings may attend the business sessions, but only with the understanding that voting on business is done by the representative body, which consists of appointed representatives from each Meeting, members of Ministry and Counsel and Pastors. The representative body shall be seated together in a reserved section during business meetings.

### *OFFICERS AND BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS*

Only persons who are active members of the Monthly Meetings may be chosen as officers of the Yearly Meeting. The officers of the Yearly Meeting shall consist of at least the following: Presiding Clerk, Assistant Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk, and Treasurer, and all members of the Board of Administration.

### *THE BUSINESS MEETING*

Those eligible to vote in business session of the Yearly Meeting are as follows: Appointed representatives from the Monthly Meetings, all members of Ministry and Counsel of Monthly Meetings, active pastors and members of the Board of Administration of Alaska Yearly Meetings. The General Superintendent of Alaska Yearly Meeting is ex-officio member and may have freedom to participate in discussion, but is without vote.

The agenda for the business session should be prepared by the Presiding Clerk and approved by the Board of Administration. New business may be introduced from the floor of the meeting, but must go to the board of Administration for consideration before it can be acted upon in a business session. Any new business introduced in a final meeting of the business session must automatically go to the Board of Administration for study and action.

The business meeting has full jurisdiction over the affairs of Alaska Yearly Meeting and final jurisdiction over the Monthly Meetings of Alaska Yearly Meeting.

The meeting will care for all business coming from: The Board of Administration, Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, Monthly Meetings, individual members of the Business meeting, and from other organizations.

### *NOMINATING COMMITTEE*

The Yearly Meeting shall appoint, in its final business session, a Nominating Committee of at least seven members who shall serve until the close of Yearly Meeting the following year. They shall serve for three years, approximately one third of the number shall be appointed each year.

Members of this committee shall be nominated by the Representatives from among the Representative body. Not more than one member may be appointed from any one Monthly Meeting.

The Nominating Committee shall make nominations to the Business session as follows:

Presiding Clerk, Assistant Presiding clerk, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk, Worship Leader, Treasurer, and two additional members-at-large for the Board of Administration. All person being asked to serve should have been contacted before their names are placed in nomination.

#### *BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION*

The membership of the Board of Administration shall consist of the following: Assistant Presiding Clerk, chairman; Presiding Clerk; Recording Clerk; Representative appointed by the pastors; Treasurer; Representative appointed by the Youth; and two additional members-at-large. The General Superintendent of Alaska Yearly Meeting is ex-officio member and may participate fully in discussion but is without vote. Pastors shall not serve as Presiding Clerk or Assistant Presiding Clerk.

The Board of Administration shall:

1. Carry out the business of the Yearly Meeting as directed by the Business meeting;
2. Serve as the official body of Alaska Yearly Meeting between session of Business Meeting;
3. Hold titles to all properties belonging to Alaska Yearly Meeting and the Monthly Meetings of Alaska Yearly Meeting;
4. Nominate for approval to the Business Meeting a person to serve as General Superintendent;
5. Supervise the work of the General Superintendent;
6. Work in cooperation with the Meetings of Ministry and Counsel of the Monthly Meetings and with the General Superintendent in the placement of pastors;
7. Act as the pastoral committee in the recording of ministers;
8. Have supervision of all Alaska Yearly Meeting funds;
9. It shall be diligent and judicious in devising measures and means for the promotion of spiritual life and godliness, and it shall give special attention to new congregations, weaker meetings, and those without a ministry;
10. Other duties as may be approved by the Business Meeting.

#### *GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT*

The Board of Administration shall select a person to serve as General Superintendent. The Yearly Meeting Business session has the right to approve or disapprove the recommendation of the Board of Administration. If there is disapproval the Board of Administration will reconsider and present another person to the Yearly Meeting Business session.

1. Relation of General Superintendent to Representatives in Session.
  - a. He shall meet regularly with the Representatives while in session, and shall participate in the business thereof.
  - b. He shall prepare agenda for the sessions with the Presiding Clerk.
  - c. He shall meet with the Nominating Committee.
2. Relation of the General Superintendent to the Board of Administration and Trustees.
  - a. He shall be a member of the Board of Administration with no voting powers.

- b. He shall assist the Chairman of the Board with the preparation of Agendas and with the implementation of decisions.
  - c. He shall report regularly to the Board of Administration of his activities and more often as necessary with the Presiding Clerk.
  - d. He shall work to implement ongoing business of AYM with the treasurer, and/or Financial Secretary and shall report regularly to the Board of Administration.
  - e. He shall insure travel arrangements for all board members and Trustees in a timely manner.
3. Relation of the General Superintendent to the Monthly Meetings;
- a. He shall visit each local church at least once a year, and when a church requests his presence.
  - b. He shall be available to meet with Monthly Meeting committees to outline duties during his annual Church visits.
4. Relation of the General Superintendent to the Pastors;
- a. He shall have shepherding responsibility to the Pastors, and shall consider his shepherding as one of his most important jobs.
  - b. He shall meet with each pastor at least twice a year, and more often if necessary.
  - c. He shall work with the Board of Administration and with the local church in the placement of pastors.
5. Relation of General Superintendent to Alaska Yearly Meeting Business and Financial activities:
- a. the General Superintendent shall attend to all day to day business of Alaska Yearly Meeting according to like business practices. (Any on going business is their responsibility)
  - b. The General Superintendent shall direct and authorize all expenditures and duties to the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. (Any expenses over \$1,000. is subject to board approval.)
  - c. He shall also be responsible for having a financial statement at each conference, and shall assist in the preparation thereof.

#### *CONCLUSION ± GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT*

In general, the Superintendent of Alaska Yearly Meeting, shall, to the best of his/her abilities, adhere to these guideline and instructions. Any deviations from, or non-fulfillment of these set policies can result in a special meeting called by the Board of Administration of Alaska Yearly Meeting to determine causes, remedies, and/or actions.

#### *RECORDING OF MINISTERS*

Friends believe strongly in the New Testament concept of the priesthood of all believers (I Peter 2:5, 9) and also in God's call to some for specialized ministries such as evangelists,

pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:11, 12). Such a call must come from God and may be recognized by the church. The Friends Church does not ordain persons to serve as clergy men, but does record certain persons, known to have a call and gifts from God for a specialized ministry as ministers of the Gospel.

When a person is found to have a call from God, is able to demonstrate the fact of a gift and meets the qualifications outlined below, he may then be recorded as a minister of the Gospel by Alaska Yearly Meeting.

In order for a person to qualify for recording as a Friends minister, he shall meet at least the following requirements:

1. Spiritual Qualifications

- a. Definite acceptance of Jesus Christ and show the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. (Jn. 3:3; Acts 16:31; Rom. 8:16; Gal. 5:22,23)
- b. Conviction of a call to the ministry and evidence of a gift in ministry. (I Cor. 9-16)
- c. A life consistent with the Christian faith as interpreted by Friends. (Eph. 4:1-4)
- d. Acceptance of the doctrines of the Friends Church.

2. Training for the ministry

- a. Completion of a three-year course in the Friends Bible School with at least the following courses: Bible, Friends Theology and Doctrine, Friends business procedure, Church history, Friends Church history, and sermon preparation and delivery.
- b. Or other training equivalent to the above that meets the approval of the Board of Administration.

3. Recording procedure

When the candidate for recording shall have met the qualifications mentioned in points 1 and 2 above, and has completed at least three years of pastoral ministry, the local Meeting on Ministry and Counsel may recommend to the Board of Administration that they be considered for recording.

They shall be under the care of the Board of Administration for a minimum of one additional year, shall have met with the Board as often as requested and shall give evidence of being qualified for pastoral ministry.

When the Board of Administration is satisfied that the candidate has met the qualification as outlined above, he may then be recommended to the Yearly Meeting business meeting for recording.

If approved, he shall be given a certificate of recording and shall be recognized as a Friends minister in a public service of the Yearly Meeting.

He shall thereafter be granted an annual certificate for as long as he is in full time pastoral ministry and giving satisfactory service.

## *MISCELLANEOUS*

### *Property of Discontinued Meetings*

The Title to the property of each Monthly Meeting shall be held by the Board of

Administration of Alaska Yearly Meeting, but shall be cared for by the Trustees of the Monthly Meeting. When a Monthly Meeting is discontinued, all properties and investments shall be given over to the Yearly Meeting and shall be held for some specific purpose, or used for the good of the work of the Yearly Meeting, as that body shall decide.

*Amending and Revising the Discipline ± Faith and Practice ± of Alaska Yearly Meeting*

Amendments to Faith and Practice may be suggested, in writing, by any Monthly Meeting, by the Board of Administration, or by the Business Meeting.

All proposals for amendments shall be given to the Board of Administration for Study. The board of Administration shall make a report at the next semi-annual session of the Yearly Meeting and that report may be to accept the recommendation as proposed, to revise the amendment or to reject it completely. The business meeting may approve or disapprove the recommendation of the Board of Administration or send the proposal back for further study. If the amendment is approved, a date shall be selected for it to go into effect.

*RELATED ORGANIZATIONS*

Evangelical Friends Mission (EFM)  
Alaska Yearly Meeting Youth Ministries (AYMYM)  
Alaska Yearly Meeting Bible Training School  
Alaska Yearly Meeting TEE Extension Bible School  
Alaska Womens Mission Prayer League

**QUESTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

The intention in directing the following questions to be seriously considered is not only to inquire into the state of the Meetings, but also to encourage every member to examine himself whether he acts consistently with the principles of the Christian religion.

No arrangements, however perfect, can take the place of individual faithfulness to Christ, and daily dependence upon the help of the Holy Spirit, which are necessary to growth in the spiritual life and to usefulness in the church. The serious consideration of the following questions should tend to direct the attention of all to the true source of spiritual strength, to promote the religious welfare of individuals, and to keep the church in a healthy condition.

These questions should be read at least once a year in Monthly Meetings and at Yearly Meetings.

*Question 1.* Are all meetings for worship duly held, and are you regular and punctual in attending them?

*Question 2.* Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Are you careful of the reputation of others? When differences arise, do you make earnest efforts to end

them speedily?

*Question 3.* Do you earnestly seek to maintain a life in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you practice the daily reading of the Scriptures in your families, giving time for reverent waiting upon the Lord? Are you watchful not to be unduly absorbed by temporal affairs? Are you careful to avoid all places and amusements inconsistent with a Christian character?

*Question 4.* Do you provide the suitable Christian education and recreation of your children and those under your care, and endeavour to train them for upright and useful lives? Are you thoughtful and careful to supervise their social activities and to guard them against harmful television programs, harmful reading and evil associates? Do you encourage them to read and study the Scriptures? Do you prayerfully seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your efforts for their conversion and growth in grace?

*Question 5.* Do you abstain from the use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage? Do you faithfully encourage by your example, vote and jury duty the enforcement of all laws and regulations relative to the traffic in intoxicating liquor and illegal drugs?

*Question 6.* Do you consistently practice Jesus' spirit and teaching of love and goodwill to men?

*Question 7.* Do you observe simplicity in your manner of living? Do you frequently inspect your affairs and settle your accounts? Are you careful to live within your income and avoid involving yourselves in business beyond your ability to manage? Are you just in your dealings, punctual to your promises, prompt in your payment of your debts?

*Question 8.* Do you make diligent effort to acquaint yourselves and those under your care with the spiritual needs of the world; and do you support by prayer and systematic giving those who are laboring to extend Christ's kingdom?

### ***Questions for Ministry and Counsel***

*Question 1.* Are you diligent in attending your meetings for worship and discipline, and careful to promote the attendance of your families?

*Question 2.* Are you in unity with one another, and with the Meeting in which you belong, harmoniously laboring together in the love of the Gospel? Have you an earnest concern for the conversion of sinners, and for the building up of believers?

*Question 3.* Do you prayerfully endeavor to use under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in humble dependence upon Christ, the spiritual gifts with which you have been entrusted? Do you cherish an active interest in all who engage in the ministry or other Christian work; and do you make evident your loving sympathy with them and their service?

*Question 4.* Are you good examples to others in uprightness of life? Do you frequently read the Scriptures, prayerfully seeking a right understanding of them under the enlightening influence of the Holy Spirit?