

Levi Pennington

People

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## Pennington to Members of the Oregon Yearly Meeting Committee on Ministry from Newberg, Portland and Salem Quarterly Meetings, November 6, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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1000 Sheridan Street,  
Newberg, Oregon,  
November 6, 1947.

To the Members of the Oregon Yearly Meeting Committee on  
Ministry from Newberg, Portland and Salem Quarterly  
Meetings:

Dear Friends:--

This letter is being addressed to you rather than to the entire committee, not that you will take action without the rest of the committee, but because it seems to me that you can more readily confer as to what is advisable.

The situation has arisen provided for on Page 61 of the Discipline of Oregon Yearly Meeting dealing with the transfer of ministers from other yearly meetings. Scott Clark and Grace Clark, his wife, presented their certificates of membership to Newberg Monthly Meeting last night, and they were accepted as members but not as ministers, since that is forbidden by this provision of the discipline. The monthly meeting therefore instructed me to refer the matter to your committee as the discipline requires, and that is the purpose of this letter.

It was inevitable, of course, that this matter would come up, and I am told that this meeting is not the only one where the problem involved, of a minister losing his position as a minister until approved by your committee. But in this case there are some complications that would not arise in most instances, probably.

In the first place, I am informed that Derwin Smith has been chairman of your committee, and he was named from Newberg Quarterly Meeting, of which, I believe, he is no longer a member. There may be other complications in the committee itself, though of that I do not know.

Another thing is the fact that Scott Clark himself was not here, and could not be personally consulted as to his desires in the matter. Grace Clark was at first inclined to hold the matter up for the present, but after consultation with some friends advised that it proceed according to the Discipline.

As we understand it, neither of these Friends is now a recognized minister, nor can they be until action is taken by your committee and reported to this monthly meeting. They could not legally perform marriages, we suppose, nor have the other privileges and rights that pertain to the recognized minister. It would therefore seem that action by your committee should be taken as soon as is possible.

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington,  
Clerk Newberg Monthly Meeting.