

Levi Pennington

People

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Pennington to Scott Clark, November 6, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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Scott Clark,
Plainview, Nebraska.

November 6, 1947.

Dear Friend:--

At Newberg Monthly Meeting last evening the certificate of membership for you and your wife and children was received, and you were accepted as members under the conditions laid down in the Discipline of Oregon Yearly Meeting, which I quote from Page 61:

8. TRANSFER OF MINISTERS. Every certificate of transfer of membership of a minister shall include a statement of his position as a minister. Transfer within the limits of the Yearly Meeting shall carry both membership and position to the meeting receiving it. One who has been recorded as a minister of the gospel in another yearly meeting of Friends shall be received by certificate as a member, and, unless he has been called to service as a pastor, his position as a minister shall be referred to the Yearly Meeting Committee on Ministry for consideration. In such case he shall not be listed as a minister unless the Committee reports favorably to the monthly meeting where he has been received.....

This, as you see, means that neither you nor your wife are now recognized as ministers until action is taken by the Yearly Meeting Committee on Ministry. There was an earnest wish on the part of the meeting that we might have had your definite personal reaction to this matter before it was acted on by the monthly meeting, but under the circumstances the monthly meeting did not see anything else that they could do. Your wife had been consulted in the matter, and at first asked that the transfer be held up until later, but after some consultation she advised that the matter proceed in the regular way as required by the discipline.

I am sending at once to the Yearly Meeting Committee on Discipline the information which I am thus giving you, and urging that they take speedy action on this case, which I am told is not the only one of the kind that has come up, though it is the first one in this meeting. You cannot regret more than some of the rest of us do that this provision was included in our discipline, over the protest of some of us. But we did not feel that there was any other action that we could legally take. If we had undertaken to accept you and your wife as ministers, it might have involved you and us in legal difficulties in the future, since you would not have been legally ministers unless recognized by the yearly meeting authorities.

With regret that the situation is as it is, and with the hope that the Committee on Ministry may take speedy action, I am

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington,

Clerk of Newberg Monthly Meeting