

**Ministry and Spiritual Life Working Group**  
**Report for Permanent Board**  
**19 September 2020**

Since Sessions 2020 the Ministry and Spiritual Life Working Group has hosted 12 hours of Zoom-based listening over eight calls, including 27 ministers and elders, and attended by Jeremiah Dickinson, the Interim Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, and Leslie Manning, the clerk of Permanent Board.

During these calls we sought to hear the experiences of ministers and elders, both when they felt support rising from their local meetings (and beyond), and when that support was lacking. We also invited specific feedback on our draft working paper, to hear where recommendations resonated, or did not, with their lived experience and their hopes for better practices.

The list of practitioners invited to these discernment calls was not exhaustive, but we hope that it was widely representative. Among those included were past and present members of M&C, past clerks of M&C, past and current clerks of monthly meeting M&Cs, those who carry travel minutes, those who are paid pastors, recorded ministers, seminarians, those who see themselves primarily as elders, employees of Quaker organizations, published writers, those with powerful vocal ministry, and those whose ministry bears fruit in active witness.

We took a lot of notes! Friends were also invited to send in additional, written comment to be included in our continuing discernment. There is a great deal for us to consider in prayer as we find our way forward, re-writing our draft document before it is presented to M&C and then, to Permanent Board, God willing, at your gathering on 31 October.

We welcome your thoughts and questions at any time.

For the Ministry and Spiritual Life Working Group,

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11 September 2020