

Elders' Work with Ministers  
(my notes for a weekend workshop with ministers and elders)

Embodying meeting's caring about his/her spiritual state

Conveying meeting's desire for faithful exercise of his/her gift

Affirming faithfulness in his/her ministry, specifically and in general

Listening to and reflecting on his/her spiritual joys and trials

Praying for and with minister

When meeting privately together

During minister's ministry

At other times, as prompted by the Lord

Encouragement of right spiritual state of minister

Lifting up from discouragement or fear

Guarding against pride and presumed self-sufficiency

Directing focus to Jesus Christ

Suggesting personal practices that could be helpful to present spiritual condition & work

Scripture reading – when, what

Prayer – when, how

Other reading – specific suggestions based on intimate knowledge of minister and  
of relevant literature

People to talk to – for minister's help or the other person's benefit

Lifestyle changes – more sleep, fewer committees, edifying recreation, etc.

Supporting minister in discernment of his/her own effectiveness and difficulties in exercise of his/her gift, and of ways to improve

Suggesting new or changed approaches to his/her ministry that the minister does not think of – for a particular situation and in general

Supporting both the minister's understanding of the meeting's traditionally held beliefs and his/her careful discernment about their Truthfulness

Helping resolve harmful differences between minister and other Friend(s)

And in everything, conveying Christ's love

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