

associated with Churches of our order in other places. The loss of so many of our members, all of whom were held in high esteem, and some in great affection, was certainly a trial; yet it was one which was met in a truly Christian spirit. They left us with our best blessing and we have sought to aid them with our counsels, our prayers, and a portion from our Treasury. We rejoice to know of their prosperity, and I trust that, in their efforts to erect a permanent place of worship, they will receive generous assistance from the members of this Church.

In this relation it may be stated, that from its geographical situation, Zion Church continues to suffer loss in other directions; for, during the past year several families belonging to the congregation have moved northward, and there are others who are proposing to follow in a few months. It is true that but few, on this account, have withdrawn from us, nevertheless great loss is sustained through a decreased attendance on the Sabbath evening and week-night services, and at all meetings held during inclement weather. These members are also deprived of a portion of the means of grace, in connection with their own church-home, which is so necessary to the development of the Christian life, and in maintaining a warm affection for their Church, and an active co-operation with all their fellow members in work for Christ. It is obvious that the necessity for the removal of our church-building to a more central locality can only be a question of time; yet undue haste as well as too great delay would be unfortunate. Without doubt the value of the present property will be greatly increased within a few years, and fewer interests of the present congregation sacrificed by such a removal.

It seems to me to be a question worthy of consideration whether it would not be wise to secure an eligible site for a future Church, which might be paid for as our means allow, so that should the time come for the disposal of the present property all the proceeds could be invested in a new building. Moreover, upon such a lot school-rooms, either temporary or permanent, might be erected, in which week-evening services could be held, and a branch school organized, which would afford an enlarged sphere for Christian activity, and which might contribute to the increase of both the Church and Congregation. However our opinions may vary with regard to these things, we will be all agreed in this, that the circumstances of our location call for faithfulness on the part of every member of the Church and Congregation in sustaining all our services and ordinances. If every one were present at most of these services, not only would all the congregations be large, but such influences and results would follow which would be gratifying to behold.

In the discharge of my pastoral duties I have been enabled to visit the families of the whole congregation three times during the past year, besides attending to the sick, the sorrowing and others who have an especial claim to pastoral care. It is very desirable that members of the Church should have a special regard for those under such circumstances, and also make themselves well acquainted with new members and strangers. In the annual publication of the Church Directory, an opportunity for the interchange of Christian attention is afforded which I trust will become more general.