



Spring 2023



Christian Science Nursing
COLLABORATIVE

“Thus the dawn of ideas goes on, forming each successive stage of progress.”
(Science and Health, 506:13)

UPDATES ON PROGRESS

Collaborative Coordinating Committee (C3):

Greetings from the Collaborative Coordinating Committee! This is a committee of eight, with two individuals from each of the four main parts of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative:

- The Office of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church,
- the Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing,
- Christian Science Nursing Network,
- and the Philanthropy Forum for Christian Science Nursing.

Together we help guide and support the Collaborative working groups, whose updates you'll read below.

The formation of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative in 2017 made space for collaborative processes between these different organizations who each support Christian Science nursing. There was a recognition that some areas would benefit from combining ideas, prayerful efforts, and resources.

Overall we have seen how collaboration in these working groups has improved communication between organizations, fostered networking, and developed and honed useful skills in the process of collaboration, both in the Collaborative and in the diligent efforts going on within separate organizations as they continue working on their own scopes of work.

Please enjoy reading the following progress updates from the working groups of the Collaborative.

If you are inspired by what is shared in this newsletter and would like to learn more about joining a working group or finding other ways to support our activities, please contact us at:

info@csncollaborative.org



Youth Action Committee and the Christian Science Nursing Youth Service Corps:

The Christian Science Nursing Youth Service Corps successfully began the second year of our pilot program in September. It will be nine months long, ending in May 2023. The program is sponsored by The Principle Foundation Extended Services.

We started with four participants serving in three facilities; one of the participants knew she wanted to pursue Christian Science nurses training and began the first class early this year.

A Christian Science nursing service-learning opportunity for those between ages 18 and 30

We are already looking ahead to finding applicants for next year. Our recruiting efforts include fresh social media postings, hip postcards being mailed out to the greater Christian Science community, speaking to young adults at Christian Science

campus and Asher Houses, and holding meetings with various Christian Science nursing facilities to have them help us get the word out as well.

Three facilities participated in the program this year (Broadview, Tenacre, and Peace Haven).

Please continue to stay updated through our website (comforterscalling.org). Thank you for all of your support!

Continuing Education Working Group

“...progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfil.” (*Science and Health*, p. 233:6)

2023 is a noteworthy year for continuing education! Starting in January, The Mother Church established a requirement for at least four hours of continuing education per year for *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses. Four hours per year is a modest requirement—a gentle first step that represents a large step of progress.

We are deeply grateful for the collaborative relationship we’ve had with the Managers of Christian Science Nursing Activities for The Mother Church since this working group was formed. Their dedication to maintaining the highest

standards among Christian Science nurses paved the way for the implementation of this requirement.

Continuing education is available in various formats. We’re grateful that in-person refresher classes and workshops are now possible and are being offered. Webinars continue and are helpful due to the ease with which Christian Science nurses ministering in the field can participate in them. Some are available in multiple languages.

The Mother Church is defining and refining the specific types of continuing education that count toward the four-hour requirement. This, too, is a collaborative endeavor, and the Manager and Assistant Manager are graciously considering questions and suggestions about the criteria.

Staying fresh and current and maintaining high standards in one’s Christian Science nursing practice are, of course, important for every Christian Science nurse, not just those listed in the *Journal*. So, webinar sessions are also available for those actively ministering in the field who are not *Journal*-listed.

The quality of the education being offered is cause for gratitude as well. It is beautifully consistent with all the requirements in the *Manual By-Law*, “Christian Science Nurse” and the topics are relevant to current needs. Each includes spiritual, practical ideas and activities that comprise Christian Science nurses’ ministries.

To support the ongoing development of continuing education, we are exploring the availability of funding for the organizations offering it. We have compiled cost information from several programs so funders will know what is needed and can consider including it in their budgets.

In his parable of the ten virgins, Christ Jesus illustrated to his followers the importance of ongoing readiness, alertness, obedience, and wisdom. Mrs. Eddy makes a reference to this parable in *Miscellaneous Writings*: “I pray that all my students shall have their lamps trimmed and burning at the noon of night, that not one of them be found borrowing oil, and seeking light from matter instead of Spirit, or at work erroneously, thus shutting out spiritual light.” (p. 276)

Through continuing education, Christian Science nurses keep their lamps trimmed and burning brightly. Their ministries thereby exemplify the standards established by our



Leader, thereby actively contributing to the healing mission of our church.

“Thus, the dawn of ideas goes on, forming each successive stage of progress.” (*Science and Health*, p. 506)

Leadership and Management Working Group:

One of the interesting dynamics that has emerged from the Leadership & Management Working Group is the fostering of new relationships and partnerships. The topic of leadership covers a broad range of organizational levels.

For example, we have worked closely with AOCSN’s Trustees Committee to present helpful leadership ideas for those fulfilling a trustee’s role. A future presentation is planned on “Compliance with Legal, Ethical, and Accountability Standards.” We are also working with AOCSN’s Leadership Support Committee, which has given us a list of their priorities for leadership development topics to support new Executive Directors and Directors of Christian Science Nursing. We recently gave them a presentation on “Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Staff;”

Leadership development presentations now available on the Collaborative website.

a replay of which is available on the Resources page of the Collaborative website (cscollaborative.org/resources).

Since our last report, we have added two more presentations (Part Two and Part Three) to the Leadership 101 Series, which have also now been posted to the above page.

We are working on a plan to add more resources to the Trustees Governance Guide, which can also be found on the Resources page.

Training Affordability and Accessibility Working Group:

The Training Accessibility and Affordability Working Group continues to focus on expanding avenues for the availability of and funding for recognized training of Christian Science nurses.

Funding Resources for Christian Science Nurses Training

We’ve been working to make the process of finding and securing funding for students in Christian Science nurses training programs easier on educators and students. We now have a common resource available to educators for referencing the requirements of various funding organizations. This should help make things easier for funders as well as trainers and students.

Understanding the Costs to Educators

In order to help with fundraising efforts, and to inform funders, we are researching the scale of costs that it takes to provide various training programs. This originated as a request from the Philanthropy Forum Steering Committee. We are compiling a report of costs from a sample group of Christian Science nurses training providers. We plan to expand this project to include international organizations.

Field Training and Mentoring

We are also working to support Christian Science nurses training and mentoring in remote areas and to enable greater numbers of qualified Christian Science nurses to serve in the field from their home areas. We have been working with the AOCSN Education Committee on developing a detailed list of outcomes and expectations for instruction and mentoring in the global Christian Science field.

Valuing Christian Science Nurses—Self-Employed:

This working group has been designing an automated billing and financial management app for private duty Christian Science nurses, CSNTrac (see rayofflightsoftware.com)

Since the last newsletter, the beta version of the app was completed and we have signed up over 40 Christian Science nurses to start using it and reporting their feedback.

App developer Dale Matheny has been contacting members of the Christian Science nurses testing group to answer questions and provide additional training.

We recently acquired a fiscal sponsor (Wellsprings of Florida), which will enable us to accept donations through their 501(c)(3) status in order to financially complete the working group’s obligations.



The working group has met regularly and is now emphasizing these areas going forward:

- Preparing for our CSNTrac app workshop presentation at the ICSN Conference at the end of August
- Organization of the CSNTrac resource links that will exist on the CSNN website in the following categories: Insurance options of private duty Christian Science nurses, various retirement options available, and a legal documents library for private duty Christian Science nurses
- Comparing various memo-of-understanding documents in order to provide a template as a resource on the CSNN website.

UPDATES FROM AFFILIATED GROUPS

International Fund for Christian Science Nursing:

After two years of development and research into various European privacy and security requirements, The Principle Foundation is happy to announce the launch of [IFCSN](#) in early April of this year. The International Fund for Christian Science Nursing provides financial support to individuals outside the US who have chosen the care of a Christian Science nurse and need assistance to cover the cost. IFCSN is currently welcoming applications from Europe, including Switzerland and the UK, and it will eventually open to other regions of the world.

Caring for Christian Scientists:

Launched two years ago in April 2021, this new program with a focus on practical help for Christian Scientists (especially those in their senior years) features two services:

- [RiperYears.org](#)
- The Call Center (800.930.3797)

The website, which provides detailed information on

housing, personal care, Christian Science nursing, advance directives, and finances, has had 3,575 visitors during 2022.

The Call Center is staffed by four part-time administrators, all of whom are current or former *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses. Questions are primarily in three areas: Christian Science care (31%), housing (17%), and finances (16%).

Other call topics have recently included: information about The Principle Foundation grants or the Gratitude Fund, general information about Christian Science, and occasional unique calls such as one regarding suicide prevention. A number of callers call just to talk and get a “Christian embrace.”

Communities of Christian Caring

In thinking of our work in Communities of Christian Caring, a passage from the Bible comes to mind — “Faith without works is dead” (James 2). We are asking ourselves, “Are we living our mission of outreach? Are we ‘walking the talk?’” In the Gospel of Matthew, Christ Jesus tells his followers and the crowd “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.” (Matt. 5:17) A Bible scholar shared that Jesus’ criticism of the religious leaders of the time was not about the “law” or the standard they were espousing, but rather that they weren’t living their lives in accord with this standard.

So, how are we continuing to support our Christian Science communities—our church communities? With “proof of (our) utility,” “rousing the dormant understanding,” and supporting “healing the sick” (see *Science and Health*, p. 583); through our work with individuals, small groups, and organizations as we all discern how to best meet needs of fellow Christian Scientists, wherever they are in their spiritual journeys.

Here are some specifics: The Advocate Support Group continues to gain momentum, and we see its growing value as members reach out to each other and new groups are formed. Also, we’re discovering new and different ways to help each other. For example, after a recent group meeting with a focus on how to handle “sticky” situations, one of



the participants took one of the ideas and used it with the next meeting of their local community of Christian caring, and it was well received and appreciated.

More local communities of Christian caring have been formed and are expanding. Many of us are finding that the more we embrace these ideas of loving care for one another and the healing efficacy of Christian Science, the more we are having abundant opportunities to help form groups right in our own areas. And the already established communities of Christian caring are gaining strength and momentum—giving “proof of (their) utility.”

We’re actively developing our website, and people are already finding it useful. Planned for the near future is the launch of a series of webinars on a thoughtful and prayerful approach to caring about others by helping meet needs and support healing—so stay tuned.

Needless to say, our “hearts burn within” us (see *Science and Health* p. 46) to share this message of hope and a bright future, as more and more Christian Science communities discover and unlock their potential for good and their natural desire and ability to respond to needs and support healing.

Website: communitiesofchristiancaring.org

Email: info@cscocc.org

“So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on
O’er moor and fen, o’er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.”
(Hymn 169:3)

Christian Science Nursing Network:

The CSNN board consists of seven *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses from four nations (USA, Portugal, England, and Canada), and is actively engaged in supporting the global ministry of Christian Science nurses.

Our current focus is preparation for the 2023 International Christian Science Nursing Conference. This will take place at Cedars Camps in Lebanon, Missouri, from August 30 to

September 3.

The board has recently updated and refurbished its website, www.csnnetwork.org.

The CSNN board continues to be active on the Collaborative Coordinating Committee and on the working groups of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative. We encourage Christian Science nurses to regularly check our website for information on Continuing Education opportunities. Our most recent quarterly newsletter, *News and Notices* from CSNN, was published on April 30.

Steering Committee of The Philanthropy Forum for Christian Science Nursing:

The Philanthropy Forum Steering Committee treasures the donors to Christian Science nursing as colleagues and partners. Specifically, we are focusing on these goals for 2023-24:

- Strengthen the donor network, our relationships with each other
- Share updates about Christian Science nursing
- Listen to what our fellow donors are thinking and hearing
- Develop our ability to work collaboratively
- Expand our network from organizational donors to include individual donors.

We expect to hold our next conference in 2024. Looking forward to moving forward together with you!

Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing Executive Committee:

One year ago, in May 2022, we rejoiced in a return to in-person conferences with the first in-person AOCSN Conference in three years! What a joy it was to welcome Christian Science nursing organizations from around the world to Dublin, Ohio! It was indeed a “time to embrace” (Eccl. 3:5) each other and our Christian Science nursing ministry.

As we look forward to 2023 and 2024, there is much on the horizon! We plan to hold a webinar later this year. Planning is already under way for our in-person 2024 Conference.