



June 2019

# Christian Science Nursing COLLABORATIVE

... that “every  
Christian  
Scientist  
have access  
to Christian  
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nursing if  
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Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative (The Collaborative)!

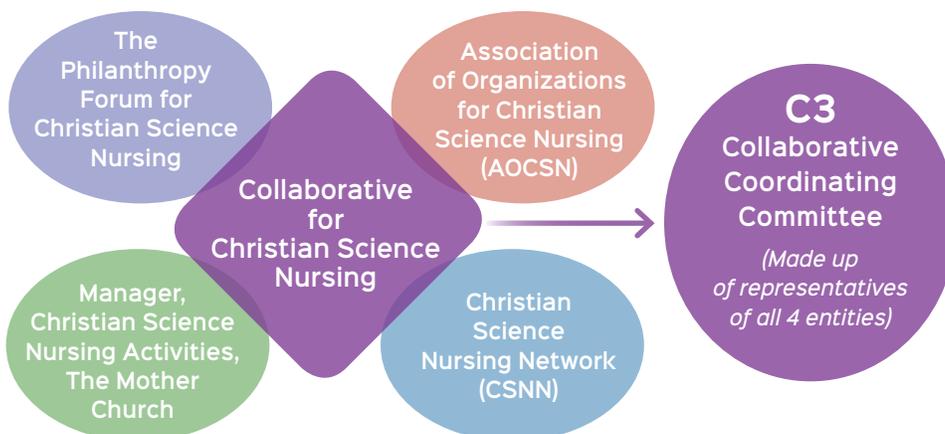
This communique is the first of many you will receive from The Collaborative. We are so glad you want to stay abreast of the exciting progress being made in numerous areas of Christian Science nursing.

This Collaborative network consists of:

- **The Philanthropy Forum** — donors who give to Christian Science nursing activities
- **The Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN)** — an organization of Christian Science nursing facilities and visiting Christian Science nursing services
- **The Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN)** — an association that supports Christian Science nurses in their practice and careers
- **The Christian Science Nursing Activities Department** of The Mother Church

We’ve come together to work on specific opportunities and needs in the Christian Science nursing community. We’re praying and working *together* to accomplish that which, over time, we have found we cannot do alone.

## COLLABORATIVE for CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING





The Collaborative has identified five priorities. These priorities emerged in 2017-2018 out of discussions during four conferences across seven months. Below we share the priorities and what we are doing to address them.

## THE 5 PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE'RE DOING

We began with an overarching goal that “*every Christian Scientist have access to Christian Science nursing if they need it.*” And, all our human footsteps are built on a foundation of awakening and supporting “communities of Christian care” focused on quick and whole Christian Science healing, including easy access to Christian Science nursing.

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**1. Collaboration** — Our network is learning to work together in so many ways. We’re communicating about our working structure, roles and responsibilities, how work gets done, and how and when we share what we are doing with the larger Christian Science field. We also now have an administrative team — **Collaborative Support Team (CST)** — provided by one funder. That little team supports the basic administrative functions (agendas, minutes, communications, etc.) so that we can concentrate on the more important content of the work to be done. This communique is, in fact, coming to you from the CST — one of the things they will do for us regularly so we can all keep abreast of the work and progress.

**2. Numbers** — To meet the needs of the movement in the coming decades, it’s imperative to increase the numbers

of Christian Science nurses entering this ministry *and* keep those we have until they choose to retire. One place to start is to understand better what is keeping people from entering the field or making them leave it. The **Calling & Career Working Group (C&CWG)** has just wrapped up a professional evaluation looking at barriers to growing the number of Christian Science nurses. The highlights of that evaluation have gone out to the Board of Directors of The Mother Church, Christian Science nurses, the professional associations that support them, and the directors of facilities, camps and schools that employ them. The C&CWG has asked recipients to, first, join them in prayer about the issues that have been lifted up for healing and second, if they feel impelled to do so, get involved with one of the working groups that is taking practical steps to address some of the barriers.

a. **Additionally**, a newly formed working group — the **Valuing Christian Science Nurses Working Group** — is beginning to tackle things such as compensation, benefits and “working conditions” — all related to enhancing the experience of those who are already part of or planning to enter this ministry.

b. The **Youth Action Working Group** has formed to develop specific ways in which youth in our movement can begin exploring Christian Science nursing as a possible career.

**3. Awareness** — The **Awareness Working Group (AWG)** is focused on how to increase the awareness of and appreciation for Christian Science nursing across the entire CS field. They’ve identified two areas where improvements are needed.



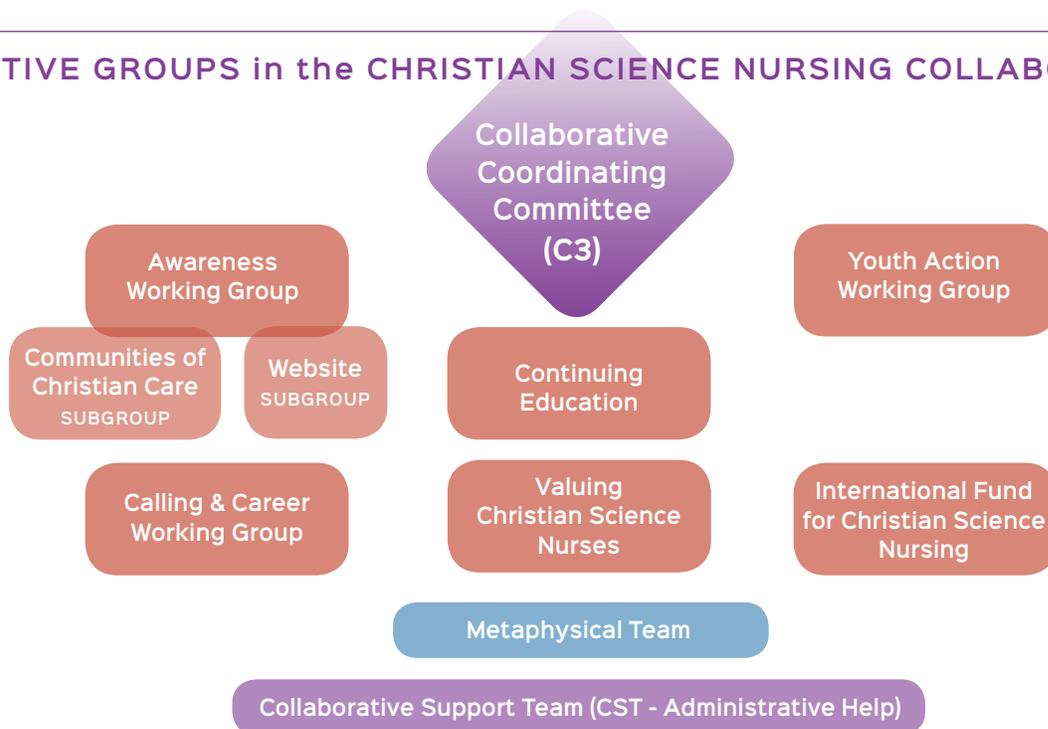
- a. A **Communities of Christian Care** sub-group is focusing on how to awaken across the Christian Science field the natural desire to be Christian communities of care and to understand better and embrace the role Christian Science nursing plays. It's gathering information on what workshops on Christian Science nursing are already being offered (and where) and preparing a proposal for the creation of specific activities that would reach out to the field to offer additional support in building caring Christian communities and being sure Christian Science nursing is at hand.
- b. A **Website** sub-group is working with The Mother Church and a few organizations to make finding a Christian Science nurse easier for those who are looking for care for themselves or for friends and family who often are trying to assist Christian Scientists in finding care. (See also #4.)

**4. Access and Availability** — The Principle Foundation, working with others, is looking at the possibility of a comprehensive website for finding Christian Science nursing care and solutions to senior housing.

**5. Patient Care** — This priority area includes a variety of things related to training and education, standards of care, continuing education, models of training and other aspects of Christian Science nursing. Some of these are best tackled by one organization within the Collaborative; some, can best be worked on by a collaborative effort. At the recent Philanthropy Forum conference (see more on that below), a Continuing Education Working Group emerged to begin with developing a consistent approach to continuing education for all *Journal*-listed CS nurses.

Below is a visual representation of the Collaborative Coordinating Committee (coordinating and oversight), the working groups that exist, and the CST (administrative support).

## ACTIVE GROUPS in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING COLLABORATIVE





## PHILANTHROPY FORUM'S FIFTH CONFERENCE

The Philanthropy Forum for Christian Science Nursing recently held its fifth conference. About 65 of us — representing numerous funders and the Christian Science nursing community - came together to build on the foundation laid over the last five years. Our theme was “Where two or more are gathered ... there am I ...” (Matt 18:20). Over two very full days, we:

- Made new friendships and deepened existing ones — creating ever stronger networks
- Strengthened our ability to pray, reason and work together
- Explored our vision of the future of CS nursing
- Reviewed the priorities and identified additional areas for existing — or newly formed — working groups to tackle
- Hammered out some structural and process issues for our Collaborative
- Prayed, sang, had BBQ at The Leaves
- Returned to our respective places in the CS nursing field refreshed and recommitted to working together

As mentioned above, a few new groups were formed at this gathering. Not yet mentioned are the:

- **International Fund for Christian Science Nursing Working Group** — a group that came together after some of them have been exploring the idea for a fund for several years. As a result of a few key people finally meeting in person, this idea now has a collaborative group to move it forward quickly.
- **Metaphysical Support Team** — a group of participants in the conference that agreed to be a team of people that anyone in the Collaborative can reach out to and request specific prayerful treatment on something they are working on for the Collaborative.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **The AOCSN** will host its annual conference in Boston July 8-11. Click here for more information >> [www.aocsn.org](http://www.aocsn.org).
- **The CSNN** will host its international conference September 4–8 at Cedars Camps in Lebanon, Missouri. For up to date information go to the CSNN website here >> [www.csnnetwork.org](http://www.csnnetwork.org).

In the next couple of weeks, we will launch a website where we will post updates on these activities, more background information on the Collaborative, and a calendar of meetings and events related to these efforts. Some of the information will be open to the public and some will be “members-only” access for the working groups.

**If you want to know more about the Collaborative — who is working on what, how to get updates, how to join in the effort, more history, etc. — email us at [info@csncollaborative.org](mailto:info@csncollaborative.org). There are many ways you can get involved, and we would love to help you find the right fit.**

*If, instead, you would like to be removed from this email list, let us know at [info@csncollaborative.org](mailto:info@csncollaborative.org).*