



January 2020

Christian Science Nursing COLLABORATIVE

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Dear Friends,

You have asked to stay up to date on items of interest in Christian Science nursing, so we are pleased to share with you Edition #2 of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative (The Collaborative) newsletter.

It's an exciting time in the field of Christian Science nursing.

After a summary of what's been happening, we've included a brief reminder of *who* The Collaborative is and *how* it is structured — just in case anyone needs a little refresher or you're new to this Collaborative.

PROGRESS AND HAPPENINGS SINCE JUNE 2019

The AOCSN Annual Conference

AOCSN's annual conference was held in Boston this year, making it easy to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Benevolent Association. Responses to the venue and the theme — "Christian Science Nurse: ... a help ... to maintain the dignity and defense of our Cause" (*Church Manual* 89th edition by Mary Baker Eddy) — indicated attendees felt this was one of the best conferences ever.

Boston is always a draw, and we had excellent speakers and there was great appreciation for those who shared with us, including keynote speaker Lesley Pitts, CS; Bonnie Castroman, Manager of CS Nursing Activities of The Mother Church; Kevin Ness, Manager of Committees on Publication; Amelia Newcombe, The Christian Science Monitor; Ariana Herlinger, Manager of Branch Church Activities and TMC Youth; and Abe McLaughlin, Christian Science Publishing Society Manager. We also heard from Bruce Jeffrey, Christian Science Nursing Collaborative Coordinating Committee

and The Principle Foundation; Madeline Maupin; and Timothy F. Murphy, Partner at Skolar, Abbot, & Presser, P.C.

Vanessa Staskus gave us a presentation on our new AOCSN website, which is now live at aocsn.org.

Attendees also enjoyed opportunities to attend The Mother Church services, tour the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association, and join special tours and events offered by Longyear Museum. Always a highlight is the networking with others from around the world. Breakout sessions were well attended and appreciated for their practical information. Everyone loved being in Boston so much that some expressed interest in having conferences there more often to take advantage of all these inspiring resources. The planning committee will take that under consideration for future years.

Our next AOCSN members' conference will be August 24-26, 2020 at The Westin St. Francis in San Francisco, California.

— AOCSN Executive Committee



CSNN Conference — “... here I am Lord”

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are filled with gratitude as we watch the harvest unfolding from dedicated Christian Science nurses in the field. During the four-day International Christian Science Nurses Conference (ICSNC) at Cedars in September, we honored and celebrated the public practice of Christian Science nursing. We're grateful to report that ICSNC had the largest attendance in years.

More than 100 Christian Science nurses from nine countries attended the conference: USA, Canada, Australia, Cameroon, England, Wales, France, Portugal, and Switzerland. This was the largest single gathering of Christian Science nurses for many years. Many participants at ICSNC this year were first-timers and a significant number of attendees had discovered the vocation of Christian Science nursing in recent years.

The theme of ICSNC was “Here I am, Lord,” based on Isaiah 6:8. The three main metaphysical talks explored different aspects of this theme. The conference also included workshops on Christian Science nursing skills such as cleansing and bandaging; preparation of special nourishment; and responding to the challenges of night duty. The program included an item

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entitled “Inspired Stories from Christian Science Nurses in Training.” Two current trainee Christian Science nurses, from Canada and the USA, shared how inspired listening, humility, and obedience led them to enlist in the ministry of Christian Science nursing.

Our time together included contributions by three representatives of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts:

- Bonnie Castroman, Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities;
- Connie Coddington, CSB; Manager, Christian Science Practitioner Activities
- Ken “Keb” Bemis, CS, Government Relations Counsel, Office of The Manager of Committees on Publication

One of the great benefits of ICSNC is the opportunity it affords for Christian Science nurses from diverse backgrounds to discuss their work with one another, to learn from one another, and to support each other. The one-to-one sharing of ideas and experiences during mealtimes — and throughout ICSNC — constitutes one of the most important and valuable aspects of the conference.

On Saturday evening, the conference closed with a concert by two Christian Science nurses from the Boston area — Kathy Glover and Kristin Palkoner. We were so grateful to have two of our colleagues in Christian Science nursing provide this special concert for us.

The CSNN board has received numerous expressions of gratitude from participants. For a full summary of this last conference, go here:

campaign.r20.constantcontact.com

The next ICSNC will take place in September 2021.

— CSNN Executive Board



WHAT THE COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUPS ARE UP TO

Continuing Education Working Group (CEWG)

The purpose of this working group is to make continuing education available for every *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse in simple, accessible and affordable ways. Since its creation in April, the group has been thinking and praying its way through how to fulfill that purpose by drawing on as many of the existing training programs and refresher programs as it can. To accomplish this task, it's working closely with the Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN), the Christian Science Nursing Activities office at The Mother Church, and with the Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN) Education Committee.

With the generous assistance of CSNN, the CEWG sent a survey to all CS nurses listed in the *Christian Science Journal* to find out what topics they would like to have offered and how/where classes should be offered. The CEWG is using the results of this survey to help shape a continuing education (CE) program regarding topics and accessibility to classes by CS nurses in the field, including offering webinars and training outside of a facility setting.

Here is a brief summary of what CEWG knows so far:

- Classes, workshops, webinars, will be accessible for all *Journal*-listed CSNs
- CSNN has offered to host on its website a master list of what is being offered in any coming year. It will include links that take the user to the registration page of the organization that is offering any one of the individual courses/classes
- Financial support will be available for *Journal*-listed CS nurses to take the CE classes offered

Here are some things the WG is still praying about and working on:

- Ensuring that the continuing education will meet the needs of Christian Science nurses not affiliated with a facility or other Christian Science nursing organization and not living or working near a CS facility.
- Determining which entity will be responsible for pulling together the suite of offerings each year, ensuring the courses are offered by those already accredited, and getting the information over to CSNN
- Identifying guidelines for what gets listed as CE and what does not

In early 2020, the CEWG expects to notify the field about the first CE classes — these will primarily be focused on Ethics and will include webinars. The information for CE class offerings will be located under a special tab on the CSNN website so it can be easily accessed by *Journal*-listed CS nurses looking to fulfill their CS nursing continuing education goals.

The CEWG's goals are founded on the desire to uphold the integrity of the *Manual By-Law*, "Christian Science Nurse" as a "help that must be supplied to maintain the dignity and defense of our Cause." (MBE). The goals are also based on the conviction that this would be strengthened through providing continuing education for CS nurses *beyond* the initial four-course programs currently being offered.

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Communities of Christian Caring (CoCC)

The basic focus of Communities of Christian Caring (CoCC) Working Group (WG) is to awaken in Christian Scientists the natural desire to lovingly support and care for one another and help develop ways of meeting the needs of fellow church friends. This includes identifying appropriate resources that are available to meet needs, increasing people's capacity and skills to care for one another, and assisting someone to gain access to Christian Science nursing if that is needed. This WG is developing a long-term plan for how it can respond consistently to many underserved areas of the US (and outside of the US when called upon).

The CoCC recently sent a small team of facilitators to New Mexico to work with 15 Christian Scientists from around the state (and from parts of southern Colorado) on how they could increase their capacity and ability to care for their fellow church members and attendees. This pilot project was funded by The Albert Baker Fund and resulted in establishing a CS care network in that area. It also provided the CoCC with important learnings for its future project sites. Some 22 individuals in the US and Canada have indicated an interest in having the CoCC work with them in their communities to build their capacity to care for one another.

The COCC is in the process of further developing its model for working with CSists in the field. It's also seeking a Christian Science-based non-profit organization that would like to host (or partner on) this activity in the long run. This would include continuing to work with an advisory group from the COCC to mold and shape the activity.

Valuing CS Nurses Working Group (VALCSNs)

The Valuing CS Nurses Working Group was established in April of 2019 to find new ways to tangibly value CS nurses, specifically focusing on compensation/benefits and working conditions — two areas that stood out in the CS Nursing Evaluation Project conducted in 2018. The VALCSN's initial goal is focused on developing solutions for improving compensation and long-term benefits for CS nurses.

To start, this WG decided to focus on gathering additional data on pay and benefits from all of the organizations that employ Christian Science nurses — facilities, schools, camps, visiting CS nurse services, etc. — in different markets (areas) around the US. Working with Tenacre Foundation and an independent research firm, it developed a survey that went out in November to all organizations that employ CS nurses. The results will go back to those who took the survey sometime in February. They can then be used to better inform those who employ CS nurses on equitable wages and benefits, including for those who are contracted to work periodically but are not full-time employed in those settings.

After the results of this survey are in the hands of those who can best use the information to tangibly improve pay and benefits for CS nurses, this WG will identify what it wants to tackle next and how that can best be done.

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YAC (Youth Action Committee)

The **vision** for this working group is: *Youth — Informed, Inspired, and Engaged in Healing.*

Its **mission** is: *Christian Science Nursing — to develop and create thriving youth communities in Christian Science Nursing.*

The group is focusing on three objectives:

1. Discovering youth talents in nursing, as well as assessing the needs of youth and young families to which Christian Science nursing can respond.
2. Reaching out and responding to CS youth by establishing: **platforms** for discussion and fellowship; **workshops** for awareness and education; and **plans** for promoting this initiative and responding to the interest generated.
3. Launching a Youth CSN Service Corps for young people to work in Christian Science nursing organizations. The idea of this Corps is similar to internships, although more along the lines of Americorp in the US. In addition, the group is exploring whether this might include educational scholarships.

The YAC has begun reaching out and introducing its mission to attendees at youth meetups in NJ and NY, Christian Science nursing conferences, CS camp directors' meeting, and a recent TMC Youth summit.

IFCSN (Newly named IFund)

Representatives from the US and European Christian Science nursing organizations have been exploring for over a year how an International Fund for Christian Science Nursing might work. Some early good news: there is support for this idea among several funders and CS nonprofit organizations. As a result, the WG has focused on:

- The legal issues related to funds being held in the US and then made available to CSsts outside of the US

- Structures for governing and administering such a fund
- Banking/fund transfer possibilities and restrictions
- Language translation issues
- EU and other international or regional regulations that will need to be met

The IFund Working Group is now in the process of developing a set of policies that covers things such as: eligibility, the application process, which expenses will be covered and which will not, verifying care has been received, and other issues similar to the NFCSN policies but adapted to an international grant-making setting.

The CS Care Resource Center

The Principle Foundation is working with funders and contracted consultants to develop a website that will allow for a one-stop place where Christian Scientists, their families, and friends can find information about housing for senior (or dependent adult) Christian Scientists and about Christian Science Nursing and other levels of CS care and support. This website is planned for launch in the second quarter of 2020. Following the website, TPF plans to also launch a call center available to individuals seeking solutions for housing and CS care.

Metaphysical Support Committee

The Collaborative has a metaphysical support committee that responds to requests for prayer on issues specific to the Collaborative work we are doing. If you are part of this Collaborative effort and want to access this support, get in touch with the CST at info@cscncollaborative.org and we'll connect you with the chair.



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Annual Meeting of the AOCSN, The Philanthropy Forum Conference and the Collaborative Conference

In recognition of the overlapping — i.e. “collaborative” — work we are doing as funders, associations and individual CS nurses, we will host gatherings next August in San Francisco that run back to back. The schedule will generally flow as follows:

- AOCSN – August 24-26
- Philanthropy Forum for CS Nursing – August 25-26
- Collaborative for CS nursing – August 27

If you have questions about the schedule or what we will be working on, please get in touch with the CST and we’ll get you connected to the right “conference planning group.”

The Collaborative Website Update

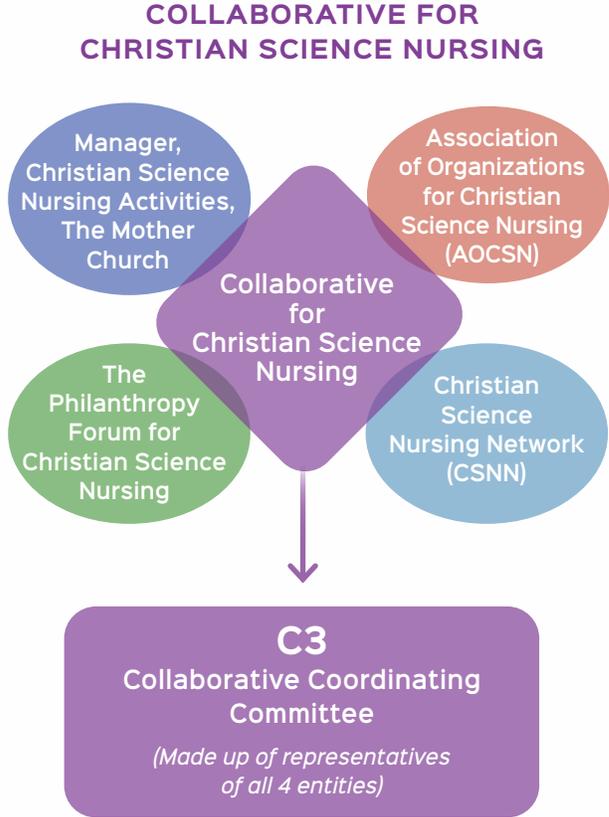
In 2019, we launched the basics of a website for the Collaborative. Its purpose is to give the participants in the Collaborative one place to find information on Collaborative activities. The website provides useful information for those serving on the C3 coordinating committee and anyone in a working group at this time. For example, you can access a link to get into the working documents of your working group here cscollaborative.org/communications/. And, you can find a calendar of all the upcoming WG meetings and the link to get on the call or zoom here cscollaborative.org/calendar/. Early in 2020, the CST will have access to additional technical support and we will further develop this website.

We are in the early stages of adding features that will be of interest to the entire Christian Science community and linking this site to others that support Christian Science nursing activities.

A reminder on who we are and how we are structured

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) — a professional organization of Christian Science nursing facilities and visiting Christian Science nursing services
- The Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN) — a professional association that supports Christian Science nurses in their practice and careers
- Christian Science Nursing Activities of The Mother Church





Through our Collaborative, we're praying and working together to accomplish that which, over time, we have found we cannot do alone.

ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING COLLABORATIVE



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. 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.

— Shannon, Linda and Ronna
(The Collaborative Support Team)