



Fall 2021



Christian Science Nursing  
**COLLABORATIVE**

**Contents:**

**Working Group Updates...1-6**

**Updates from Member Organizations...7-8**

**Skill-Building Workshops...9**

**Convening of The Collaborative...9**

Dear Friends,

This newsletter brings you the latest update from the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative. Composed of volunteer members from across the Christian Science nursing field, The Collaborative works to enact solutions to challenges facing Christian Science nursing. Enjoy summaries of progress from each of The Collaborative's partners. If you want to learn more, email us at [info@csncollaborative.org](mailto:info@csncollaborative.org) or see our website [CSNCollaborative.org](http://CSNCollaborative.org).

## UPDATES ON PROGRESS SINCE MAY 2021

### Collaborative Coordinating Committee (C3):

The C3 is a seven-member group with representatives from the four member organizations of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative: the Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN), Christian Science Nursing Network, The Philanthropy Forum, and the Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church. The purpose of the C3 is to continue to provide support, suggestions, and feedback to the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative Working Groups.

Since our last newsletter, the C3 has witnessed the successful transition of responsibility for the Collaborative Support Team from The Principle Foundation (TPF) to Wellsprings of Florida. Kudos to the staff at TPF, who have been of tremendous value and support to the mission and success of the Collaborative since its inception. The

onboarding process has gone smoothly and Wellsprings is doing a great job handling the needs of The Collaborative and as well as each of the Working Groups.

We have just finished participating in several interactive workshops for members of our Working Groups. Curtis Ogden of Interaction Institute for Social Change, who has facilitated similar workshops on the collaborative process in the past, has created a new set of skill-building sessions that focus on areas surrounding managing effective meetings, designing opportunities for collaboration, and facilitating strategic conversations. These skills directly help the Working Groups and will also be of value in members' workplaces and church work.

We also celebrate the adoption of the Communities of Christian Caring Working Group into the AOCSN.

We share this with much gratitude for your continued support and interest in the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative.



## FROM OUR WORKING GROUPS

### Valuing Self-Employed Christian Science Nurses (ValCSNSE)

Our working group has been meeting twice each month to develop foundational tools for the individual self-employed Christian Science nurse. While honoring the individual healing ministry of each self-employed Christian Science nurse, the ValCSNSE working group is developing organizational and professional tools that allow the Christian Science nurse to focus on her/his Christian Science nursing practice. These tools include:

1. Development of an easy-to-use accounting system that provides invoices, billings, tracking of payment, profit and loss documentation for tax returns, and a webinar tutorial (all at a cost of a \$5 to \$10 per month subscription) for their self-employed ministry.
2. Development of a standard billing statement that will interface with the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing and other donor organizations for all to use.
3. Provide a private website for Christian Science nurses to have access to all these tools (within an existing 501(c)(3)).
4. Development of memos of understanding (MOUs), which cover the most important aspects of their service/contract with their patients.
5. Putting links in [RiperYears.org](http://RiperYears.org) and the Resource Call Center websites that list Christian Science nursing at home, descriptions of MOUs, patient responsibilities, Christian Science nurse responsibilities, and sample invoices.
6. Development of a retirement account with a professional retirement advisor who tracks the self-employed contributions as well as possible funding matches at 5%.

### Valuing Christian Science Nurses in Organizations (ValCSNO)

The purpose of the ValCSNO Working Group is to develop a wage, benefit, and retirement model where Christian Science nurses are valued and professionally compensated. The ValCSNO Working Group has completed a proposal package to be distributed to Christian Science nursing organizations. The documents should help each organization practically understand what current staff needs are. We found that many Christian Science nurses are sacrificing quality of home, childcare, transportation costs, and other expenses in their commitment to healing. The research previously completed showed that many Christian Science nurses are longing for a better sense of home as a sanctuary. We sincerely support their desire to care for their family as they care for so many others.

Once organizations work through the documents and develop a proposal that fits their mission and staffing needs, there will be a need to work with the Fundraising Working group and Philanthropy Forum to develop a funding program. The goal of offering a professional wage for the work of a Christian Science nurse is dependent upon our community: our community of supporters, patients and their families, Christian Science practitioners, and church members. Our collective gratitude for the true witnessing and steadfast support of a Christian Science nurse during our trials and tribulations is often difficult to express verbally, but God hears us. This is the motive and desire behind the working group's efforts.

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## Communities of Christian Caring (CoCC)

Several recent accomplishments stand out as significant milestones since the last newsletter highlights. The first was our status change from Working Group within the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative to a committee of the Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN). This is the new home of the CoCC. While we continue to participate in Collaborative activities, this change now allows us to accept donations, enabling us to move into a much higher level of activity.

The next significant milestone relates to interactions with the newly formed Fundraising Working Group (FWG). Collaboration with the FWG has been quite instructional, and has led to presentations with other organizations. Many good questions have been asked, and there has been notable interest and encouragement for future support of the concept of the CoCC program. All in all, a wonderful feeling of fellowship and family blossomed during these meetings.

The CoCC has been moving forward with the implementation of program elements such as videos, a website, and informational materials; increased funding will allow these initiatives to accelerate considerably. Also, the key component of gathering “testimonials” is quickly gaining traction as we discover incredible “caring” stories everywhere.

Perhaps the most significant milestone would be that the CoCC has seen its basic mission expand to become more inclusive and far-reaching. As we spread the good news—the story of Christian caring—the CoCC is having the opportunity to witness and articulate the marvelous contributions various Christian Science individuals, small groups, and organizations are making to this grand effort, and encourage and support further collaboration and progress along these lines.

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## Training Affordability and Accessibility (TrAAWG)

The Training Affordability and Accessibility Working Group (TrAAWG) has worked with the Christian Science Nursing Network and the Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN) to reach out to those involved in Christian Science nursing to identify issues

related to training accessibility and affordability. Through a survey we identified the needs and the obstacles that are being faced by Christian Science nurses who are working in the facilities and in remote areas. Some key takeaways from the survey were that salary and income play a large part in an individual’s choice to continue their training to become a fully trained Christian Science nurse, and the inability to go to a facility to train and work can be a barrier to continue or resume training.

In order to share information and ideas related to these issues, we have invited Christian Science nurses who are currently training in the field and doing mentoring in the field to our meetings to give input and feedback.

Our working group provides regular updates to the AOCSN Education Committee in an effort to collaborate on ways to set standards and expectations for mentors and educators working in the field.

Currently, our working group is exploring funding for training for Christian Science nurses in the field who do not have a facility close by.

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## Christian Science Nursing Youth Action Committee (YAC)

The Christian Science Nursing Youth Action Committee (YAC) has successfully launched its new pilot program—Christian Science Nursing Youth Service Corps—in September 2021. We collaborated with three Christian Science Nursing organizations in the US. Broadview has two service corps participants, The Leaves and Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association each have one participant. Each service corps participant will be a part of the program for 20 hours a week for a nine-month program period. We are planning on having the 2022 program begin in September. Please continue to stay updated on all the good happening through our program on our website, [comforterscalling.org](http://comforterscalling.org).

Thanks for your support!



## Continuing Education (CEWG)

“Let brotherly love continue.” (Hebrews 13:1)

The activities of the Continuing Education Working Group (CEWG) have continued to unfold through strong and mutually-supportive relationships with the Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN) Education Committee and the Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN), as well as the office of the Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities of The Mother Church. We're deeply grateful to Linda Kohler for her active interest and participation since she so graciously stepped into the role of Acting Manager. For example, surveys are being sent from the Manager's office to *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses as their listings come up for renewal. These surveys are helping to maintain an awareness of the value of continuing education and are providing a way to gather input from *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses about the topics they would find most helpful to have covered in a refresher class or webinar.

The CEWG has prepared documents that have been shared with the AOCSN Education Committee in support of their development of continuing education offerings.

Topics include:

- Webinar guidelines
- Facilitating workshops and webinars
- Suggested wording for introducing webinars, clearly stating that the webinar is intended as a refresher and does not take the place of a complete class or training program

Our work with the AOCSN Education Committee has also included development of a review process whereby representatives of the CEWG work with those planning refresher classes, workshops, or webinars. The goal of this review is to ensure that the information and format will be effective in supporting the highest standards in participants' Christian Science nursing ministries.

Additionally, the CEWG is supporting collaboration among the AOCSN Education Committee members who are actively planning continuing education offerings. Meetings are set up in which they each share the topics

and timing they are considering for the coming year. This advance planning helps to prevent overlaps in timing as well as topics, spreading the offerings throughout the year and bringing variety to what is covered.

CSNN has continued to be a valuable partner as they post upcoming continuing education opportunities and informational documents on their website, [csnnetwork.org](https://csnnetwork.org).

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## International Fund for Christian Science Nursing (IFCSN)

The International Fund for Christian Science Nursing is moving toward launch—i.e. when it will be ready to take applications. Recently,

the Working Group (WG) that is shepherding this effort interviewed candidates for the role of European Coordinator (EC). The EC will lead the taking in and processing of grant requests for assistance to cover the costs of Christian Science nursing in Europe. We will be making an appointment on that front soon. We are also seeking individuals in Europe who would like a volunteer opportunity to be “local members” (representatives for their country). Local members will assist with grant-making, coordinated by the EC, when an application is from a patient residing in their country. The WG has also been reaching out to funders in Europe to open discussions on how we can best work with one another to make seeking and receiving financial assistance as easy on patients as possible. We anticipate taking in our first applications before the end of 2021. It feels great to be “almost there!” And we trust Love to take us all the way.

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## Leadership and Management (L&MWG)

The Leadership and Management Working Group (L&MWG) was formed to prayerfully listen, and purposely act, to rectify reported inconsistencies of training practices among Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN) members. The goal is—and has always been—to build upon the good work that is ongoing among Trustees, Executive Directors, Directors of Christian Science Nursing, and other leaders, and to seek out and illuminate best practices and to standardize and better unify leadership and management training going forward. The first effort undertaken by our group was a deep study and discussion of the *Church Manual*. This consecrated activity ensured the work remained inspired and solidly based on the principles lived and outlined by our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy.

L&MWG has adopted a Leadership Checklist, endeavoring to create a standardized format that is both comprehensive and simple to use. Much prayerful work has resulted in the gathering of a wide and diverse range of appropriate leadership, management, and metaphysical materials in support of the spirit of the *Manual*. This anticipated assessment tool, while establishing a useful curriculum, is designed to encourage face-to-face discussions about training and development needs, and one-on-one mentoring. As of this moment, we are cherishing and editing this Leadership Checklist which, ultimately, will be sharable electronically. Our goal is to share this work, first by eliciting constructive feedback among specific stakeholders, i.e. DCSNs, EDs, and Trustees, then presenting it during the May 2022 AOCSN Conference.

## Fundraising (FWG)

In early August, the Fundraising Working Group held its first assembly of funders in order to hear the proposal from the Communities of Christian Caring Working Group (CoCC). Enthusiasm from funders helped us bring the presentation together in just three weeks from the day we first reached out to introduce the idea. We had very good attendance, and those groups that could not attend arranged for meetings within a few weeks. The first Zoom meeting was recorded, edited, and then re-shown at the funders' convenience. An in-person Q&A session accompanied each presentation.

What stood out was the enthusiasm and fellowship among all participating. The donor-participants were very much attuned to the goals and objectives of the CoCC's proposal. This first presentation went well and supplied ideas for future improvements or options.

### How can the FWG help your Working Group?

The FWG has had decades of experience in Christian Science nursing endeavors and would be happy to act as a sounding board in reviewing your proposals in a friendly, collegial atmosphere before any formal submission.

Through the help of the Philanthropy Forum, we obtained a list of organizations that provide financial support for Christian Science activities. We have identified what areas of financial support each organization endeavors to help. Therefore, we can match potential donors and would be happy to contact these prospective donors on your behalf to set up presentation meetings. In the meantime, the FWG continues to streamline this process and find new funders with interests in the vital projects of the Collaborative Working Groups.



## Caring for Christian Scientists (Formerly “Christian Science Care Resource Center”)

A proposed (through our Collaborative and other avenues) “hub” of information for Christian Scientists is now up and fully operating.

Formerly known as the “Christian Science Care Resource Center” (CSCRC), it’s now called “Caring for Christian Scientists.” Consisting of a website and a call center, this service provides Christian Scientists (and their friends or family members who may be helping them) with information on practical solutions to meet needs in the areas of housing, Christian Science nursing care, sources of funding to pay for Christian Science nursing, and a number of other topics.

The website, [riperyears.org](http://riperyears.org), is available any time of day or night to explore for information. The call center—currently staffed two hours per day (we will expand those hours going forward), seven days per week—provides experienced Christian Scientists (including Christian Science nurses) to help callers explore available resources by phone. Messages are returned within 24 hours.

To reach either of these, go to [caringforchristianscientists.org](http://caringforchristianscientists.org).

This service is administered by The Principle Foundation.

CARING for CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

## CARING *for* CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

DOWNLOAD FLIER



### Call Center

800-930-3797  
2:00–4:00 pm ET daily  
(or leave a message)

#### *An Information Resource for Christian Scientists*

Anyone can call this phone number to get help, information, and ideas regarding housing, care, and assistance options that are consistent with the practice of Christian Science. Experienced Christian Scientists (including Christian Science nurses) answer the phone a couple of hours each day and respond to messages within 24 hours.



### RiperYears

[www.RiperYears.org](http://www.RiperYears.org)  
available 24 hours

#### *Resources for Senior Christian Scientists*

Focused on the needs of senior Christian Scientists, this site is also for family and friends who may be helping them. It’s a central place to explore practical information about Christian Science care, housing, insurance, and more. You’ll find each topic framed with spiritual insights and relevant Christian Science articles to inspire.



## FROM OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

### Philanthropy Forum for Christian Science Nursing/Steering Committee (STC)

A lot of changes have occurred over the past year or so regarding the developing role of the Philanthropy Forum and its Steering Committee (STC). Recently the STC had a chance to catch up with all the changes and update its purpose and guidelines. At a recent strategic planning session, members of the STC took a deep look at all the progress that has been made and how its role has evolved as part of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative.

**We are newly focused on facilitating improved relationships and communication between donors and with the Collaborative, promoting a higher sense of philanthropy, and encouraging more involvement with the Collaborative**

The new roles we have identified are more closely focused on the Philanthropy Forum and our relationship with the Collaborative. Facilitating improved relationships and communication between donors and with the Collaborative, promoting a higher sense of

philanthropy, and encouraging more involvement with the Collaborative, especially the working groups, are some of the renewed areas of interest that will occupy most of our time going forward.

We celebrate the many contributions of Tiffany Lovett and Sherry Mitchell who have recently left the STC. Tiffany and Sherry served on the STC from its beginning, and have helped to define and lead the work of the Philanthropy Forum, taking significant roles in workshops,

conferences, communications, and planning. Thank you both so much.

We also thank Linda Kohler for joining us for a few months after the passing of Bonnie Castroman, our dear friend. Linda jumped in quickly and helped shape our vision and direction. It's been great to have her join us and we know we'll be in regular contact going forward.

We also gratefully welcome two new members to our team and greatly appreciate their contributions. A warm welcome goes out to Nancy Batty and Ken Jurgensen. They join in joyful fellowship the other members of our team, Bruce Jeffrey, Jenni Hebert, and Rob Van Der Like.

### Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN)

The CSNN board continues its active participation in the Collaborative Coordinating Committee and various working groups of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative. It's a joy to be engaged in this work to support Christian Science nursing! We encourage people to regularly check our website ([www.csnnetwork.org](http://www.csnnetwork.org)) for information regarding ongoing educational opportunities and to subscribe to our *News and Notices from CSNN*.





## Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN) Executive Committee

“Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee” (Psalms 33:22)

This comforting scripture reminds us of the infinite and eternal grace of our all-loving and ever-present Father-Mother, God. Love restores each of us anew every moment—lifting and raising consciousness, embracing the steadfast, selfless work of Christian Science nurses, administrators, support staff, and all those who daily make God foremost in their lives. This is the divine power that unites, sustains, purifies, and heals.

We are grateful to know that it is God’s mercy which assures success of the upcoming AOCSN 2022 Conference: “Time to Embrace,” (Ecclesiastes 3:5), which will be held in Columbus, Ohio from May 3-5, 2022. We confidently and joyfully move forward knowing that Love has already paved the way for all attendees. AOCSN celebrates the speakers and facilitators who will soon be sharing their inspiration, insight, and experience, both leading up to, and during the conference. Moreover, the AOCSN Annual Business Meeting will be held via Zoom on April 19th.

The Executive Committee fully acknowledges and appreciates that it is the members—and their collective love of Christian Science nursing—who animate all AOCSN activities. The natural evolution, or should we say: unfoldment, is born out by the sponsorship of the Committees of Christian Caring (CoCC). The AOCSN is providing administrative support to receive CoCC self-funded resources to best aid the growing good works of nurturing Christian Science church care committees nationally.

The work of selfless Love and humble service to God continues throughout the wide harvest field of Christian Science nursing, making 2021 a remarkable year of growth. See you in May!

## Christian Science Nursing Activities of The Mother Church

*(Linda Kohler, Acting Manager)*

When angels visit us, we do not hear the rustle of wings, nor feel the feathery touch of the breast of a dove; but we know their presence by the love they create in our hearts. Oh, may you feel this touch, — it is not the clasping of hands, nor a loved person present; it is more than this: it is a spiritual idea that lights your path!

*(Miscellaneous Writings 1883–1896,  
Mary Baker Eddy, p. 306:23–28)*

Over the past few months since the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Bonnie Castroman, I think we have all felt her presence. Certainly her love and commitment to the spiritual idea represented in the By-law “Christian Science Nurse” is evidenced in the many ways she has contributed to and fostered the work of the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative. Her energy, vision, and joy have inspired, encouraged, and directly contributed to the progress that we’re reading about in this newsletter.

I have also been impressed by the fact that the work of the Collaborative has not depended on “a loved person present” but rather on the “spiritual idea that lights your path”—the idea of Christ-healing, which includes an understanding that caring for one another on a Christianly scientific basis is integral to our demonstration of the fullness and power of Church.

“When angels visit us...we know their presence by the love they create in our hearts. Oh, may you feel this touch...” It is an honor to witness this love expressed in every meeting, in respect and courtesy for every participant, in tangible aid and support for Christian Science nurses, and in the blessings and healing Christian Science nursing brings to humanity.



## UPDATES ON SPECIAL COLLABORATIVE EVENTS 2021

### Skill-Building Workshops

Active members of the Collaborative had a couple of special opportunities in September and October of this year to continue learning and growing together.

Many members of our Collaborative Coordinating Committee, Philanthropy Forum Steering Committee, and Working Groups attended skill-building sessions that focused on improving our ability to facilitate strategic conversations and produce our Collaborative outcomes.

Facilitated by Curtis Ogden from Interaction Institute for Social Change, these workshops—under the umbrella theme of “Love’s Infinite Design”—covered topics such as:

- Considering whether your group represents all the stakeholders
- Planning for and designing meetings to produce effective outcomes
- Creating a setting where participants listen to one another and feel comfortable to share their ideas
- Facilitating a discussion from big picture brainstorming to a final focus and clear decision

Participants had a chance to learn some new theories and practice new skills. Feedback to the hosting team after the third workshop included comments such as:

“These skills are so useful not only for the Collaborative work but also for church meetings and any time I need to work with a group toward a specific goal.”

“We didn’t get to spend enough time on decision making; might we do a follow-up session on that?”

“I found these workshops extremely helpful for my work at a facility, on various boards, and in the Collaborative...in all aspects of responsibilities for creating agendas and outlines for meetings and conversations. I was very grateful for the opportunity to participate.”

### Annual Convening

Following the skill-building workshops, all the active members of the Collaborative were invited to come together on October 21 for an Annual Convening session to celebrate progress, assess the work done to date, look at priorities for 2022, and continue listening for what is “ours to do” and how can we best get the work done together?

Some of the key things we are working on include:

- What happens when a working group wraps up the work it set out to do, yet there is more to do to fulfill the Collaborative’s priorities?
- How do working groups that have found a permanent “home” for their activity continue to keep the Collaborative well informed about their efforts?
- Do we need to include additional stakeholders in our work? Mentioned were patients, patients’ families, church care committees, non-managerial Christian Science nurses and private duty Christian Science nurses.
- Is there a way to further focus our efforts and reduce the amount of work on the all-volunteer, active members of our Collaborative?

From these discussions, we anticipate the Collaborative Coordinating Committee will winnow the information down to some recommendations, take those to the whole Collaborative and let them further mold and exalt the design and activities of our “Christian endeavor Society” – which our leader tells us “... Christ organizes and blesses.” (*Pulpit and Press* 21:11)

**Notes and an unedited recording from the Annual Convening meeting are available to active members of the Collaborative who were unable to be at the event.**