

Emailed to: Churches of Christ, Scientist, and Christian Science Societies

Moving Forward Together as a Church of Healers

Dear Friends,

You may have felt from this year's Annual Meeting, with its theme "A Spiritual Foundation of Christ-healing," and perhaps from articles in recent periodicals, lectures, and comments by the Christian Science Board of Directors, that there is a "new-old" spirit stirring in our Church.

The prayer and spiritual devotion of many in recent years have made strong contributions and helped to bring us to this point. New publications from The Christian Science Publishing Society, such as *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer* (amplified edition) and expanded new editions of *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, Vols. 1 and 2, have certainly played their role in reminding us that Mrs. Eddy saw more active healing by all members as the way our Cause originally grew and the way it will always be sustained.

At Annual Meeting this year, Robin Hoagland, Chair of the Board of Directors, put it this way: "Our Church was never designed to be an exercise in passive listening. It's where we feel the power of the Word, animating our hearts and activating our lives. We come to sing together, to pray together, to share with one another those [healing] experiences that have touched and transformed us. ... Just as in the early Christian Church with its few faithful followers, it's not the size of the congregation that changes the course of history—it's the spirit of it. Whenever we come together we realize we're involved in a great movement of thought; we're part of a Cause—the Cause—that is bringing the hope and healing to humanity that it yearns for."

You may be asking yourselves how your own branch members can actively participate in this freshly focused attention on the healing mission of Church? We have some ideas.

You can begin by simply:

1. Expressing your willingness to join with fellow members worldwide in recognizing and recommitting to the healing mission of Church.
2. Agreeing to gather with members of your branch church family to identify and act on specific steps you would like to take that will advance your own healing mission as members and as a church body.

We thought it might be helpful to provide a few seeds or ideas to get you started (see "Ideas"). To be honest, some of these ideas have been provided by you! We realize many of you have already begun a

very focused initiative of your own to bring all church activity into greater alignment with our Master's injunction to "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils."

We also want you to know that the staff in Branch Activities, working with a few volunteer workers who are Christian Science practitioners, will be available to partner with individual branches in the United Kingdom, Canada, the Republic of South Africa, and the United States in upcoming months by assisting you in planning meetings with your branch or society members and/or visiting your church to facilitate conversations about the healing mission we hold so dear. We are calling these conversational meetings "Moving Forward Together as a Church of Healers," and they will be scheduled specifically as meetings with one branch church or society at a time. We feel that in this case, it will allow for the kind of heartfelt, honest, and open conversations that can occur in a family. (See "Ideas" and visit this webpage to request a meeting.)

Of course you don't necessarily need a guest from The Mother Church to have a family discussion! You can come together on your own, prepared to share your ideas—and perhaps some you have borrowed from the attached enclosures. We know these family conversations will be rich and meaningful, and we look forward to hearing where they lead you.

Whether we visit with you in person or you launch out on your own, please stay in touch and let us know of the effect and progress this focused, consecrated commitment to the healing mission of our church has on your branch, your members, and your community. As mentioned in the introduction to the full text insert of Annual Meeting in the September issue of *The Christian Science Journal*, "Let's devote ourselves to the work of fulfilling our Leader's vision for a healing church and then come together, both in Boston and online, to share the resulting fruitage and fellowship, love, and unity, at Annual Meeting 2015." We will also be sharing the ideas, insights, solutions, and progress of branches and societies in a special column in the Christian Science periodicals.

There is power in this growing collective devotion to healing and its divine Source. We're feeling it, and trust you are, too!

With love from The Mother Church,

Valerie Unger, Manager
Branch & Reading Room Activities