

## Ideas for “Moving Forward Together as a Church of Healers”

In a recent email message to branches from the Christian Science Board of Directors that included a video link, they mention that “over the course of the coming months, we hope that all Christian Scientists will join us in deepening appreciation of the healing mission of our Church. So with profound recognition of the importance of your work and prayer, we invite each branch or society to come together as a membership and view a video . . . .” The letter goes on to say that your members might “want to continue to discuss some of the topics covered, and may want to set your own goals for demonstrating the continuing relevance and power of spiritual healing in all your church activities.”

Here are several ideas in no particular order that your members may like to think about as you set your own goals for the coming year. Feel free to work with these ideas or come up with your own:

1. Meet together with no other agenda except to learn from each member how you became a Christian Scientist. No judgement, no expectation, just rejoicing together how the Christ has brought members to the Comforter.
2. Agree to commit as a membership to fulfill Mary Baker Eddy’s hope that “no one could enter a Christian Science church, no matter how sick or sorrowing that one might be, without being healed, and that this day can come only when every member of the church studies and demonstrates the truth contained in the Lesson Sermon, and takes with him to the service the consciousness thus prepared” (from “Healing the Multitudes” by Florence Boyd, July 1, 1916, *Christian Science Sentinel*).
  - Agree as members to read and pray with the Bible Lesson and come to each service with thought prepared to heal!
  - Agree to do this for one, two, or three months and then come together and share the impact of this commitment to individual members as well as to the collective demonstration of church. Have there been healings? Are the services more uplifting?
  - Similarly, agree to pray for the Reading Room and/or Sunday School in this same way.
3. Continue to work with “ ‘Choose Ye’ ”\* together with the citation from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 136:1. How do these ideas relate to our own discipleship?
4. Choose to commit to public practice, whether or not you advertise in *The Christian Science Journal*. Church is all about loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself.
5. Find out who among your members is cherishing the step of becoming a *Journal*-listed practitioner and support them!

6. Give specific treatment to challenges in the community and in the world. (“Mystery does not enshroud Christ’s teachings, and they are not theoretical and fragmentary, but practical and complete; ... ” *Science and Health*, 98:26-28.)
  - Address these challenges at Wednesday evening testimony meetings through the readings and testimonies
  
7. Explore together how the *Church Manual* supports us as healers, and then work with one or two By-Laws to help you move forward. For instance, do all of your members know about Primary class instruction? Mrs. Eddy has given us such wonderful provisions for our growth! Are we taking advantage of them? If not, why not?
  
8. With the greatest love, humility, and courage, agree to identify and heal internal disagreements:
  - Provide a safe atmosphere where any member can voice concerns
  - Be willing to lay all cherished beliefs and opinions on the altar to be purified so that the church may progress.
  - Be willing to agree to disagree, and trust God, divine Mind, to communicate the right way forward for now, knowing that the course can always be corrected if it needs to be (see *Miscellaneous Writings 1883-1896*, p. 10).
  
9. Identify whatever suggestions come that would try to impede your progress to be a church full of joyous, active healers. See them for what they are: erroneous, powerless, and insubstantial attempts of animal magnetism to keep Christian Science from having a presence in your community.
  
10. Defend your progress!

These are just a few ideas, and we know you’ll have others; and we want to hear about them! Please share your thoughts, progress, and inspiration with us and with each other. You can email them to us at [tmcbranch@csps.com](mailto:tmcbranch@csps.com), or mail them to:

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\**The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, pp. 3 to 6