

*"The Christian Science Nurse by-law is the North Star, pointing us heavenward."*

## Executive Director 2018 Annual Meeting Report

by Leslie Gerber



I would like to start by sharing a recent healing that had a profound impact from a deeper understanding of the Christian Science Nurse *Manual* by-law. There was a challenging situation going on that had an individual ruminating continually. No matter how much the person prayed, the discordant picture continued to disturb their thought. In desperation for a sense of peace, this individual prayed, “Father, what do I need to know?” The answer immediately came, “Put yourself in the Christian Science Nurse by-law.” Though the individual was very surprised, this step was obediently taken. As this person cherished and pondered the depth of Love—the caring, nurturing, comforting qualities that were present, the healing immediately took place. The Truth and healing power were in the Principle of the by-law, not the challenge.

As an outgrowth of the spiritual understanding of Church, the Christian Science Nurse by-law is the North Star, pointing us heavenward and guiding us in all we do at Peace Haven. So, understanding the three requirements of this by-law is essential. These qualities move and transform thought to bring about healing. It throws the pure light of Love, in oneness with its creation, and shows forth the eternal wholeness and well-being always present.

The three requirements are:

**1. A demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice** – This is a basic requirement for Christian Science nurses since 1908 when the by-law was written, that they demonstrate Christian Science healing in their own lives.

**2. Thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room** – The demonstration and practice of Christian Science is expressed in com-

passionate and practical (not theoretical or abstract) care.

**3. Can take proper care of the sick** – The Christian Science nurse is prepared to give proper care to meet the human need competently and skillfully, fully expectant of healing.

I will give a few examples of how we have used these requirements in our daily work at Peace Haven. A group of us asked ourselves the question, if we were given the task by our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, to start up a Christian Science nursing facility, what would it look like? How would we get to the root of original Christian Science nursing as outlined in our *Manual* by-law and apply it to our collective organization, thereby benefiting the whole field? This started us on exciting channels of thought as we looked at every element of our work with fresh eyes. It has been truly a holy ground experience as we have dug deeper for the spiritual meaning of our great work. This group was named “Harvesters” taken from *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany* (page 269), where our Leader writes, the “harvest song is world-wide, world-known, world-great. The vine is bringing forth its fruit; the beams of right have healing in their light.” You will hear examples of the outcomes of this work in the reports to follow.

Another example includes the prayerful work that has gone into cherishing our “building” and its relationship to, and outgrowth from, a higher understanding of Church. Of course, Church is defined, in part, in the glossary of our textbook as, “the structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle” (*Science and Health* 583:12). Understanding the true sense of structure inevitably

manifests itself in race elevation, roused understanding and apprehension of spiritual ideas—true Christian Science nursing, thus demonstrating divine Science and healing. This building would naturally reflect the qualities of thought being expressed within. We also looked to the Bible and Mrs. Eddy’s writings for inspired models of temple structures:

- *Solomon’s temple*: building a state of inspired thought, dedicated to God;
- *Pentecost model*: an illuminated “influx of divine science” (*S&H* 43:9) and light where the Truth is seen and known. That continuous influx of light could not possibly be contained within material boundaries;
- *True temple model*: In *Pulpit and Press* (page 2), our Leader writes that “our true temple is no human fabrication, but the superstructure of Truth, reared on the foundation of Love, and pinnacled in Life. Such being its nature, how can our godly temple possibly be demolished, or even disturbed?”

In these examples, a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science, practical wisdom, and proper care are foundational to all aspects of our Christian Science nursing work.

Mrs. Eddy states, “If Spirit or the power of divine Love bear witness to the truth, this is the ultimatum, and scientific way, and the healing is instantaneous” (*S&H* 411:10). It is no wonder that we love this Christian Science Nurse by-law so much, and its application to our healing practice of Christian Science.