

**Christian Science Committee For Institutional Work
in the state of Washington
ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 3, 2018**

Thank you, Burien Church, for once again graciously hosting this meeting. We are very grateful!

A year ago the current Advisory Board met face to face at Third Church Seattle for our initial board meeting as we had some new members, and we see the value of meeting in person. But because of the distance between us all, James in Vancouver and Martha in Bellingham and Bev in Gig Harbor, the rest of our meetings have been through conference call and they have worked out very well.

One of our board members, Bev Foltz, resigned last month so we will still have two more positions open on the board.

Christian Science Institutional Work is a voluntary outreach ministry. The purpose of which is to offer the healing and regenerating truths of Christian Science in institutions such as prisons, jails, hospitals, juvenile facilities—places where people are confined and thus prevented from attending a branch church or visiting a Reading Room.

I'd like to give a brief overview of Institutional Work and our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy's support of the work: by David Coughtry, put out by the NY state Institutional Committee:

In 1906 Mrs. Eddy wrote a letter to her neighbors, "The good folk of Concord," praising the city, for among other things, " ...its humane institutions...and well conducted jail and state prisons...if indeed such must remain with us a little longer...speak for themselves.

Mrs. Eddy, from earliest girlhood, and her family were acquainted with the Pilsburys, the greatest family of enlightened prison wardens of the nineteenth century. Her brother, George, went to work for the Pilsburys in the Connecticut State Prison. Her sister, Martha, married Luther Pilsbury, Deputy Warden in New Hampshire State Prison. Captain Moses Pilsbury, the Bakers' friend, was Warden of New Hampshire's State Prison in Concord. He was the first warden to read the Bible to the assembled inmates twice a day and conduct Sunday church services when the state couldn't afford a regular chaplain. In an age where the lash and other cruel forms of punishment were in constant use in other prisons, he felt that corporal punishment was unnecessary to maintain discipline. In an age when prisons were a financial burden to state governments, he was such an honest and able administrator that after paying all expenses, his prison made a profit and returned money to the state treasury, while his inmates learned a trade in prison industries that helped them find employment after release. To the Pilsburys, religion played an important redemptive role in prison.

Frequently Mrs. Eddy received letters from various parts of the field telling of the good accomplished in the prisons through Christian Science services. She was so interested in having the work made known that she often sent letters to the Concord church to be read at Wednesday evening meetings and then had them forwarded to the Christian Science periodicals for publication.

The Mother Church has been supportive of the branch churches when asked. In 2011, a Bible Lesson Licensing Agreement was created by the Board of Trustees to help with the cost of getting the Full Text Bible Lesson to inmates and others with monetary needs. The Mother Church also, through its Benevolence, created the office of Institutional Liaison to assist with dialogue between it and institutional committees and institutional chaplains and workers. This work deserves all the support we can give it!

(This is from “recent communication from TMC regarding Institutional Work” from an Institutional Talk, an All Employee Meeting. It does not say who gave the talk. I got this from Caroline Harlow at an area meeting)

=====

This year the Advisory Board sent a letter to all of the Christian Science churches in the state and asked them to consider adopting an institutional facility in their area. There are 27 institutions in the state of Washington and 8 institutions being visited and 12 receiving literature. Because of the number of institutions not being served we saw this as an opportunity for churches to begin the process by prayerfully supporting a specific institution with the expectation that they would be guided as to the possibility of more steps that could be taken to serve those in that institution whether it be through the Christian Science Monitor, church services or some other form of contact. Today’s meeting is meant for us to share how this adoption has been going, sharing fruitage from this adoption and how the Advisory Board can be a support for more churches reaching out. We are hoping you have come with questions, suggestions, fruitage for a discussion.

We hope you continue to visit our website www.csciwa.org.