

BOARD REPORT for 2020 ANNUAL ZOOM MEETING

It is a privilege and a joy to serve on the Institutional Committee Board. To contribute in any way to support justice and spiritual growth for folks in prison is inspirational and fulfilling.

The Advisory Board has been meeting monthly on ZOOM all year. Following are some actions that have come about since last year's Annual Meeting.

A By-law change allows no more than 2 people from one church on the Board.

Our Secretary did a great deal of work to apply for and then receive a grant from The Mother Church for \$6,968 to help with expenses. The Board is unceasingly grateful for Martha Niemi's consistent and thorough work for the Committee. We have increased her monthly salary from \$350 to \$450.

There is an ongoing discussion with the King & Snohomish County Area Committee about more collaboration with the Advisory Board. Two members joined our monthly ZOOM meetings.

Progress at Purdy Women's prison! The new chaplain, who addressed the Annual Meeting last year, is receptive to Christian Science and asked for 50 subscriptions to the CS Monitor Weekly which have been given.

Since the shut down, a letter was sent to all inmates subscribing to any Christian Science periodical, to ask if each would like to have a correspondence with a Christian Scientist. Since that letter went out in August, we have had 13 requests. 11 letter writers have stepped forward. We have developed Guidelines and Procedures for the letter writing. We have set up ZOOM meetings with our letter writers to share questions and fruitage. This project came together so smoothly.

In 2016, I was invited to join the Washington State Dept of Correction Religious Advisory Board. It met once in person that year. This group had not met again until August this year. A new person has taken over and now schedules monthly Skype meetings of Chaplains, now known as Religious Coordinators, from prisons around the state and a few religious volunteers. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the chaplains and have Christian Science recognized and hopefully understood better.

One of our dear Board members passed on this year. So we will be electing a Board member to fill that vacancy.

And finally, a deep and heartfelt thank you to all the workers who give so unselfishly of their time and thought to visiting with folks in prison and jail. There are many years of experience among them. And thank you to my fellow Board members. It is a joy to work with you.