

Ecumenical Workshop



“...That they all may be one, as you, Father, *are* in me, and I in you; that they also may be one in us... John 17:21

‘Ecumenical’ means Christians searching for unity in response to Jesus’ prayer that we be one. As more Christians are asking what Christian Science is and why we think we’re Christian, we are finding an increasing need to be better informed about other Christians and our relationship with them.

To meet this need, a special workshop has been prepared to share with Christian Scientists. “Yes we’re Christian. No we’re not a Cult!” is the name of this informative session that can serve as an introduction to ways we can work more effectively with our Christian friends, understanding both their misconceptions about Christian Science and how to address them prayerfully and effectively.

The talk focuses on why Christian Science fits into the contemporary Christian world, why it is wanted and needed, and how Christian Science is Biblically-based, as described by its Discoverer and Founder, Mary Baker Eddy.



The workshop will also address related issues that are surfacing, including:

- The protection of identity and purity of Christian Science in dialogue with others
- Working with the ecumenical movement and the status of Christian Science within it
- The relationship of Christian Science to the history of Christianity
- Addressing tough subjects – cult, healthcare, theology—through papers (The Self-Understanding Document), dialogue and conferences
- Dealing with various denominations with very different viewpoints

Additional activities of this ecumenical work include:

- Participation in the four new convening tables of the National Council of Churches USA: Faith and Order, Interfaith Relations, Justice and Advocacy, and Education
- Participation in the Southern California Faith and Order Commission
- Blogging on ecumenical events and issues at “Circle of Faith” blog found on christianscience.com/c-o-faith
- Answering theological inquiries from the public
- Supporting local ecumenical activity

With years of experience in both ecumenical and interfaith work, an Ecumenical Team from the Committee on Publication is engaged in and supporting these activities. Under the guidance of Shirley Paulson (CS, MTS, lecturer, Committee for Ecumenical Affairs), other members include Jeanne Kirkpatrick (CSB), Madelon Maupen (MTS), Brian Talcott (CSB, MDiv, lecturer, former Chaplain), and Maryl Walters (CSB, MTS, lecturer).

For more information, contact Shirley Paulson at shirlpaulson@gmail.com or Maryl Walters at marylcsb1@gmail.com