

# AOCSN

Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing

## AGENDA PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Pam Ludwig, Chairman**  
Sunland Home Foundation  
691 Sparta Drive  
Encinitas, CA 92024-1821  
Phone: 314-965-3833  
Email: [pam@sunland.org](mailto:pam@sunland.org)

**Brian Boettiger**  
Wide Horizon Inc.  
8900 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-4204  
Phone: 303-424-4445  
Email: [dbboettiger@widehorizon.org](mailto:dbboettiger@widehorizon.org)

**Pamela Gudger**  
Sunrise Haven  
P.O. Box 6057  
Kent, WA 98064-6057  
Phone: 253-813-2096  
Email: [supsunrise@nwlinc.net](mailto:supsunrise@nwlinc.net)

**Kevin Massey**  
High Ridge House  
5959 Independence Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10471-1222  
Phone: 718-796-4200  
Email: [admin@highridgehouse.org](mailto:admin@highridgehouse.org)  
TEL: 718-796-4200

**George Strong**  
Fern Lodge, Inc.  
18457 Madison Avenue  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
Phone: 510-886-2448  
Email: [geostrong@comcast.net](mailto:geostrong@comcast.net)

**Susan Wood**  
Wide Horizon Inc.  
8900 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-4204  
Phone: 303-424-4445  
Email: [suesupt@widehorizon.org](mailto:suesupt@widehorizon.org)

**Helvi Paasinen, EC Liaison**  
Glenmont  
4599 Avery Road  
Hilliard, OH 43026-9786  
Phone: 614-876-0084  
Email: [hpaasinen@glenmont.net](mailto:hpaasinen@glenmont.net)

**Sustainability . . . . To endure without giving way or yielding. To carry, support, bolster, strengthen, nourish, authenticate, sanction, comfort, bear witness, cherish.**

July 19, 2010

Dear Friends,

How grateful we are for all the outpouring of blessings already flowing as we prepare for the upcoming AOCSN conference. Have you noticed, for example, the many citations in recent Bible Lessons on the subject of *sustainability*?! It's almost as if someone knew we are focusing on this subject at our conference -- and that they are handing us, week by week, a curriculum designed to prepare us for our meeting. Here are only a few recent examples:

- In divine Science, man is sustained by God, the divine Principle of being. (S&H 530:5-6)
- The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. (Ps. 121:8)
- The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law, in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history. (S&H 470:32)
- ...the word, yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God... (Heb. 12:27-28).

What a gift to be shown that the Bible and all of Mrs. Eddy's writings are packed with insight and experiences relating to *sustainability*. Among other things, it turns out that our Leader's experience in realizing a sustainable structure for her church organization provides valuable insight into what she came to see as UNSustainable, as well as what she discovered to be sustainable.

To give us a jump start on our Friday afternoon interactive workshop, "A Framework for Sustainability," please join us in noticing the instruction (and examples!) that the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings provide us on this subject of *sustainability*. We are finding the following questions helpful as we explore this subject in the Bible, *Science and Health* and Mrs. Eddy's other writings. Please keep them in thought leading up to the conference and bring the highlights of your study – citations, inspiration and direction!

1. What is sustainable? What citations do you find on sustainability? What experiences/examples of sustainability do you find in the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's life?
2. What is NOT sustainable? What citations do you find that tell us about UNSustainability? What experiences/examples of UNSustainability do you find in the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's life?
3. What does not sustain? What claims to erode, undermine, destroy good? What sustains? How?

With gratitude for the opportunity to learn and to grow together,

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