

The First Church of Christ, Scientist

Christian Science Practitioner Scope of Services

Christian Science is a system of religion, morals, and metaphysical practice founded by Mary Baker Eddy. This Bible-based religion has been practiced for more than a century. As a prayer-based way of living, Christian Science rests solidly on the spiritual laws illustrated in the teachings and healing examples of Christ Jesus. The fundamental premise of Christian Science is that God, Spirit, is all good, and that each of us is God's loved, spiritual offspring. Anyone can turn to God in prayer for the moral, physical, and spiritual healing of life's challenges.

Christian Science practitioners advertising in *The Christian Science Journal* are experienced Christian Scientists, members of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, who make themselves publicly available to respond to requests for prayer. In service to God and their neighbour, their work consists entirely of supporting through prayer alone those who ask for their help. Practitioners work with those from any location, background, culture, or faith. They practice from their highest sense of Christianity and integrity.

Journal-listed Christian Science practitioners are expected to participate annually in continuing education by attending a Christian Science Association meeting. They also study, regularly, the weekly Christian Science Bible Lesson published in the *Christian Science Quarterly*. They are independent workers who have no other profession, and are paid (when compensation is permissible by law) by the individuals who engage them, not by the Church.

Although not an exhaustive list, the following description is intended to clarify what to expect when engaging the services of a Christian Science practitioner:

The services of a Christian Science practitioner include:

- Providing specific prayer, upon request, for the healing of any of life's challenges — physical, financial, relational, emotional, etc. This prayer is based on the Bible and is explained in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science;
- Responding with Christian love and spiritual assurance of God's tender care, ever-presence, and omnipotence.;
- Faithfully and consistently affirming each individual's spiritual perfection;
- Making recommendations, when appropriate, for the study of the Scriptures, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and other Christian Science writings that support a better understanding of each person's relationship with God;
- Answering questions about God, Christ Jesus, and Christian Science, when appropriate;
- Visiting the person asking for prayer, when possible and appropriate.

The services of a Christian Science practitioner do not include:

- Any form of psychological treatment, including counseling or therapy;
- Utilizing any form of medical technology or treatment, including diagnosis, prognosis, drugs (medicated, herbal, vitamin-based products or remedies), or physical therapy; but he or she may document reported conditions for insurance purposes;
- Any form of physical contact or therapeutic measures, such as laying on of hands or manipulation;
- Any use of a formula for prayer; or hypnotism, witchcraft, or will-power;
- Giving advice about, or assuming responsibility for, any kind of life decision, including decisions regarding finances, health care, or physical care;
- Giving advice about, or interfering with a person's choice in, the use of medical care;
- Claiming any personal healing power (God is the source of healing power).

The ethics of a Christian Science practitioner include:

- Faithfully following the moral and spiritual requirements of faithful practice, including the rules and healing methodology given in Mary Baker Eddy's work, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*;
- Obeying the laws of the land;
- Observing the confidential communication requirements in the *Church Manual* (Article VIII, Section 22). (This obligation does not prevent the Christian Science practitioner from making disclosures if required by law.);
- Using his or her own prayerful wisdom and judgment in deciding whether to agree to help a person through prayer, or whether to terminate treatment for an individual by informing the individual of that decision;
- Charging for services provided; and reducing fees according to the *Church Manual* (Article VIII, Section 22).
- Discussing fees prior to the commencement of services.

Prepared by Christian Science Practitioner Activities
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