

January 12, 2012

*To: Members and regular attendees of both 1st Church of Christ, Scientist, Newport Beach and 1st Church of Christ, Scientist, Costa Mesa*

*From: The Spiritual Cultivation Team for 1st Costa Mesa and Newport Beaches' Potential Merger*

Friends,

In preparation for the possible coming together of our two churches, the respective Executive Boards asked a small group of representatives to prepare metaphysical meetings for all members and regular attendees in which we can think in fresh and vigorous ways about Church. To that end, you are invited to the following series of five (5) meetings whose dates (all on Thursdays at 7:30 pm) are:

January 26th - to be held at First Church, Newport Beach

February 16th - to be held at First Church, Costa Mesa

March 15th - Newport Beach

April 19th - Costa Mesa

May 31st - Newport Beach

We are calling these 'Spiritual Cultivation' meetings so that we can retain their purpose as solely laying the spiritual foundation of Church more deeply in our thoughts and hearts. Their purpose is to provide the metaphysical support for whatever and however Spirit guides our upcoming important decisions and steps.

These meetings will NOT include the physical, financial or other details of an actual merger or move but will lay the important groundwork for such elements to be worked out as our spiritual foundation, purpose and mission is strengthened and clarified.

The first meeting on January 26th will be very interactive so please come prepared to share your spiritual insights by working with the reading assignment below. The remaining meetings will grow out of the outcome of the first, as we think natural themes will emerge each time we're together.

The reading assignment:

- 1) Luke 24:49
- 2) Definition of “Jerusalem” , Science and Health, p. 589:12
- 3) Definition of “Kingdom of Heaven”, S&H, p. 590:1
- 4) The June, 2011 *Christian Science Journal* article by Mary Baker Eddy Library President, Leslee Pitts, “Mary Baker Eddy and the Living Church” (Vol. 129, No. 06, p. 11) and
- 5) “Obedience” (article in Misc. Writings, p. 116)

The organizing team’s thinking grew out of Luke 24:49 which is Jesus’ last request of his disciples: to stay in Jerusalem until the guidance of the Holy Spirit told them their next step. Our ability to ‘stay’ in this spiritual ‘home and heaven’ is where we felt our two church communities are now. How those disciples spiritually prepared to receive the Holy Spirit we will never know. But that they did, the evidence of the centuries attests.

We look forward to a spiritually rich and rewarding evening together January 26th. Thank you for praying daily about this opportunity to bless the Newport-Mesa community with Christ, Truth even more.

The Spiritual Cultivation Team