



10/19/17

Dear International Christian Statisticians,

By the grace of God, we have done it - the board has made decisions on the different initiatives to begin! We decided to make the number of actual initiatives dependent upon the amount of member involvement. Here are the initiatives, please read through them and pray about how the LORD may have you get involved:

1. **Christian non-profit support.** Longer term, we would like to organize volunteer members into groups and pair them with the statistical needs of Christian ministries or churches, whether survey design and analysis, analysis of existing data, etc. With planning, ICS could build a collection of survey material that may be adaptable for future work. Our first project, probably launching this November, will be the pilot project which our chair-elect, Don Lewis, will lead. It will be for *First Image*, a pro-life services organization in Portland (www.first-image.org). Please email Don, lewisdki@comcast.net, if you would like to join this team.
2. **E-meetings.** Using electronic meeting technology, we would like to begin periodic ICS e-meetings. These could be a speaker a topic intersecting statistics and the Christian faith. Another possibility is for small groups to e-meet for fellowship and discussion, like the annual meeting at JSM, except with fewer people, perhaps 6-8. We're looking for volunteers to help plan and organize e-meetings over the next year. If you would like to help with e-meetings, please email our secretary, Diane, at dianemrichardson@gmail.com.
3. **Mentoring Program.** ICS has been blessed with senior statisticians in academia, industry, and government, as well as grad students and junior statisticians. In addition to the normal issues associated with developing a career in statistics, we face challenges particular to our Christian identity such as how to share our faith or handle hostility at

work. The board would like to pair interested ICS mentors and mentees. To do it, we're looking for a coordinator to oversee the program. A simple application for helping pair mentors and mentees, as well as guidelines for meeting have already been developed. If you would like to inquire about being the coordinator, please email Diane, dianemrichardson@gmail.com.

4. **JSM 2019 Denver Session.** The board would like to sponsor an invited session for JSM 2019. There are numerous possibilities and benefits. (E.g. Single speaker, multiple speakers, pane, etc.) If you would like to be part of the committee to plan the session, please email Diane, dianemrichardson@gmail.com.

If you would like to get involved with any of the above initiatives, or have any questions about them, please contact the person listed. If you have other ideas or questions, please contact Jason, jason.wilson@biola.edu.

Lastly, we're asking everyone who is an ASA member to please join the group on the ASA site. Go to <http://community.amstat.org/csidg/aboutus/join> and follow the directions. We have about 300 on this email list and only 32 on the site, so we have a ways go to. The three main reasons for joining on the ASA site are: (1) better networking, (2) better visible representation within the ASA, and (3) consolidate and improve communications (i.e. current emails and fewer lists).

As promised, CSIDG/ICS is moving into a new phase of development. We want to glorify Christ in all that we do, which includes doing our work with excellence and wisdom. In the above, we are attempting to be strategic and practical, aiming high but not over-reaching. We cannot do it alone, so we ask for your help. We will not succeed, however, without Christ's help, so we also ask for your prayers. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Christ,
Jason, Don, Paul, and Diane
www.christianstatisticians.org

P.S. We have made the revisions to the Constitution requested by Ron Wasserstein on behalf of the board. It is back on their desk for review. The revised version will be posted on the website soon.