

ELIM CARE FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE MINISTRY

“Helping You to Help Others”

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What is the history of Faith Community Nursing (Parish Nursing)?

What are the requirements of a Faith Community Nurse?

What is Faith Community Nursing?

Who is the Faith Community Nurse?

What does a Faith Community Nurse provide a congregation?

What is the cost?

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What are the first steps to get started?



History of Faith Community Nursing (Parish Nursing)

1st century – deacons and deaconesses assigned to take care of ill.

Most hospitals were started by churches.

Nursing has roots in the church (Florence Nightingale).

In the past century there has been a separation. Medicine has relied on science and the church on the spiritual.

1980's FCN introduced by Chaplain Granger Westberg in Illinois

1999 Parish Nurse Network of NCD EFCA churches began with Elim Care providing in kind support

1998 FCN became a specialty practice of the American Nurses Association

2005 ANA changed the specialty practice name to Faith Community Nursing

2009 Elim began a Faith Community Nurse Program

2011 Online EFCA Equip Faith Community Nursing Foundations Course

Currently:

235 plus Faith Communities served by 400 FCN in 12 Twin City metro counties

12,000 FCN in United States (EFCA FCN have been identified in 13 states)

EFCA Reach Global has a Parish Nurse serving in Kiev, Ukraine

Elim FCN Program: 50 FCN in 36 churches (40 FCN in 27 EFCA churches)

Requirements of a Faith Community Nurse

A FCN is a licensed, professional registered nurse who has completed a FCN Preparation course and is committed to the healing and caring ministry of the church.

ANA Scope and Standards: FCN is the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting wholistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community.

Qualities of a FCN may include: Caring spirit, relationship with Jesus Christ, communicator, clinically competent, works independently, administrative skills

What is Faith Community Nursing?

- Faith Community Nursing is a blending of nursing and ministry roles to help individuals of **all** ages and diverse cultures to become physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually healthy.
- A vital ministry
- Fulfills the Biblical mandate to teach, preach and heal.
Matthew 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, **TEACHING** in their synagogues, **PREACHING** the good news of the kingdom and **HEALING** every disease and sickness.
- Christ cared for the total person and healed people of
Their sins (**SPIRITUALLY**)
Their broken bodies (**PHYSICALLY**)
Their relationships (**SOCIALLY**)
Their fears (**EMOTIONALLY**)
- Ultimate goal: To bring Christ to those who do not know Him, strengthen in Christ those who do know Him and to bring Christ's mercy, compassion and presence to all.

The Faith Community Nurse

- Offers spiritual care as the core of their practice.
- Clinically competent, highly motivated, works independently and spiritually mature.
- Is a beacon of Christ's hope - hope that wellness is attainable and hope in the midst of illness.
- Speaks the language of both faith and health.
- Promotes a conscious partnering of health and faith in Jesus Christ.
- Uses prayer as a primary source of ministry.
- Earns trust of people when they are well and then when they are ill the nurse walks along side them (sustains them) with Christ's compassion.
- Nurtures wellness. Assists members in self-care for prevention and personal management of any disease process.
- Aware of the difference between healing and curing. FCN are educated in and strive to help heal, but are not trained in and do not aim to cure.
- Assesses needs of clients. Does not exceed her boundaries when caring for them.

What a FCN provides a congregation

- Uses professional nurses and health minded individuals to provide education and counseling to church members.
- Encourages members to care for each other by connecting needs with those who can help.
- Offers resources, referrals, advocacy and a listening presence to people who have health needs.
- Promotes healthy followers of Jesus Christ by encouraging them to take responsibility for their own health.
- Nurtures, supports and interacts with people from the beginning of life to the end.
- Assists in visiting members in their homes and in hospitals.
- Identifies, recruits and trains care-giving volunteers.
- Acts as a vehicle to reach the community and draw them into church.
- Facilitate educational classes.
- Develops support groups.
- Provides safety measures in the church building.
- Provides outreach to the community.
- Trains volunteers.

What is the cost?

- FCN can be salaried or a volunteer.
- Additional benefits may include:
 - FCN Preparation course
 - Liability insurance, professional license
 - Office with locked file cabinet/supplies, keys
 - Mileage
- Budget expenditures may include: (Should be line item on church budget)
 - Educations
 - Support group materials
 - Equipment (blood pressure/first aid)
 - Health resource library

NOTE: Elim's FCN program has \$1,000 matching funds to start help jump start a program.

Why a nurse in a church?

- People stay in a church because they feel cared for physically & spiritually.
- Assist pastoral staff in visits to hospitals, nursing home/assisted living, homebound. FCN keeps pastor updated and alerts pastor when a pastoral visit is needed.
- Church is reclaiming its place in health care and health care is realizing the importance of the church in ones health.
- Cost effective. 2011 government figures estimate the \$ value for volunteer hours at \$21.79.
- Discusses health concerns with clients at church, home, hospital and other facilities. Able to catch disease at early stages by discussing health concerns before they have serious problems.
- When one does become ill, they are surrounded by people who knew them in health.
- People view their health thru the lens of their faith.
- Families often are living miles away and the church acts as their family in crisis situations.
- Be an advocate by being a Christian voice on the care teams of hospitals and long term care conferences or at doctor's appointments.
- Often able to help sustain persons in their home environment.
- Helps navigate the health care arena. Able to provide understanding of health care as it becomes increasingly segmented and complex. Able to bring understanding to those who are disillusioned with health care.
- Church and community members often use the church as a resource for services.
- A structure is already in place to provide educations, encourage volunteerism and community involvement. A place people are already coming to week after week
- Assist in obtaining resources.
- Able to help those who often suffer in silence: the mentally ill, the chronically ill, the addicted, the bereaved.
- Healthy pastors, leaders and congregants translate into healthy ministry.
- Persons at a church are often eager to learn how to stay healthy and fit.
- Provides medical understanding/information to staff to assist them in visiting those in congregations who are ill.
- Bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. People reach out to church in time of crisis.
- Assist church with benevolent visits for congregation and community.
- Help improve the health of those in their churches and communities and in turn help reduce our country's health care costs and improve quality and access to care.

How can Elim's FCN Program help you?

- Provides awareness of the nature of FCN and how it can enhance a church's ministry and outreach.
- Makes presentations to pastors, nurses and church leadership.
- Assists congregations in exploring ways to become involved in health ministries.
- Gives consultation on how to launch FCN in congregations and helps establish an initial solid infrastructure.
- Pray for and with church during the process. Review and evaluate what worked and what did not.
- Offers ongoing guidance to continue FCN ministries.
- Publishes monthly email FCN Communiqué.
- Makes available educations, networking and resources to FCN.

What are the first steps?

- Pray for God's direction and provision. Develop a health prayer team.
- Create a task force - nurses, health minded individuals and leadership to brainstorm, explore and develop tools to start.
- Learn all you can about FCN and envision the scope/concept of what they will do in your church. Have realistic goals and expectations.
- Consider
 - Church's goals and unique needs
 - Church's size and age groups
 - Church's current programs/ministries
 - Church's history & culture
 - How information is distributed
 - How facility is used
 - Nurse's gifts/passions/strengths
 - Community demographics, location, and socio economic needs
 - Financial and legal components
- Write a job description.
- Determine FCN hours and compensation.
- Choose a nurse(s) to be trained as a FCN.
- Clarify:
 - What is the timeframe for developing program?
 - What are the expectations for time/budget? Areas the FCN will be involved in?
 - How will you make the FCN ministry visible?
 - Who will the FCN be accountable to?
 - Confidentiality
- Create an understanding of FCN in your congregation. First be sure staff understands FCN concept.
- Identify volunteers. Research expertise/experience among your congregation.
- Identify available resources in your church and community.
- Develop a Health Ministry Team.
- Move slowly. Start small to gain experience, trust and self confidence. Develop a solid infrastructure and support. Find your cheerleaders. Be visible.
- Include FCN in staff activities and budgetary process.
- Piggyback on existing programs.
 - Nurse meets with ministry teams to educate them on FCN role.
 - Learns how FCN can be of help to these teams and how they can help the nurse.
 - Discovers how FCN can be incorporated into life of the existing ministries.
- Educate staff and congregation to begin making referrals to nurse. Remember the FCN is not to replace staff, but to enhance.
- Watch God work in this new innovative ministry of your church.