



# Importance of Faith Community Nursing to Congregations

Considering a Faith Community Nursing ministry for your congregation/community is a response to Christ's call to preach, teach and heal. Often, churches are more intentional about preaching and teaching, than healing.

***The following scripture passage supports the church's role in healing:***

**"Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases. And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick ... so, they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere." (Luke 9:1-2, 6)**

***The role of the Faith Community Nurse (FCN) will vary depending on several factors:***

- *the health needs of the congregants,*
- *existing care giving ministries within the Faith Community,*
- *priorities of leadership,*
- *demographics of the congregation,*
- *hours available for the nurse/availability of the nurse,*
- *and more.*

**The following are common roles for the FCN:**

- ❖ **Integrator of Faith and Health:** participates as a member of the ministerial staff
- ❖ **Personal Health Counselor:** visits individuals/families at home and in acute and long-term care facilities in collaboration with the pastoral staff
- ❖ **Health Educator:** encourages individuals, congregation, and the community to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles
- ❖ **Trainer of volunteers:** supports the congregation's health and healing ministry
- ❖ **Developer or Coordinator of Support Groups:** collaborates with community organizations to provide supportive relationships
- ❖ **Referral Agent:** develops awareness of local health care and social service resources
- ❖ **Health Advocate:** assists families, individuals, and staff in making decisions about health, life transitions, and personal well-being

**NOTE: The FCN is part of a ministry of presence, education, and spiritual and emotional support, with referrals made as needed. The FCN does not serve in a role to give hands-on physical care.**

## **BENEFITS TO A CONGREGATION**

- An FCN raises awareness of the relationship between the body, mind, and spirit. The nurse supports whole person health.
- The FCN ministry serves as a community outreach of the congregation to support the congregation's mission and vision.
- An FCN becomes a healing presence through visitation and/or service to the congregation.
- The FCN serves as a member of the Pastoral Team to collaborate in meeting the needs of the congregation and staff.
- Congregational members are supported by the FCN to achieve personal health goals through educational initiatives.
- Collaborating with the Pastoral Team, the FCN seeks to connect the isolated/home bound parishioners with the congregation.
- The FCN assists individuals and families to navigate the increasingly complex healthcare environment.

## **Qualifications to be a Faith Community Nurse:**

- A Faith Community Nurse (FCN) is a Registered Nurse, is ideally prepared at the baccalaureate level, and is licensed to practice nursing in a given state. (adapted from the *Faith Community Nurse Scope and Standards, 2017.*)
- The FCN candidate is required to complete a Faith Community Nurse Preparation Course, which provides the FCN with specialized knowledge and skills related to the specialty and the role.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT THE LUTHERAN FAITH  
COMMUNITY NURSE ASSOCIATION at [lutheranfcna@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranfcna@gmail.com)**

## **LFCNA is a professional nursing membership organization that exists:**

- To promote and encourage development of faith community nursing ministries within Lutheran congregations
- To enhance and support the spiritual development of Lutheran Faith Community Nurses
- To support FCNs in their ministries and encourage appropriate compensation and benefits
- To provide networking opportunities and forums for sharing programs, projects, and resources
- To promote wellness among congregational members and church leaders
- To support relationship development with synods and the broader Church, through which the organization promotes integration of FCN ministry in the future Church

**Please visit LFCNA's website for more information: <https://lutheranfcna.org>**