
Our partner in ministry to the world....

What is Congregational Health Ministry?

Congregational Health Ministry is the promotion of health and healing—as part of the mission and ministry of a faith community—to members and the community it serves.

Health ministry workers, who come from many walks of life, are people who promote the concept of health for spirit, mind, and body—and bear witness to the healing power of God. Effective health ministry reaches out to people in need, engages them in responding to that need, and accompanies them in the journey toward wholeness. Health ministry challenges, enables, nurtures, and sustains people to be good stewards of the gift of life.

A health ministry program can include blood pressure screenings, wellness education for all ages, the identification of interventions for spiritual care giving, nutrition, and exercise programs, training and coordinating of volunteers, assisting in advocacy, finding resources, bereavement support, and home and hospital visitation. *The list is as long as the talents and gifts of the faith community.*

One health ministry is parish nursing, in which a registered nurse functions as a member of the pastoral and health ministry team to promote health and wholeness among members and the community. Parish nurses may serve as health educator, personal health counselor, coordinator of volunteers, referral resource, home and hospital visitor, and interpreter of the relationship between faith and health. The parish nurse does not provide direct patient care.

For more information on the development of health ministries within the congregation, contact Debbie Best, Diakon's coordinator of Congregational Health Ministries within the Upper Susquehanna Synod, at (570) 320-0520 or by e-mail at bestd@diakon.org.

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