



Faith Community Health Network: *Announcing our 2023 Foundations of Faith Community Nursing & Health Ministry Course*

Is a Faith Community Health Ministry in Your Future?

A Faith Community Nurse is not simply a registered nurse who happens to be a member of a faith community. Faith Community Nursing is a nationally recognized nursing practice specialty. The Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course prepares nurses to stand in the gap; to bridge the health care system and faith community. Faith Community Nurses and Health Ministers work together to open the door for important conversations about health and wellness of the mind, body, and spirit and provide additional caring connection and support for faith community members facing today's many challenges.

Faith Community Health Network is partnering to offer the **Foundations for Faith Community Nursing** for licensed registered nurses (RNs) and a parallel **Foundations for Health Ministry** course for nurses with inactive licenses and faith community lay members. The course is six sessions held on Zoom from 8am – 5pm on Mondays and Tuesdays: October 16-17, 2023, October 30-31, 2023, and November 13-14, 2023. Cost for the six days of training is \$275 for residents of Linn, Benton or Lincoln Counties in Oregon and \$325 for out-of-area residents. Course cost includes four books and 40+ continuing education contact hours. We will host an in-person reception from 6:30pm - 8:00pm on November 14, 2023 for those who can attend. This course is open to - and welcomes - all faith traditions.

Register through Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/645368333057>) or contact Deb Fell-Carlson, BSN, RN, MSPH, Foundations Course Lead Educator, at faithcommunityhealthnetwork@gmail.com | 541-248-0595.

This Foundations of Faith Community Nursing course is based on the curriculum developed through the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing, which curriculum is owned by the Spiritual Care Association of New York, NY, 500 7th Ave, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10018



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The Faith Community Health Network is a 509(a)(2) public charity and can receive tax deductible donations under its 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

Are you called to faith community nursing or health ministry?

Faith community nursing is a recognized nursing practice specialty. Actively licensed registered nurses (RNs) trained as faith community nurses (FCNs) practice autonomously under their Oregon State Board of Nursing Registered Nurse license and can be a tremendous support to both pastoral leadership and to congregations they serve. Training and retaining RNs in a faith community setting is a win-win. It brings valuable nursing expertise into the community – specifically the faith community - where it is desperately needed and provides a means for nurses who are called to serve to bring their nursing expertise to their faith community.

Faith community nursing looks different in different faith communities. The FCN begins by assessing faith community health needs through surveys, focus groups, informal conversations, and/or observation. They use these findings to coordinate or conduct health ministry activities, which may include providing health information individually or in groups, health screenings or other health-related events (such as blood pressure screening), and/or office hours for individual health coaching or consultation. An active FCN practice and needs ministry based on a thorough faith community health assessment will help to reduce suffering, improve spiritual care and overall health, and improve healthcare access for faith community members. These RNs are not direct caregivers in the traditional sense, but the services they provide can improve the health of both individuals and the faith community as a whole. Here are some examples of how a faith community nurse and health ministry team might serve your faith community:

- FCNs assess spiritual care needs and offer spiritual support tailored to the individual. The FCN and health ministry team offer the gift of presence; simply sitting with someone in silence or praying with someone can alleviate suffering.
- Faith community nurses may create an individualized nursing care plan to help an individual faith community member manage a chronic condition – or a nursing care plan to address an identified need in the faith community at-large.
- Faith community nurses may serve as health resources to faith community members by appointment, answering questions and clarifying information needed for them to better understand their provider's medical treatment plan.
- An FCN might accompany a faith community member to certain medical appointments to assist with challenging conversations in the clinical setting and with following up with referrals, etc.
- An FCN might check in on a faith community member after hospitalization or emergency room visit. The FCN may assist with the transition home by, with their permission, coordinating and communicating with providers, hospital case managers, discharge planners, and clinic care coordinators on behalf of faith community members.

The Faith Community Health Network - Ongoing health ministry support for sustainability

The Faith Community Health Network (FCHN) is a professional association that provides education, support, and networking for a growing group of dedicated faith community nurses (FCNs) (formerly called parish nurses) and health ministers from diverse faiths. These nurses serve in their own faith communities in the context of their faith tradition, although some may also serve in the community-at-large. Faith communities differ, and members have unique needs, especially spiritual care needs. The FCHN welcomes all faith traditions and values and embraces the different needs among faith traditions - and among those who do not claim a faith tradition. The FCHN is not a membership organization; rather it exists to support, encourage, and equip health ministry teams in their own faith setting.

Registered nurses and health ministers who complete the **Foundations of Faith Community Nursing and Health Ministry Course**¹ and those who want to know more about Health Ministry are welcome to attend Faith Community Health Network meetings. Meetings are mostly monthly on the fourth Wednesday and are posted on <http://lebanonareachamber.chambermaster.com/events/calendar>. Join with us! Together we can achieve our vision to have FCNs with health ministry teams serving every house of worship in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties!

¹ The **Foundations of Faith Community Nursing and Health Ministry Course** is a 6-day course offered by the Faith Community Health Network each fall in partnership with the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing.