



## Steps to Develop an Effective Community Nurse / Parish Nurse Ministry

### **Gather information:**

Read books on faith community nursing (by Rev. Granger Westberg, Deb Patterson, Ann Solari-Twadell & Mary Ann McDermott, and Carol Smucker). Visit with faith community nurses, clergy and lay leaders who are already involved in health & healing ministries.

### **Gain support of the clergy and leadership of the faith community:**

Clergy are vital in the development and ongoing support of the program. Encourage clergy to provide homilies on the role of the church in caring for each other and the relationship of body/mind/spirit. Maintain an ongoing relationship with the leaders.

### **Inform and involve the congregation:**

Survey the congregation for individuals interested in program assistance. For more information contact the Concordia College Parish Nurse Ministry Program.

### **Develop a health/wellness council:**

Engage 6-8 people from a variety of ages, backgrounds, work areas and demographics.

### **Establish a link with a local healthcare agency: (optional)**

They may serve as a formal or informal partner to provide support (financial or access to educational materials).

### **Select one or more faith community nurses:**

This individual would need to be a currently licensed RN, who may be from within, or outside of, the faith community. Types of nursing experience are less important than personal faith and ability to demonstrate a warm and caring presence.

### **Education:**

Offer foundational faith community nursing education through a recognized program.

### **Introduce the new faith community nurse to the congregation / parish:**

Provide a commissioning service and opportunities for on-going visibility.

### **Clarify expectations of the faith community nurse:**

Paid or unpaid staff member, reimbursement for travel and expenses, budget line is helpful. Discuss amount of time, space, and equipment.

### **Encourage spiritual growth, self-care, and continuing education:**

Networking with other parish nurses is helpful through conferences and workshops.



#### **Parish Nurse Ministry Program**

Concordia College

Moorhead, MN

218-299-3567

**Attn: Dr. Jean Bokinskie**

[bokinski@cord.edu](mailto:bokinski@cord.edu)