

How to become a faith community nurse

Registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses wishing to enter the specialty of faith community nursing should have the following:

- An active license in the state where the nurse's faith community is located
- Experience as a registered nurse
- Knowledge of health care and community resources
- Specialized knowledge of spiritual beliefs and practices
- Knowledge and skills to implement the Scope and Standards of Practice for faith community nurses
- Educational preparation that focuses on the competencies described in the Scope and Standards of Practice for faith community nurses

National resources

Health Ministries Association

This professional organization represents and supports health ministers and faith community nurses. Learn more at HMAssoc.org.

Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing

The institute is a ministry of the Church Health Center, a faith-based health care organization in Memphis, Tennessee. It is a leader in faith community nursing education, resource development and research. Find out more at ChurchHealthCenter.org/FCNHome.

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

Experienced faith community nurses may pursue credentialing through the ANCC portfolio process. The certification for the specialty validates faith community nurses' unique knowledge. More information is available at NurseCredentialing.org/FaithCommunityNursing.

TO THE * GOD AND IN * JOHN NICHOLAS NORTON
GLORY OF MEMORY OF

The stained-glass images used in this brochure are from a window titled "The Good Samaritan," given in memory of Episcopal priest The Rev. John N. Norton in 1881 by the congregation of Christ Church Cathedral, located at Second and Liberty streets in Louisville, Kentucky.

Faith, Healing and Wellness

Health Ministries and
Faith Community Nursing



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Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

-1 Peter 4:10

As faith communities work to become centers of whole-person health, people who are passionate about health and healing are answering the call to serve in health ministries. Norton Faith & Health Ministries helps faith communities weave health and faith together.

What is a health ministry?

A health ministry promotes whole-person health and healing — body, mind and spirit. It includes a wide variety of faith community services, from coordinating blood pressure checks and other health screenings to helping people find health resources to visiting the sick and homebound. A health ministry can be organized in whatever way best meets the health and wellness needs of the congregation and neighborhood it serves.

Health ministries often are led by faith community members who have a deep spiritual calling to serve others through the promotion of health, healing and wholeness. A professional health or ministry background is not required, although some health ministries are led by licensed registered nurses.

Typical health ministry activities

- Health screenings
- Health care advocacy
- Hospital and home visitation
- Health fairs/clinics
- Disease prevention and wellness education for all ages
- Community gardens
- Exercise/walking groups
- Parenting classes

What is faith community nursing?

Faith community nursing is the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting whole-person health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community. The faith community nurse promotes mind, body and spirit health as an educator, health counselor, resource person, facilitator and integrator of health and healing. Those practicing this specialty are governed by the American Nurses Association's Scope and Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses, Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community Nurses, the Nurse Practice Act in the state the nurse practices, and the tasks in which the nurse owns competency.

Answer the call to serve!

Join the growing number of health ministers and faith community nurses working to promote healthier living in Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

"My life ambition is to be the best person I can be with God as my pilot, and to help others in need."

-Mary Mitchell, health ministry coordinator, Corinthian Baptist Church



"I pray that my involvement as a faith community nurse will continue to bless me as it has for so many years, and will lead others to the grace of God."

-Mary Beth Wright, BSN, RN-BC, faith community nurse, St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church

Norton Faith & Health Ministries

Guided by faith and committed to serve

The purpose of Norton Faith & Health Ministries is to honor the faith heritage of Norton Healthcare's founding churches and others that are part of the organization's faith history — the Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church and Roman Catholic Church. In honoring this heritage, we serve persons of all beliefs and build relationships with faith communities to promote the connection between faith, healing and wellness.

Norton Faith & Health Ministries outreach services

- Education programs for health ministers and faith community nurses
- Expertise and mentoring
- Opportunities to connect with others in health ministries
- Educational tools, resources and speakers
- Seminars and workshops

How to become a health minister

Health ministers are encouraged to complete basic education regarding the integration of faith and health by attending educational programs related to whole-person health and spiritual care. Norton Faith & Health Ministries regularly offers these free workshops. No formal health care or ministry background is needed to serve in this role.