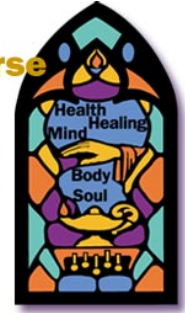




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# Empowering Ministries of Health: Connecting Around the World

Tools for Empowerment and Working  
with Clergy – Part Two

# Presenters

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# Overview

- Clergy and parish nurses need clear lines of communication and reporting. This workshop discusses various communication patterns and identifies tools that facilitate health ministry while maintaining clear boundaries for work responsibilities. The capstone for this workshop is the integration of these concepts within Methodist settings.

# Objectives

- Discuss communication issues related to working as part of a congregational leadership team.
- Identify tools for “multiplying the ministries” without creating turf issues.
- Explore applications for health ministries appropriate for and/or specific to Methodist cultural settings.

# Why is it Helpful for Clergy and Parish Nurses to Work Together?

1. Much of a pastor's ministry is health-related – visiting the sick and homebound, many prayer and counseling concerns relate to health issues.
2. Volunteers are not as available as they were in the past – large numbers women are working outside the home and many older adults are still working or caring for grandchildren.

# Why is it Helpful for Clergy and Parish Nurses to Work Together? - Continued

3. Other sectors of the society are looking to churches to pick up the pieces – 47 million uninsured in the United States, increased cost of gas, economic downturn?
4. Clergy and the Church have had leadership roles in healthcare.

# Why is it Helpful for Clergy and Parish Nurses to Work Together? - Continued

5. The Church has a Biblical mandate to “preach, teach, and heal.” (Also see Matthew 25 – “When did we see you sick? ... As you have done to the least of these my brethren, you have done to me.”)
6. Parish nurses improve the health of pastors. The most common changes are healthier diets, increased exercise, increased use of seat belts, and more regular health screenings. Many pastors have improved health (or even their life saved!) thanks to a parish nurse.

# Sample Communication Issues

- “Who gets the news first?” Does the secretary start by telling the parish nurse if someone is sick (because it’s health-related), or telling the pastor first (because it is their parishioner), or whoever happens to be standing in the office.
- “Who do they like better?” Is the parishioner going to like the pastor better because they have more pastoral authority, or are they going to like the parish nurse better?

# Suggestions For Good Clergy– Parish Nurse Communications

- Clergy must be available to meet with parish nurses on a regular basis.
- It is helpful for the pastor and parish nurse to meet at least weekly, if not touching base briefly once a day.
- Having office space in the same area is also helpful – don't put the parish nurse in a closet in the next building over.

# Suggestions For Good Clergy– Parish Nurse Communications

- Parish nurses must be invited to and be available to attend staff meetings.
- Parish nurses need to know what is going on in the church and what is expected of persons on the ministry team and staff meetings are important times to get that information.
- Parish nurses must be prepared to share information about their work at the meetings (not private health information).

# Suggestions For Good Clergy– Parish Nurse Communications

- Set up a system for informing each other and others in the congregation about who is in need of care – secretaries need to know that system.
- Put in place safeguards for self-care for all members of the ministry team – when are you NOT available? What do you do to take care of yourselves?

# One Important Difference

- As Registered Nurses working under the Nurse Practice Act of their state, nurses must document their activity and maintain those records for 7 years for adults and 21 years for kids.
- It's helpful to work with an established parish nurse program in your area.
- HIPAA does not apply to churches, but good ethical practices do – ask permission to share private health information with others.

# “Multiplying the Ministries”

- Build on the synergies of what is already happening in the church.
- Is there an Adult Ed class? Great! See if they would like to have a Bible study and health education series around the Exodus story, called, “Get My People Going!!” Uses Clergy, Christian Education, Health Cabinet, Parish Nurse, and Secretarial staff together to make it work.

# First United Methodist Church Marion, IL (Illinois Great Rivers Conf.)

- Pastor, Rev. Dr. Victor Long
- Jo Sanders, Parish Nurse. Jo said,
- “We did [this program] on 8 Sunday mornings at Sunday School hour. After our preacher initially gave an amazing sermon to kick it off, we had 75 people come down to the alter with a commitment card to sign up. Each week an average of 40 attended. We had some do it independently because they did not want to miss their regular Sunday school classes.”

# Multiplying the Ministries, Continued...

- “This worked, because we recorded the sessions each week and put them as podcasts on our church website. So, armed with the little booklet and a buddy, they could accomplish it that way too. We had 45 minutes each week. 15 min of checking in with each other and celebrating positives . . . motivational stuff, and then we had a speaker for 30 min.”

# Multiplying the Ministries, Continued...

- “Each week a different topic and speaker. We used our own church resources . . . the speakers were either professionals from our church, or we used friends, relatives and co workers of members! We sent participants weekly e-mails and we used the program materials to write things to put in the church newsletters and bulletins.”

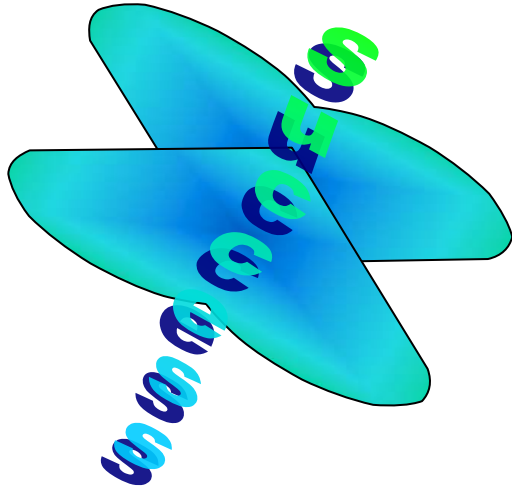
# Multiplying the Ministries, Continued...

- “I did not spend \$\$ really-- things like pedometers, bottles of water and handouts were donated. The church covered the expense of copying the little booklets in color, and some postage. Also each week, one of our parish nurses gave a 3-5 minute talk about the program in both of our regular church services . . .so even the people who did not sign up got a little inspirational health message.”

# Multiplying the Ministries, Continued...

- “We had several with some good weight loss, many who got together with a buddy for a time of prayer and study, or exercise, and one who committed to going back to college to finish a degree -- she announced in church on Sunday that because of the program she is now registered at McKendree College for the fall !” (Correspondence used with permission)

# Steps for Successful Health Ministries in Methodist Settings



**Visibility**

**Promotion**

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