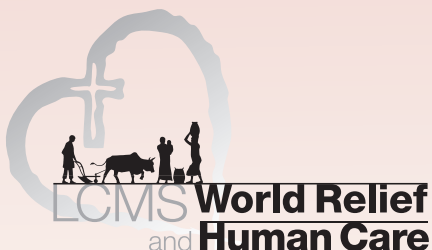




Brian Ray/The Cedar Rapid Gazette



Congregational Health Ministries/ Parish Nurse Manual



LCMS World Relief and Human Care
Health Ministries
1333 South Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Revised September 2007

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRIES/ PARISH NURSE MANUAL



LCMS World Relief and Human Care
LCMS Health Ministries
1333 South Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Revised September 2007

CONTENTS

Part I - OVERVIEW

Congregational Health Ministries/Parish Nurse Manual Overview.....	pg. 1
--	-------

Part II - CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Health Ministries Proclamation.....	pg. 3
Mission Statement.....	pg. 4
Functions of Congregational Health Ministry.....	pg. 5
Congregational Health and Wellness Committee.....	pg. 6
Tips for a Successful Health Ministry.....	pg. 10
10 Step Program Toward a Congregational Health Ministry	pg. 11
Resolutions.....	pg. 12

Part III - PARISH NURSING

Guidelines.....	pg. 13
Educational Opportunities.....	pg. 17
A Parish Nurse is Not Just a Nurse in the Parish.....	pg. 18
Position Description.....	pg. 20
Liability Protection.....	pg. 23

Part IV - CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTER

Position Description.....	pg. 24
---------------------------	--------

Part V - A SPECIAL WORD TO PASTORS

Congregational Health Ministries and Parish Nursing.....	pg. 26
--	--------

Part VI - LITURGICAL AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Service of the Word.....	pg. 32
Placing Rite of a Congregational Health Minister.....	pg. 36
Placing of Servants of the Congregation.....	pg. 39
Books and Articles for Additional Reading.....	pg. 41
Order Form.....	pg. 42
Return Page.....	pg. 43

PART I

OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

Congregational Health Ministries/Parish Nursing Manual

** Parish Nursing is also known as Faith Community Nursing*

"That the Synod celebrate the blessing of God in our historic emphasis on Word and Sacrament, even as we now seek to apply more profoundly that continuing emphasis on the whole person."

With these and the following words, the 1998 convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) continued to emphasize the "integration of spirit, mind, and body in the life of the disciple".

This revised and expanded manual is a contribution to this ongoing emphasis.

This manual begins by identifying the broad scope of congregational health ministries. The focus of a parish on the whole person is not the domain of any individual vocation, but rather is an expression of the understanding that the parish itself is a group of people with differing gifts, gathered around the sacraments and the Word, who are united in their membership in the Body of Christ. Under the spiritual leadership of the pastor, members of the congregation seek to care for each other and to reach out to people in the larger community. Congregational health ministries are a central part of that effort, and are the focus of Part II.

In the development of congregational health ministries the parish nurse has played the most central and important role. The next section focuses on this particular and vital place that parish nursing plays. The parish nurse has been a gifted pioneer in the development of congregational health ministries. This section includes a special contribution by Marcia Schnorr, a long-time visionary and parish nurse leader in the LCMS. Also included in this section, Part III, is a position description for the parish nurse.

But parish nursing is not the only vocation that could be involved in congregational health ministries or could be a congregational health minister. Part IV offers a position description of a congregational health minister from vocations other than nursing.

Recognizing the core leadership position of a pastor in the parish, Part V brings a special word to pastors concerning congregational health ministries and parish nursing.

Part VI concludes the manual, and contains a number of differing resources, liturgical and educational, that could be used by the congregation.

Special thanks are due to members of the LCMS Task Force on Congregational Health Ministries/Parish Nursing. We will forever be indebted to former director Rev. Dr. Bruce Hartung and Rev. Howard Mueller for their support and assistance.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact us by email lcms.worldrelief@lcms.org, by telephone 314-996-1375, or mail to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Health Ministries, 1333 South Kirkwood Road, Saint Louis, MO 63122.

PART II
CONGREGATIONAL
HEALTH MINISTRIES

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Health Ministries Proclamation

LCMS 60th Convention - July 11-17, 1998

Resolution 6-09A

Overture 6-05-06 (CW, pp. 227-28)

Whereas, The Scriptures place emphasis on the integration of spirit, mind, and body in the life of a disciple (1 Thess. 5:23-24; Matt. 22:37-40; Rom. 6:12-14); and

Whereas, Christian people in contemporary society are experiencing growing tensions in human relationships and disease within the human person; and

Whereas, Such an emphasis leads to an increased awareness of the total stewardship of life; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS congregations study the broad implications of the disciple's life of spiritual, mental, and physical wellness; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations of the Synod lift up the growing ministry of the parish nurse as a witness to the Biblical emphasis on spirit, mind, and body; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod celebrate the blessing of God in our historic emphasis on Word and Sacrament, even as we now seek to apply more profoundly that continuing emphasis on the whole person.

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Call and Opportunity

The healing ministry of Jesus was an integral part of His redemption, restoring the whole person to God. He continues this ministry today calling women and men to healing vocations, endowing the earth with healing properties and calling His people to the care of the sick and to the support of health and well-being. We accept this ministry in His name.

The Gospel calls us in all things to grow in Christ. The church is the only voice that can hold up Christ's ideal of true whole-person-wellness before its members and the whole world. We accept the stewardship of the precious gift of life as our health ministry.

As the Epistles of the New Testament clearly show, congregations have varying levels of well being. We are dedicated to the health and wellness of our congregations and surrounding community in order to be in full service to our Lord.

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRIES PARISH NURSE TASK FORCE MISSION STATEMENT

To support and promote Christ-centered health and wellness of body, mind, and spirit through congregational health ministries.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY

- **Education**
Promotes, develops, and facilitates educational programs promoting wellness and health for all individuals at all age levels within the congregation.
- **Consultation**
Consults with church staff, organizations, the church school, community resources, other groups and individuals on health issues that relate to the wellness of the whole person.
- **Personal Health Counseling**
Counsels on health matters within areas of professional competence, upon personal request, or referral by the pastoral or teaching staff.
- **Health Resources**
Develops a library of health information and health care resources appropriate to the needs of the congregation.
- **Advocacy**
Facilitates access to adequate health care for all, especially for the medically under-insured or indigent members of the congregation.
- **Christian Lifestyle**
Defines, models and promotes Christian lifestyle in the membership of the congregation.
- **Voluntary Care-giving**
Recruits, organizes, trains and places volunteers into care-giving situations.
- **Home Health Visitations**
Provides home-health visitation upon request to offer support from fellow members of the Body of Christ, to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to encourage compliance with medical regimens and adoption of healthy lifestyle behaviors.
- **Community Liaison**
Recognizes the healing resources of various health agencies in the community and, as appropriate, refers members to them.
- **Corporate Congregational Health**
Monitors the physical, mental, emotional and relational health of the membership of the congregation and makes suggestions or appropriate referrals where areas of need or improvement are identified.
- **Handicapped Access**
Incorporates into the mainstream those who are in any way physically handicapped by helping to make the worship, fellowship and educational facilities of the congregation fully accessible to them.

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE (HEALTH CABINET)

Our Congregation has an interest in doing something in the area of health and wellness. How do we get started?

Your church council, or the equivalent group, might take a number of actions to increase sensitivity to health and wellness issues and to foster health and wellness in the congregation and community; but one of the best ways to start in that direction is from a **Health and Wellness Committee** (Health Cabinet). This group of interested, committed people can work together to form a coordinated plan to make health and wellness a part of your congregation's life and work.

Why another congregational committee?

Certainly not every area of concern requires an ongoing committee, but health and wellness as an emphasis in congregational life may be new enough to require a special effort. Traditionally, congregations tend to focus on the "spiritual" needs of the members and many of the congregation's "outreach" activities move toward reaching the people's spiritual needs. A **Congregational Health and Wellness Committee** can help all in the congregation understand that carrying out God's command to reach out to people includes a concern for the total person, which includes also their physical, relational, vocational, and personal health. This shift in congregational emphasis and its implications for action can be dramatic and have far reaching effects. For that reason, a committee, with the specific task of increasing awareness of health and wellness as an area of concern, and planning actions that can move people toward a ministry that will foster health and wellness, can be of great benefit. Congregations can be health places - places where health is fostered and where wellness is cherished as part of God's will for people.

How does a Health and Wellness Committee function?

Members of the committee may be appointed. The task of the committee is to identify health concerns in the congregation and the community and to develop programs and resources to meet those needs. The committee will want to be a healthy group itself, and members will want to talk over their own expectations and assumptions about health and group process. Records of meetings, a reporting and information sharing plan along with an evaluation strategy will help structure the committee.

When is the right time for a Health and Wellness Committee?

Very likely, your congregation already carries out a number of activities in the area of health and wellness. Some of these may be formal (e.g., classes and forums on health related issues), others may be informal (e.g., members who call on shut-ins). The right time for a committee is when it becomes important to feature these activities as the health and wellness concerns are brought to the attention of congregation members, and when it becomes helpful to coordinate all activities that fall into this area. Other indications of a need for a committee might include input from individuals, who by themselves or with others, desire to see a change or improvement in the congregation's ministry regarding health promotion and information. An overriding health concern (e.g., an increasing number of aged or infirmed in the congregation) might also be an indication of a need for a committee.

Who should be appointed to the Health and Wellness Committee?

Candidates for appointment to the committee include those who have shown an interest in health issues in the past - those who as part of their service, act to help those who are dealing with illness or other health needs. People in the congregation with particular competence in health areas (e.g., doctors, nurses, social workers, alcohol and drug counselors) are also prime candidates. It might be well to attempt to include representatives of a number of age and interest groups on the committee as well. A committee of about eight people should be large enough to carry out the task. The committee should have an accountability relationship to some governing board of the congregation. The pastor or another congregational professional may want to serve as advisory member.

What should a Congregational Health and Wellness Committee do?

Since the kinds of health issues that may be important in each congregation or community will differ, the specific actions of committees will also differ greatly. For example, one community may be in need of health education while another maybe in the midst of a health care crisis. These needs should be identified through an assessment. Committees will want to shape their activities to fit the place where they are serving and the needs of the people in the area. In general, however, a committee will want to follow these steps as it organizes and prepares for action:

1. **Getting started.** This first step will include time for committee members to familiarize themselves with each other and with health and wellness issues.
2. **Assessment of congregational and community health needs.** Formally (by survey) or informally (by interview, etc.) the committee can list those areas of need that have surfaced and attempt to prioritize them.

3. **Defining objectives.** Areas of concern that have surfaced can lead to a listing of goals for the committee. Where are we heading? What do we want to accomplish in this congregation and community? Which areas of concern demand action first?
4. **Deciding on a method.** A list of ideas might be generated and from those a plan of action can take shape. How will we proceed? What will we do first? What educational activities are necessary? What further planning is needed? What specific actions must take place?
5. **Partnering.** Identify those who share common concerns and may be willing to help. Contact social service agencies, the local hospital, another congregation or LCMS Health Ministries to help establish partnerships.
6. **Delegating tasks.** Committee members might share responsibility for carrying out the tasks that must be accomplished to reach the goals or objectives chosen. Carrying out specific tasks may include enlisting and empowering others to carry out needed actions.
7. **Monitoring activities.** The committee, by regular meetings, shared minutes of meetings, establishing deadlines and the like, will follow up on assigned areas of responsibility and specific tasks.
8. **Evaluating activities.** The committee will want to plan specific "check points" (e.g., after six months) to evaluate activities and check progress against overall objectives and plans

WHAT ARE THE LIMITS OF THIS MINISTRY?

This ministry is centered in Christ's redemptive restoration of the person and relies on the pro-activating power of the Holy Spirit. It is not coercive; it limits neither the Christian's freedom nor responsibility. Participation is voluntary. The parish nurse/health minister does not provide invasive treatment, duplicate other available health services or replace the patient's doctor or other health care provider.

WHO MIGHT BE THE HEALTH MINISTRY STAFF?

The staff position(s) in congregational health ministry, consistent with its mission and function statements, is an educational and support ministry. Consistent with the health ministry developed, the committee will appoint a health minister or parish nurse from available and qualified candidates.

TO WHOM IS THE STAFF RESPONSIBLE?

Immediate responsibility for the health ministry of the congregation is vested in a health and wellness committee which in concert with the health minister shapes the ministry to the specific needs of the congregation. The committee offers support to the health minister as well as builds awareness of and commitment to a parish health ministry in the congregation. The health and wellness committee may be responsible to another congregational group, such as the board of elders or human care ministry committee.

Congregational health ministries' staff function within policies established by the congregation and administered on its behalf by a congregational health and wellness committee, health cabinet, the board of elders, human care ministry committee or other entities consistent with accountability in the congregation. The health minister is a part of the church staff and works closely with the pastoral staff.

WHAT ABOUT A BUDGET?

Funds adequate to accomplish the congregational health ministry will be included annually in the budget of the congregation. The budget will include all or part payment of premiums for professional liability insurance. Full or part-time salary for a health minister/parish nurse may also be included.

The health minister/parish nurse should always be a staff position, but the unique interests, needs and resources of the congregation will determine the practice.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL HEALTH MINISTRIES

- Congregation members need to be involved from the beginning. Providing general information on how the church can be a healing place is necessary to help the membership understand the importance of health ministry.
- Information from the needs assessment should be publicized to the membership and used by the health committee when planning programs.
- The health ministry committee, or a representative member, should meet regularly with the pastor to keep him informed about plans, goals, and concerns, and also to communicate about membership needs.

A 10-STEP PROGRAM TOWARD A CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY

1. The church staff commits to personal wellness under the guidance and encouragement of a health professional with expertise in health ministry (e.g. parish nurse district representative, district health advocate, practicing parish nurse, etc.).
2. The pastor brings the health ministry concept to a sponsoring group, preferably the board of elders, to study the Scriptural grounding of the ministry, what the ministry is, its integration into the present life of the congregation and its needed leadership. Staff wellness practices are brought into the discussion. After study at two or more meetings, the chair asks the elders for their endorsement and their personal commitment to wellness practices. At this point, a health cabinet is appointed and given the mandate to undertake a survey and report its findings.
3. The health cabinet consists of people who have a strong and informed interest in health and welcome its pursuit as an expression of the Christian life. Provide the same orientation to health ministry as was given to the elders.
4. The health cabinet undertakes a survey both quantitative (the need for health promotion) and qualitative (attitudes resistances/openness to health practices). The cabinet summarizes the survey results and identifies the entry point of a health ministry and sets the first year's outcomes for spiritual, body, mind, relational and emotional health.
5. The cabinet reports to the congregation at its Sunday morning services in a special presentation preferably following worship. The pastor's sermon for the day could ground health ministry in the Gospel. The focus of the report is the needs of the congregation and how developing a health ministry could help address those needs in the name of the Christ.
6. The introduction of the health ministry is put to a vote at the next meeting of the governing body.
7. The cabinet appoints a parish nurse/health minister and arranges his/her placement in week-end services.
8. The health minister/parish nurse announces the first congregational health promotion, possibly for the placement Sunday.
9. The cabinet informs the parish nurse district representative, LCMS parish nurse coordinator or the LCMS Health Ministries manager to ensure that the new parish nurse or health minister is included in available networking opportunities.
10. The cabinet evaluates the outcome targeted every six months and revises, as necessary.

Adapted from: Cross and Caduceus, Vol. 43, No.3, page 6, November 1999

A Resolution TO ESTABLISH A CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY

1. **WHEREAS**, In the beginning, God made human creation the pinnacle act of the Creation; and
 2. **WHEREAS**, In the incarnation, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus, God has redeemed the human race and made it whole before Him; and
 3. **WHEREAS**, Living in communion with Christ, we are called to the stewardship of the gift of life in harmony with the wholeness Christ has bestowed; and
 4. **WHEREAS**, God through health professionals has provided principles and practices that enhance health beyond our present experience of God's gift; and
 5. **WHEREAS**, The higher experience of the gift of wholeness embraces the physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual and relational aspects of the person; therefore, be it
1. **Resolved**, That in response to God's will, _____ Lutheran Church establish a congregational health ministry; and
 2. **Resolved**, That we appoint a qualified health committee (cabinet) to develop and sustain this ministry; and
 3. **Resolved**, That we authorize the cabinet to appoint a health minister/parish nurse and provide the physical resources for an effective ministry; and
 4. **Resolved**, That we utilize this ministry in the ongoing life of the congregation; and
 5. **Resolved**, That we encourage all members to participate in this health ministry; and, be it finally,
 6. **Resolved**, That we offer this health ministry to the community as an expression of Christ present among us.

Adapted from: Cross and Caduceus, Vol. 43, No.3, page 7, November 1999

PART III

PARISH NURSING

PARISH NURSING

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH -MISSOURI SYNOD

GUIDELINES FOR PARISH NURSING

Spirituality

The Parish Nurse:

1. recognizes God as the Giver of life, and healing as part of the restorative mission of Jesus;
2. demonstrates an active participation in congregational and personal worship, Bible study, and devotions;
3. identifies his/her level of spiritual maturity and gifts (caring, wisdom, faith, service, encouragement, mercy, leadership, etc.), and uses his/her gifts in service to the Lord;
4. acquires specific knowledge of disturbances in his/her spiritual life;
5. integrates teaching about the work of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament into the health and healing ministry as a means and a goal of wholistic health;
6. recognizes that every individual is unique with God-given capacities, abilities, and needs;
7. conceptualizes the interrelationship of disturbances in the emotional, physical and psycho-social life of a member with disturbances in the member's spiritual life;
8. assesses the spiritual needs of the congregation and collects data that are comprehensive and accurate;
9. analyzes data collected about the congregation to determine health needs of the congregation and its members;
10. develops plans that specify nursing actions unique to congregational needs;
11. applies Scriptural concepts as a basis for spiritual intervention under the supervision of the pastor;

12. incorporates the principles and skills of spiritual intervention into his/her parish nursing practice;
13. evaluates the effects of ministry on spiritual dimensions in terms of structure, process and outcome.

Health Educator

The Parish Nurse:

1. applies theoretical and Scriptural concepts as a basis for decisions in the role of health educator;
2. systematically collects data which are comprehensive and accurate in reference to the health educator;
3. plans data collection and analyzes data collected about the congregation to determine health needs of the congregation and its members;
4. intervenes to promote, maintain, or restore health, and to effect rehabilitation;
5. documents and keeps necessary records, while protecting the client's right to confidentiality; and
6. evaluates responses of the congregation to interventions in order to determine progress toward goal and achievement and to revise the database, needs, and plan.

Health Counselor

The Parish Nurse:

1. applies theoretical and scriptural concepts as a basis for decision-making in practice;
2. systematically collects data which are comprehensive and accurate in reference to the health-counseling needs of the congregation;
3. analyzes data collected about the congregation to determine health needs of the congregation and its members;
4. develops plans to meet health-counseling needs of the congregation;
5. intervenes to promote, maintain, or restore health, and to effect rehabilitation;
6. respects confidentiality;
7. documents and keeps necessary records; and
8. evaluates responses of the congregation to interventions in order to determine progress toward goal achievement and to revise the database, diagnoses and plan.

Liaison to Community Resources

The Parish Nurse:

1. is a viable expression of the Christ-centered caring and sharing of the congregation within the surrounding community;
2. develops plans that specify nursing actions unique to congregational needs;
3. applies theoretical and Scriptural concepts as a basis for decisions in practice;
4. systematically collects data that are comprehensive and accurate in reference to community resources and congregational needs;
5. analyzes data collected about the congregation and community resources to determine how to connect them;
6. documents and keeps necessary records;

7. evaluates responses of the congregation and community resources to interventions in order to determine progress toward goal achievement and to revise the database, need, and plan.

Coordinator of Volunteers

The Parish Nurse:

1. applies theoretical and Scriptural concepts as a basis for decisions in practice;
2. systematically collects data that are comprehensive and accurate in reference to volunteer ministry within the congregation;
3. analyzes data collected;
4. plans for ways in which to expand the healing ministry of the church through use of volunteers, recognizing that volunteers differ in gifts, resources of time, talents, and motivation, and delegates responsibilities and tasks on that basis;
5. models healthy interdependence and collaboration by utilizing volunteer caregivers,;
6. enables volunteer caregivers to experience a service of meaning and purpose that fosters wellness, training and recognition when appropriate;
7. documents and keeps necessary records to enable him/her to do the above effectively; and
8. evaluates responses of the congregation in order to determine progress toward goal achievement and to revise the database, identification of needs, and plan.

Professional Development

The Parish Nurse:

1. participates in peer review and other means of evaluation to assure quality of parish nursing practice; assumes responsibility for professional development and contributes to the professional growth of others;
2. collaborates with other health-care providers, professionals, and community representatives in assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating programs for congregational and/or community health, when necessary; and
3. stays informed about theory and practice of parish nursing via independent reading, conferences, and networking.

Parish Nursing Educational Opportunities

Parish nursing is a unique blending of professional nursing and spiritual care giving. We recommend that the parish nurse attend a specific preparation program for parish nursing. One may consider:

Concordia University - Portland	1-503-288-9371
Concordia University Wisconsin	1-262-243-4233
Valparaiso University – Valparaiso	1-219-464-5289

Other basic preparation programs are offered throughout the country. Please be aware that programs may vary in quality, length of study, and spiritual and theological content. For a list of other programs contact:

Health Ministries Association	1-215-564-3484
International Parish Nurse Resource Center	1-314-918-2559

The parish nurse may opt to pursue additional education leading to rostering as a lay minister or deaconess. Further information is available by contacting:

Concordia University Wisconsin (Lay Ministry) 1-262-243-5700
LCMS World Relief and Human Care (Deaconess Ministry) 1-314-996-1387

The parish nurse is also encouraged to participate in continuing education opportunities offered through LCMS providers to enhance their expertise in spiritual and theological content consistent with teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The parish nurse is also encouraged to take advantage of the numerous theological publications and resources available through LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

A PARISH NURSE IS NOT JUST A NURSE IN THE PARISH!

By Marcia A. Schnorr, R.N., Ed.D.,
LCMS Coordinator for Parish Nursing

History (His-story)

The Gospel includes numerous examples of Jesus' healing ministry. Dr. Granger Westberg initiated the concept of Wholistic Health Centers where the team of patient, nurse, physician, and pastor worked together to develop a plan for wholistic health and wellness. In time the concept of Wholistic Health Centers was replaced by parish nursing.

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has endorsed parish nursing. The LCMS Health Ministries calls parish nursing "a visible expression of Christ's healing ministry." Parish nurses serve in a team ministry with the pastor to care for the whole person-promoting physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual wellness.

Two frequently cited "theme verses" by parish nurses are:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10b)

"and He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." (Luke 9:2)

Current (Health Care and/or Nursing) Issues and Trends

The health care delivery system and/or nursing practice and education provides stressors to many-including nurses. Individual situations vary, but most nurses (including parish nurses) find themselves facing one or more of several current issues and trends.

1. There is an increase in parish nursing as a marketing tool for hospitals and other institutions. Is marketing or ministry the real motive for parish nursing?
2. Down-sizing and re-engineering threaten job security for hospital nurses. Is parish nursing an option or a calling?
3. Health care delivery systems are using more unlicensed personnel to provide care. Does the use of unlicensed personnel minimize the value of the professional nurse? The quality of patient care? Could this same thing happen in settings other than traditional health care delivery systems?
4. Health care delivery systems vacillate between emphasizing "specialization" or "generalization". Is it better to specialize? Is it better to be a generalist?

- How can the nurse remain competent in several diverse areas of practice?
How can nurses keep pace with employment trends?
5. Nursing organizations debate the entry into practice issues. Does this debate lead to devaluing the contributions of many nurses? Does this internal debate interfere with broader nursing practice issues?
 6. Nursing organizations and academia use endorsement, approved, accreditation, and certification to give validation to their particular educational programs. Do these terms mean different things to different people? Are they misleading? Does the dialogue over endorsement, approval, accreditation, and certification help or hinder decision making regarding educational options?
 7. Most basic nursing education programs and many parish nurse education programs use a generic definition of spiritual care. How can the parish nurse provide a Christ-centered parish nurse ministry if their preparation for spiritual care is not built on a solid Christian foundation?
 8. Parish nurses seek to be recognized and validated as members of the ministry team in their congregation. Why are some parish nurses hesitant to equip themselves in the theology and Spiritual care practices applicable to their denomination? How can parish nurses be part of a team if they are not playing by the same rules?

Recommendations

Parish nurses and potential parish nurses are encouraged to consider the current issues and trends and pray for God's guidance as they consider their calling.

1. While we know that money is important, let us not be more concerned with money than ministry.
2. While we applaud the recognition that parish nursing has received from the secular world, let us not respond by secularizing parish nursing.
3. While we strive to maintain professional standards for parish nursing, let us never cease to value the God-given gifts of others who wish to serve in the health and human care ministry of our congregations.
4. While we recognize that other faith traditions may benefit from parish nurses, let us never cease to build a firm Christ-centered parish nurse ministry.

5. While we say that we are in team ministry, let us not forget that God is the captain of the team.
6. While we encourage parish nurses to have a quality preparation, let us not be disheartened by the educational debates.
7. Let us remain steadfast in our determination to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.
8. Let us continue to grow spiritually through the means He has provided.
9. Let us share Jesus' healing love with others in our congregation, community, and world.

To God be the Glory!

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Parish Nurse

Principal function:

The nurse will develop and implement the congregational health ministry according to policies established by the congregation and professional practice standards.

Position relationships:

The parish nurse reports to the board or committee designated by the congregation to give leadership to its health ministries such as a congregational health and wellness committee or a health cabinet.

In professional practice, the parish nurse should comply with the Scope and Standards of Parish Nursing Practice established by the Health Ministries Association and accepted by the American Nurses Association.

In spiritual care, the parish nurse reports to the pastor.

Principal responsibilities:

1. Planning
 - a. Conceptualizes whole person wellness for the congregation.
 - b. Makes ongoing assessments of the wellness needs of the congregation.
 - c. Develops programs and strategies to meet those needs.
 - d.
2. Program*
 - a. Functions as wellness educator, bringing together body, mind and spirit.
 - b. Develops and teaches short courses in health and health care.
 - c. Initiates periodic health screening programs in the congregation.
 - d. Is a lifestyle change agent in the congregation.
 - e. Serves as personal health counselor and/or consultant.

- f. Makes home-health visits, as professional experience allows, on request or referral.
- g. Counsels members of the congregation on health issues, as professional experience allows.
- h. Interprets the care needs of the physically and mentally ill to their family and professional staff, as needed.
- i. Serves as trainer and resource person to care-giving volunteers.
- j. Provides appropriate health resources and referrals.
- k. Collaborates with various agencies to provide access to care for the medically indigent in the congregation.
- l. Maximizes the health of the congregation as a Christian community.

*Some items may require utilization of outside resources if service is not within the parameters of professional education and competence.

3. Professional Relationships

Develops professional relationships with health care professionals, health care Institutions and government agencies that are part of the health care delivery and/or reimbursement system.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Essential

- a. A registered nurse, currently licensed in his/her state.
- b. A member in good standing of a congregation in The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.
- c. A person of spiritual maturity.
- d. Two or more years of nursing experience.
- e. Commitment to wellness of the whole person as understood by the Christian Gospel.
- f. Ability to speak to groups and conduct educational classes.
- g. Ability to identify and use resources, develop programs and train volunteers.

- h. Competency in clinical nursing.
- i. Completion of a recognized parish nurse preparation program.

2. Preferred

- a. Experience in community health.
- b. Knowledge of organization and function of the parish.

LIABILITY PROTECTION

Congregational Health Ministries is an ever expanding ministry within many denominations, including The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Along with the increased service comes the increasing number of inquiries about liability and insurance.

Parish nurses should be aware that questions of liability are not contingent upon whether or not the nurse is paid a salary. All parish nurses are responsible for the maintenance of quality care standards and must perform within the scope of the nurse practice act of his/ her state. Parish nurses must provide a competent, quality professional nursing practice that is consistent with professional standards expected in any circumstances.

Liability insurance should be carried by the parish nurse and the congregation. The same insurance carrier that covers professional nurses in other settings will, in most cases, cover the nurse in the parish nurse role. Not all insurance carriers, however, are familiar with the role of the parish nurse. In some cases, the insurance carrier will seek clarification of services provided. [The commonly identified categories of service include: health educator, health counselor, referral agent, developer of support groups, and trainer of volunteers.]

Congregations may find that their liability insurance plan will include the services of the parish nurse. Other congregations, however, may find that their carrier is unfamiliar with the role of a parish nurse and excludes this coverage. Some insurance plans will include the services of a parish nurse for a nominal additional fee.

Some insurance carriers for congregations ask that the parish nurse complete a parish nurse educational program.

LCMS Health Ministries does not endorse anyone insurance provider. Possible sources for information include:

Marsh Affinity	1-847-803-3100
Lutheran Trust	1-800-200-7257

PART IV
CONGREGATIONAL
HEALTH MINISTER

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Congregational Health Minister

Principal function:

The health minister will develop and implement the congregational health ministry according to policies established by the congregation.

Position Relationships:

The health minister reports to the board or committee designated by the congregation to give leadership to its health ministries such as a congregational health and wellness committee or a health cabinet.

In spiritual care, the health minister reports to the pastor.

Principal Responsibilities:

1. Planning

- a. Conceptualizes whole person wellness for the congregation.
- b. Makes ongoing assessments of the wellness needs of the congregation.
- c. Develops programs and strategies to meet those needs.

2. Program*

- a. Functions as wellness educator, bringing together body, mind, and spirit.
- b. Develops and teaches short courses in health and health care.
- c. Initiates periodic health screening programs in the congregation.
- d. Is a lifestyle change agent in the congregation.
- e. Serves as personal health counselor and/or consultant.
- f. Makes home-health visits, as professional experience allows, on request or referral.
- g. Advises members of the congregation on health issues, as professional experience allows.

- h. Interprets the care needs of the physically and mentally ill to their family and professional staff, as needed.
- i. Serves as trainer and resource person to care-giving volunteers.
- j. Provides appropriate health resources and referrals.
- k. Collaborates with various agencies to provide access to care for the medically indigent in the congregation.
- l. Maximizes the health of the congregation as a Christian community.

*Some items may require utilization of outside resources if service is not within the parameters of professional education and competence.

3. Professional Relationships

- a. Develops professional relationships with health care professionals, health care institutions and government agencies that are part of the health care delivery and/or reimbursement system.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Essential

- a. Education and/or license in a health related field.
- b. Two or more years of experience in a health related field.
- c. Member in good standing of a congregation of The Lutheran Church
–Missouri Synod.
- d. Spiritual maturity.
- e. Dedicated and called to be in service to others.
- f. Commitment to wellness of the whole person as understood by the Christian Gospel.
- g. Ability to speak to groups and conduct educational classes.
- h. Ability to identify and use resources, develop programs and train volunteers.

2. Preferred

- a. Knowledge of parish organizations and functions.

PART V
A SPECIAL WORD
TO PASTORS

A SPECIAL WORD TO PASTORS

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRIES AND PARISH NURSING

HOW IS HEALTH MINISTRY THE CONGREGATION'S WORK?

Several lines of Biblical teaching clearly make health and healing a ministry of the church.

1. The Scriptures declare that each person is created by the hand of God. Hidden in each of us are wonders of design and function far beyond what we know about ourselves. It is a sin to destroy the gift of life through personal indulgence or neglect. All human beings are stewards accountable to their Master.

In baptism, Christians become temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6: 19). We must do nothing to defile this temple and everything to maintain it. Health ministry is a part of the nurture of the new life.

Galatians 6:20, directs Christians: "Carry each others' burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Caring is at the very heart of a congregation's existence. Health ministry is an organized way to respond to the call to carry each others' burdens.

2. The ministry of Christ necessitates a health ministry. At the outset of His ministry, the sick and disabled were largely hidden from view. The lepers were confined to their colony, the paralyzed to their cots, the acutely sick to their barracks and the dying to an upper room. Jesus' compassion brought them out of seclusion. By word and healing touch He made them whole, declaring that His redemption embraced the whole person.

Illness is often hidden in our congregations, too. The mentally ill are hardly known to the Christian community; the addicted struggle in private. Secreted in medicine cabinets are the efforts of others to alleviate stress and pain. After a few weeks of shared sorrow, the bereaved shed their tears alone. In the spirit of Christ and in response to His grace and love, the Christian community must be a place where people can be open about their needs and find support and healing. The decision to add a health minister to the staff publicly recognizes Christ's healing ministry as one of the gifts of the cross. A health ministry is an invitation to seek wholeness in Christ.

3. The New Testament establishes lay ministry - an auxiliary office where the laity place their gifts and the skills of their daily vocation into the service of the Christian community (1 Pet. 4:10). The health minister brings the skills of his/her profession as a member of the priesthood of all believers to this congregational work.

There are many vocations that could be involved in the health ministry of the parish. We will be focusing upon the vocation which has been and continues to be the central core of health ministry in the majority of our congregations: the parish nurse. Much of what is discussed in this section, though, could also apply to other health ministries.

WHO IS A PARISH NURSE?

A parish nurse is the visible symbol of the congregation's healing and health ministry. Gifted and educated for a health profession, the parish nurse assists members in the body of Christ in the care and nurture of the life God has given them. The parish nurse combines knowledge of the body with Christian motivation to help people toward better health.

The task comes in two parts. Attending to the sick the nurse in her/his person brings the congregation's concern and care to the sick.

The parish nurse further optimizes the present and future health status of members. Brought forward in the life of the congregation, the promotion of wellness is recognized as a faith opportunity. Today many voices for health seek attention. The parish nurse helps lay members translate "medicalese" into understandable lay language. Speaking out of the context of the common faith of the congregation, the parish nurse brings a one-of-a-kind motivation of love for Christ to health enhancement. Heading a planned health ministry, the nurse conveys the congregation's concern and encouragement to the individual.

As a registered nurse, the parish nurse is a graduate from a four-year baccalaureate program, a three-year diploma program or a two-year associate degree program. A registered nurse is qualified to make independent nursing decisions and take independent nursing actions.

As a graduate from a one-year nursing program, a licensed practical nurse has significant limitations in education and nursing functions. The Nurse Practice Act does not permit independent function.

HOW DO YOU INTRODUCE A PARISH NURSE MINISTRY?

A health cabinet of three to eight members, enlisted from physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, dietitians, physical therapists, health enthusiasts and the chronically ill, can identify needed health ministries in your congregation and give shape to a parish nurse ministry.

The cabinet may select the parish nurse.

The cabinet should recommend a parish nurse preparation before the nurse assumes office. Options available are:

**Parish nurses who have completed a course of study other than option 3 are encouraged to take Module II (Theology of Healing) available from Concordia University Wisconsin.*

1. Minimum: a four-day introductory workshop.
2. Preferred: a six weeks to three months course of study through a hospital or college, together with a parish internship.
3. Optimal: a comprehensive study program through a college or university. The Parish Nurse Distance Learning Program of Concordia University Wisconsin meets optimal program requirements. Module II, separately available, deals with the theology of healing, wholistic health and Gospel-based spirituality.
4. Continuing education: Attendance at one annual parish nurse conference is recommended.

CAN PARISH NURSING HELP MY MINISTRY?

Yes, in several ways.

* As a pastor, you declare Christ's forgiveness and love but also His healing ministry to the sick and His expectation of your care of the life He has entrusted to you. Professionally qualified, a parish nurse gives practical expression to this healing ministry.

* As a pastor you may delegate some of the Christian teaching and motivation for health practices to the parish nurse.

*The parish nurse can help you achieve your personal health goals.

*Healing ministries that provide care to the infirm, release the love of Christ into the lives of both the receiver and the giver of care. The parish nurse is a point of release for Christ's love into the congregation.

*Physical and psychological growth toward greater health is growth in the Christian life.

* A nursing assessment may add to your understanding of the person and her/his spiritual need. For example, a couple distancing themselves from the church may be having serious marital trouble. To an elder or the pastor they hint vaguely at work schedules, weekends in the country or extended family care needs. They don't want to go public with their conflict.

HOW CAN I WORK WITH SOMEONE WHO COMES FROM A DIFFERENT NON-CHURCH RELATED PROFESSION?

This question has two answers.

Parish nursing is not a community clinic opened in a church facility; parish nursing is more than a nursing practice set up in a church. Parish nursing is a ministry, a 21st century extension of Christ's healing ministry. Christ's compassion and love for His people, His suffering and death to make people whole in body, mind and soul, His Spirit's striving within us to enhance the gift of life - these witness to and serve our Lord in parish health ministry. Fortified by this credo, the congregation, through a health cabinet or similar group, sets up the health ministry. The needs/opportunities present in the congregation and the integrity of the nursing profession will be honored.

For an effective working relationship between pastor and parish nurse these additional observations can be made.

In the congregation's healing ministry, the pastor and parish nurse are professional peers. Each has their own competence. As a pastor, you are called to a law and Gospel ministry administered through Word (teaching and preaching) and Sacrament. Educated and qualified for ministry by your seminary and then certified for pastoral ministry and rostered by your church body, you are a professional person.

The parish nurse is by education a health-care professional. Many nursing procedures are independent judgments that do not require the physician's direction. This is true of most of the procedures the parish nurse is likely to do. Parish nurse preparation programs include content in team ministry. The parish nurse, too, is legally accountable to the Nurse Practice Act of the state where licensed. But in a larger than human sense, the nurse has a health ministry to which God has called her/him.

Pastor and parish nurse have separate yet contributing functions in Christian health ministry. At their common point of meeting, they are bound to confidentiality by their professional ethics. Anecdotal material and information given in confidence to either the nurse or the pastor may not be shared. Professional assessments may be shared for the better care of the person served.

WILL PARISH NURSING BENEFIT OUR MEMBERS?

* Illness is an isolating experience. A woman confined for eight weeks with pneumonia commented, "No one called. I thought the church had forgotten me." A parish nurse can break into that isolation, affirm the church's concern and reconnect the individual and congregation. This is a common experience among the homebound.

* A parish nurse encourages and supports the medical regimen through warm presence, reinforcement of the regimen through explanation of the purpose and expected results and through prayer. This support is often critical to patient participation and eventual healing.

*In the present health-care environment where the individual is increasingly responsible for his or her health, parish nursing connects personal responsibility with Gospel motivation and planned activity. Personal wellness should be a significant fruit of the Gospel.

*Members neglecting moderation and general stewardship of their physical health are often responsive to the invitation to join others in the Christian community in joint wellness programs.

*Some members - notably the bereaved, single parents, the divorced - those struggling with food and substance abuse issues - can profit from joining a support group initiated in the congregation or available elsewhere. A Christian health ministry can facilitate such participation.

*The parish nurse can initiate activities in support of healthy lifestyles, today's key to tomorrow's health.

WILL THE CONGREGATION AS A WHOLE BENEFIT?

*In congregations committed to parish nursing, a deeper sense of Christian community than existed before has been a welcome discovery. In a society of transient relationships, the heart hungers for community.

*Parish nursing raises the awareness of the congregation to this ministry's effect on the spiritual, relational, emotional and physical health of the whole Christian community.

*Parish nursing organizes, trains and provides consistent volunteer service to the congregation.

WE ARE A MISSION-MINDED CONGREGATION. WILL THE EMPHASIS ON HEALTH CHANGE OUR FOCUS?

Proclamation and Gospel witness are the principal ways of declaring salvation in Jesus Christ. But demonstration of the Gospel's power in the lives of believers has always been a part of outreach. In America, congregational health ministries may be the significant demonstration in the early years of the 21st century. This hypothesis is currently being researched.

Numerous examples of outreach ministries that combine parish nursing with proclamation in the community exist.

*One pastor reports that on some nights people from the community outnumber members at health education functions.

* A Texas congregation has tailored parish nursing to community outreach.

*In some communities, neighbors or family members have been drawn to the church by the parish nurse's service.

*Support groups are one avenue to the heart of the community.

WHAT ABOUT COST? CAN WE JUSTIFY A PARISH NURSE?

Launching a parish nurse ministry is not cost free. Costs are of two kinds: equipment and personnel.

Basic equipment includes furnished office space, a blood pressure cuff, a stethoscope, a filing cabinet (to keep confidential records), a telephone and a desk. Other items sooner or later include a display rack for health resources and a scale.

Funding may come from organizations, memorials, an annual offering or the church budget.

In many beginning situations, the parish nurse is unpaid staff, receiving only reimbursed mileage and other basic expenses.

Congregations often provide all or part of the costs for parish nurse education.

A local hospital may partner with a congregation to provide a part-time parish nurse.

Several congregations could also band together to support a parish nurse.

As parish nursing establishes its value, congregational support will grow.

Liability coverage is a consideration. Please see page 30.

PART VI
LITURGICAL AND
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES

SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING

P: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good

C: **And His mercy endures forever.**

P: They cried to the Lord in their trouble

C: **And He delivered them from their distress**

P: He sent forth His Word and healed them

C: **And saved them from the grave.**

P: The Lord is righteous in all His ways,

C: **And loving in all His works.**

P: The Lord upholds all who fall;

C: **He lifts up those who are bowed down.**

P: The Lord sustains them on their sickbed,

C: **And ministers to them in their illness.**

P: The Lord is my strength and my song,

C: **And He has become my salvation.**

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C: **And His mercy endures forever.**

P: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and was born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

The prayer of the day is said.

P: Let us pray....

C: Amen

Sit

P: The first lesson is _____.

A psalm, hymn, or anthem is sung.

P: The second lesson is _____.

A hymn is sung.

P: Let us pray for all who suffer.

Merciful Lord, You sent Your Son to be our peace. Help all who suffer pain or grief to find in Him strength and peace, so that their trust in Your promises may be renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray for recovery from sickness.

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to Your servants, _____, the help of Your power, that their sickness may be turned into health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray for those in affliction.

Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sad and strength to those who suffer: Let the prayers of Your children who are in any trouble rise to You. To everyone in distress grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray for those who minister in healing.

Almighty God, source of human knowledge and skill: Guide physicians and nurses and all those You have called to practice the arts of healing. Strengthen them by Your life-giving Spirit, that, by their ministries, the health of all people may be promoted and Your creation may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray for the ministry of family and friends.

Loving God, our creator and redeemer: Give strength and gentleness, patience and faithfulness to family members and friends. Let their hope be in You, and by their ministry of love let Your love be known; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray for those who desire our prayers.

Blessed Lord, we ask Your loving care and protection for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit and who desire our prayers. Take from them all fears and help them put their trust in You, that they may feel Your strong arms around them. Touch them with Your renewing love, that they may know wholeness in You and glorify Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, incomparable Son of the Father. You humbled Yourself to share in our humanity, and You came to heal all our illnesses.

C: Blessed be God.

P: Holy and blessed Trinity, sustain Your servants _____, with Your presence; drive away their sickness of body and spirit; and give them that victory of life and peace which will enable them to serve You now and evermore.

C: Amen

The Anointing

The minister lays both hands on each person's head:

P: I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching Him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of His love.

After all have returned to their places:

P: The almighty Lord - a strong tower to all who put their trust in Him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey - be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give You thanks for all Your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank You for the gift of Your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by Your Holy Spirit to be assured of Your power in our lives and to trust in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Reprinted from *Occasional Services*, Copyright 1982, used by permission.
May not be duplicated.

PLACING RITE OF A CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTER OR PARISH NURSE

1. When set within the liturgy for Holy Communion, this rite can be used after the Prayer of the Church (Divine Service I) or the Prayers (Divine Service II).
2. A representative of the church council/board comes forward and addresses the presiding minister:

After prayerful deliberation/and a vote of _____ I certify that _____ has been appointed to serve as a congregational health minister/parish nurse in this congregation.

3. The person to be installed is presented to the presiding minister.
4. The minister addressed the candidate:

P: Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who came among us as a servant and reconciled God to us by His death, calls us, through the Holy Spirit, to faith in Him and to a life of loving service to our neighbor , you have been appointed to serve as a congregational health minister/parish nurse, a gift from God to nurture God-pleasing health among us.

5. Hear now a word of God:

Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie - the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for 38 years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir, the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk" (John 5:2-8)

To Christians the Holy Scriptures say:

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6: 9-10)

6. The minister questions the candidate:

P: Will you assume this ministry in health and healing appointed to the church by Jesus Christ?

R: I will, with the help of God.

P: Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the teaching and practice of the evangelical Lutheran church?

R: I will, with the help of God

P: Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and of prayer?

R: I will, with the help of God.

P: Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the Gospel of God with a godly life?

R: I will, with the help of God.

P: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C: Amen.

7. The minister addresses the candidate:

P: (Name) I place you to the position as congregational health minister/ parish nurse in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

8. The newly placed may kneel, and the minister speaks the prayer:

P: Merciful God, as your beloved Son brought healing and restoration to the sick and conferred a health and healing ministry on His church, so we have appointed this your servant to teach us to be stewards of the gift of life. make her/him wise in using her/his knowledge and skill, diligent in ministering to those in need and compassionate in all her/his work. In the

suffering and dying of your people, make her/him a faithful witness to the hope of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

9. The minister blesses the newly placed:

P: Go then in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for your labor in the Lord is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen

Stand

10. The prayers are said. Prayers are included for the newly placed.

11. All return to their places.

PLACING OF SERVANTS OF THE CONGREGATION

1. *Before the Prayer of the Church, or The Prayers, those to be placed present themselves before the altar. The pastor announces the work in which they are to serve. He then continues:*

P: Dear friend in Christ, you have been chosen to serve our Lord in this congregation. Hear what the apostle Paul says:

Live by the Spirit...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law...Carry each others burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ...Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers. (Gal. 5: 16a, 22-23a; 6:2, 9-10).

In the presence of God and of this congregation I therefore ask you: Do you accept the responsibilities entrusted to you, and do you promise reverently and faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, answer: I do.

R: I do.

P: _____, I place you as (title of position) _____
in (name of congregation) _____, in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, enlighten and strengthen you that you may be a good and faithful servant to the glory of His name and the good of His people.

C: Amen.

Stand

2. The pastor addresses the congregation:

P: Let us pray.

3. *The health minister/parish nurse kneels and the pastor places his hand on his/he head and pray:*

P: Almighty God, our Father, You have formed and breathed into each of us the breath of life; You have restored us to righteousness before You in the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Look now with favor on the health ministry we undertake by placing a health minister/parish nurse into service among us. In his/her ministry to Your people, let our Savior's healing ministry become visible. In thanksgiving for Your gifts, receive our pledge to strive for wholeness in mind, body and relationships; in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

4. The pastor dismisses and blesses those who have been placed.

P: Go then in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for your labor in the Lord is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

c: Amen

5. All return to their places.

6. The service continues with the Prayer of the Church, or The Prayers.

Books and Articles for additional reading:

- Carson, V. B. & Koenig, H. G. (2002). *Parish nursing stories of service and care*. Philadelphia, PA (USA): Templeton Foundation Press.
- Durbin, N. (2005). *Faith community nursing: a specialty role for the registered nurse*. Working Group for ANA and HMA.
- Koenig, H.G. (2002). *Spirituality in Patient Care*. Philadelphia, PA (USA): Templeton Foundation Press.
- Myers, M. E. (2002). *The integrative parish nursing model*. Toronto, Ontario (Canada): Opus Wholistic Publications.
- O'Brien, M. E. (2003). *Parish nursing healthcare ministry within the church*. Sudbury, MA (USA): Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
- Patterson, D. L. (2003). *The essential parish nurse*. Cleveland, OH (USA): The Pilgrim Press.
- Peterson, W. M. (ed.) (1982). *Granger Westberg verbatim: a vision for faith and health*. Printed for Westberg Institute. Reprinted with permission by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, St. Louis, MO (USA).
- Smith, S. D. (ed). (2003). *Parish nursing a handbook for the new millennium*. Binghamton, NY (USA): The Haworth Pastoral Press.
- Solari-Twadell, P. A. & McDermott, M. A. (eds.) (2006). *Parish nursing development, education, and administration*. St. Louis, MO (USA): Elsevier Mosby.
- Solari-Twadell, P. A. & McDermott, M. A. (eds). (1999). *Parish nursing promoting whole person health within faith communities*. Thousand Oaks, CA (USA): Sage Publications.
- Vandecreek, L. & Mooney, S. (eds). (2002). *Parish nurses, health care chaplains, and community clergy*. Binghamton, NY (USA): The Haworth Pastoral Press.
- Westberg, G. E. (1990). *The parish nurse providing a minister of health for your congregation*. Minneapolis, MN (USA): Augsburg.

Parish Nurse Newsletter and Directory Update Form

First Name:	Last Name:		
Home Address:		Apt. Number	
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Home Phone: ()	Work Phone: ()		
Email Address:			

Congregation or Organization:		
Pastor:		
Address:		
Secondary Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Congregation/Organization Phone: ()	Congregation/Organization Fax: ()	
District:		
Specialties:	Education:	
Parish Nurse Education:		

Mail Code:

- ☐ Parish Nurse Directory only
- ☐ Parish Nurse Newsletter only
- ☐ Parish Nurse Directory and Newsletter

Return to:

LCMS World Relief and Human Care
Health Ministries
1333 South Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295