

Faith Community Nurse

About

Faith Community Nursing (formerly known as Parish Nursing) is a growing specialty practice of professional nursing that is recognized by the American Nursing Association (ANA). It is also a ministry that focuses on the “intentional care of the spirit” linking health and faith within a community of faith and is embraced by many different Christian denominations and other faith traditions. It embraces the concept of the whole person meeting needs physically, mentally and spiritually.

Becoming a Faith Community Nurse

As a nursing specialty, there are specific qualifications for those who wish to become a Faith Community Nurse (FCN). The person must be a registered nurse with a current license in the state where the faith community is located or is a student in a baccalaureate nursing education program. Previous experience is preferred, given the autonomous nature of this specialty. They must also complete an ANA approved FCN “Foundations” course where they will be trained in the focus and tasks of the ministry.

FCN practice is governed by:

- The nurse practice act of their state
- Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards
- Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice
- Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements (for nurses)

Faith Community Nurses do not do hands-on nursing, but work in partnership with pastors, churches, hospitals, social service agencies and the community. They work with services in the community to help meet the needs of the members of their congregation. They work in partnership with faith community leaders as follows:



Referral agent
Integrator of faith, health
Personal health counselor

Health educator
Facilitator and coordinator of volunteers
Health advocate

Just as each faith community (mosque, synagogue, temple, church) is different in size, wealth, age range of its members, each faith community nurses' roles and responsibilities will also differ and be unique to the nature and personality of each individual community of faith; prayerfully, tailoring the needs and fulfilling the role as God leads.



**ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION OF
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING**

Seventh-day Adventist Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION