

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY SURVEY

This survey has four purposes:

- 1) to identify the health needs and interests of members;
- 2) to introduce new ideas about health and wholeness;
- 3) to discern the church's present health ministries;
- 4) to discover resources for any additional health ministry actions your congregation may consider.



The term "Health" is used here in its broadest sense to describe the physical, emotional, spiritual and relational well-being of a person or institution. (This contrasts with the traditional idea of health as absence of illness). "Health care" here means all the ways we promote and develop good health; "medical care" refers to the ways we treat illness. Using this broader view of health, please answer the following questions. Signing your name is optional, but please return the completed survey to the committee or person designated to compile results for the whole congregation.

1. What health and medical problems do you have, or do you know of in your family, congregation, community, state/nation? (*check all that apply*)

Individual/family

- Can't afford medical care
- Problems with stress
- Persons ill at home
- Substance abuse problems
- Problems with sexuality
- Under/uninsured persons
- Poor health habits
- Loneliness, isolation
- Grief and/or loss
- Physical/emotional abuse or neglect
- Problems in relationships with others
- Barriers to raising healthy children
- Need for spiritual renewal and focus
- Chronic illness or disability
- Primary Caregiver for another person
- Need for personal counseling
- Financial, legal, housing, job problems
- End of life issues
- Other _____

Congregation

- Need to be more inclusive
- Problems in resolving conflicts

- Lack of vision or purpose
- Need for emotional support groups
- Clergy and staff overworked
- Need for confession and healing
- Lack of outreach
- Leadership/decision-making circle small
- Humor/laughter occurs infrequently
- Resistance to exploring possible change
- Intolerance of spiritual questioning or struggle
- No regular process for evaluation and reward of clergy and lay leadership
- Other _____

Community

- Poverty
- Violence
- Inadequate sanitation
- Too few doctors/hospitals
- Hard to get to medical services
- Ethical issues in medical care
- Relationships difficult due to racism, sexism, ageism
- Persons who are mal-/under-nourished
- Inadequate health promotion/illness prevention programs
- Lack some medical services (*name them*) _____
- High infant mortality rate
- Substandard housing or homelessness
- Lack of accountability for health/medical services
- Environmental health risk (ex: water, toxic disposal, air pollution)
- Other _____

The State

- Persons receiving Medicaid
- Accessibility of medical services
- Discrimination in how health care is delivered
- Environmental health risk (ex: water, toxic disposal, air pollution)
- Social services already overburdened
- Quality of nursing home care
- Managed care standards

The Nation

- Funding cuts in Medicare/Medicaid
- Geographic regions with inadequate medical care
- Populations with greatest health risks within the nation
- Managed care (HMO) standards
- Environmental health risk (ex: water, toxic disposal, air pollution)
- Ethical/legal dilemmas of health and medical care

___ Portability with health insurance plans

___ Other _____

Using the above lists, put a plus sign (+) by each item you think is being handled satisfactorily at this time. Then put a star () by ONE item in each list that you consider most important.*

2) In your congregation's meetings, classes, worship and sermons, about how often do you hear or talk about each of the following from a faith perspective? *Please rate each as (1) almost never, (2) seldom, (3) often, or (4) very often.*

___ Physical health

___ Emotional/mental health

___ Spiritual health

___ Social/relational health

___ Medical care issues

3) How much interest do you and your congregation have in learning more and taking some active steps to improve health at each of these levels? *Please rate each as (1) little interest, (2) some interest, or (3) high interest.*

	Myself	Congregation
Individual health issues	___	___
Family health issues	___	___
Congregational health	___	___
Health in our community	___	___
Health in our state	___	___
Health in our nation	___	___

4) How much interest is there in learning more and taking active steps to improve medical care at the same levels? *Please rate each as (1) little interest, (2) some interest, or (3) high interest.*

	Myself	Congregation
Individual medical issues	___	___
Family medical issues	___	___
Health issues in our congregation	___	___
Health issues in our community	___	___
Health issues in the state	___	___
Health issues in the nation	___	___

5) Specific health related activities (current, or in the past 5 years) in your congregation, AND those you would like to see. (check all that apply, add others if needed)

	Recent/now	Would like
Observe Health Awareness Week	___	___
Observe an annual Health Care Sabbath	___	___
Health Risk Appraisal	___	___
Health Fair	___	___
Exercise program	___	___
Weight control program	___	___
Smoking cessation program	___	___
Illness/disability support groups	___	___
Alcohol/substance abuse support groups	___	___
Optional healthy snacks at meetings	___	___
Congregational Care Teams	___	___
Parish Nurse/Minister of Health	___	___
Study groups on health issues	___	___
Services of prayer and healing	___	___

	Recent/now	Would like
Visit people who are ill at home	___	___
Medical or dental clinic	___	___
Spiritual renewal programs	___	___
Support for persons with mental illness	___	___
Advocacy for better local medical services	___	___
Transportation help to medical services	___	___
Stress management classes	___	___
Conflict management skills training	___	___
Illness Screening: high b.p., diabetes...	___	___
Ministry to persons with or affected by HIV/AIDS	___	___
Education for youth about HIV/AIDS	___	___
Adult/child day care	___	___
Food pantry	___	___
Library of books/videos on health issues	___	___
Hospice services	___	___
Advocacy for state health issues	___	___
Advocacy for national health care reform	___	___
Annual clergy/staff review	___	___
Adequate medical insurance for clergy/staff	___	___

6) List resources you know of in your congregation or community which might help develop and carry out any of the above activities.

Health care/medical professionals:

Volunteers for ministry:

Church or community space:

Staff:

Financial support:

7) Do you need additional information concerning specific health/medical topics or issues? Please list below. If you would like special assistance for yourself, a family member, or your congregation, please specify.

please print your name on the above line (optional)

Please Return the Completed Survey to:

Designated Person or Committee



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