Registered Nurses, _____________ Church

I invite you to take the opportunity to consider Faith Community Nurse Health Ministry in our faith community here at _______________. Being a Faith Community can be an extension of clergy and staff ministry and faith community outreach, education and support of parishioners. Faith Community Nurses have had roles in nursing that prepare them for this Ministry and a discernment to minister to the Body, Mind and Spirit as an expression of their faith in a further response to Health Ministry. A first step to this role would be a discussion with clergy & leadership in our faith community after reviewing information on faith community nursing. Considering the role, you will have evolves with planning with clergy and the leadership group. There are more than 60 Faith Community Nurses currently in the Diocese of Saint Cloud and CentraCare System from twelve denominations. Scholarships are available. We encourage you to see if you can devote time to this ministry.

To discuss, please call: ________________________________

**What It 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 wholistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community. It is a part of a broader outreach health ministry. With parish nursing and a structured health ministry program, the parishioners find connectedness, encouragement, hope and love.

Faith Community Nursing is an independent practice of professional nursing and is defined by the Minnesota Nurse Practice Act as Registered Professional Nurses in the Specialty of Faith Community Nursing. Faith community nursing focuses on health promotion within the parish as a whole, a family or an individual, based on standards of care and performance outlined by the American Nurses Association.

Faith Community Nursing is not “hands on” nursing, a parish nurse cannot change dressings, give medications, etc., but a Faith Community Nurse is a Referral Source for those who need services.

**Faith Community Nurse Qualifications**

The Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing, recommends the following registered nurse qualifications for a parish nurse:

- Graduate of an accredited registered nursing program
- 3-5 years of clinical nursing practice
- Current registered nurse license in Minnesota
- Ability to work independently and within the context of a team
- Community assessment skills
- Possesses a good understanding of spirituality and religion
  - Completion of a Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course (38-40 hours).

**Basic Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse Preparation Courses for RN’s**
1. Faith Community Nurse Partnership of Central MN. Classes offered in St. Cloud up to 2 times per year.


2. Parish Nurse Preparation Course Concordia
   http://www.concordiacollege.edu/directories/offices-services/parish-nurse-ministry/


The Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Curriculum is also offered online (found on the CentraCare St. Cloud Hospital website below). Based on the current Westberg Institute curriculum, the program topics include:

**Course Modules**

**Spirituality**
History & Philosophy  
Health, Healing & Wholeness  
Spiritual Care  
Prayer  
Self-Care

**Professionalism**
Ethical Issues  
Documenting Practice  
Legal Aspects  
Beginning your Ministry  
Communication & Collaboration

**Wholistic Health**
Health Promotion  
Behavioral Health  
Transforming Life Issues - Family Violence  
Transforming Life Issues - Loss, Suffering, & Grief

**Community**
Assessment  
Accessing Resources  
Advocacy

**Care Coordination and Transition Care**

More on FCN can be found at:
www.centracare.com/faith-community-nursing

Funding: Churches are encouraged to help with the cost of the training. Partial scholarships may be available to assist with program fees. The Central MN Faith Community Nurse Ministry Committee has several scholarships of $250 available. The Diocese of Saint Cloud Catholic Education Ministries has scholarships for this class. For scholarship information, refer to the Parish Nursing Education section.

Course meets the requirements of the Minnesota Board of Nursing related to professional nursing components for contact hours.