A Commitment to Lifelong Learning:

ANCC Board Certification in Faith Community Nursing

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In 2013, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) collaborated with the Health Ministries Association, Inc. (HMA) to develop a certification for registered nurses in Faith Community Nursing. This certification was launched in 2014 and, to date; there have been 68 nurses who have successfully achieved ANCC board-certification in Faith Community Nursing.

For board-certification in Faith Community Nursing, there is no written certification exam requirement. Rather, the candidate is asked to prepare and submit an individualized portfolio demonstrating her/his expertise in Faith Community Nursing. Of note, expertise can be achieved via employment in Faith Community Nursing or via volunteer work. This portfolio is submitted for peer evaluation and scoring. Candidates who demonstrate expertise in FCN are awarded the credential: RN-BC. The credential is valid for five years and may be renewed.

Successful candidates demonstrate competence in the areas detailed in the Portfolio Content Outline (**http://nursecredentialing.org/FCN-PCO**): Professional Development, Professional and Ethical Practice, Teamwork and Collaboration, and Quality and Safety.   For example, within Professional and Ethical Practice, candidates are asked to provide evidence of assessing the healthcare consumer's values, preferences, needs, spiritual beliefs/practices, knowledge level and available resources to formulate spiritually and culturally sensitive plans of care across the life-span. There are several sources of evidence within the applicant's portfolio that reviewers use to evaluate evidence of competence. One of these sources is the exemplar. The exemplar is a narrative that the candidate submits with specific examples that directly align with the Portfolio Content Outline. ANCC recommends that candidates review the Portfolio Preparation Tips (**http://nursecredentialing.org/CertificationPortfolio-PreparationTips**) prior to applying for certification.

Passing the assessment should be celebrated! ANCC has received comments like, "Becoming certified means confidence in teaching the next generation and serving as a role model." Passing candidates join a group of over 210,000 ANCC board-certified nurses.

After the "you passed!" celebration is over, it is critical to note that certification does not end with the achievement of passing the assessment. Certified nurses are expected to engage in professional development throughout the five-year certification period and are then asked to submit evidence of this professional development at the time of certification renewal.

According to ANCC, continual competence of the certified professional is the ongoing application of knowledge and skills, evidence-based practice with evaluation of outcomes, decision-making principles, and interpersonal skills all within a context of a specialty area of practice, focused on advancing the health and well-being of the population served.

Certification is an excellent tool to ensure lifelong learning. The ANCC certification renewal process (**http://nursecredentialing.org/RenewalRequirements.aspx**) provides a wide array of options for registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses to demonstrate evidence of professional development including participation in continuing education, presentations, preceptorship, quality improvement (QI) projects, and professional service.

In summary, there are currently 68 nurses who are certified in Faith Community Nursing. Applications are accepted throughout the year. ANCC is thankful to have worked with the HMA and all the dedicated Faith Community Nurses who volunteered to help in the development of this certification. ANCC also appreciates the Faith Community Nurses who continue to serve as peer reviewers. Without this group effort, Faith Community Nursing board-certification would not have been possible.