**Deborah Stankiewicz, MS, RN-BC, HTCP, Faith Community Nurse**

Deb Stankiewicz is the consummate faith community nurse. Since she began her ministry in January 1989, she has continued to represent the role of a faith community at its best in all she does. Beginning in the role of “parish nurse” when the ministry was in its infancy and mentored by Rev. Dr. Granger Westberg, Deb jumped into her new role as an experienced clinician and a woman of deep faith. As a person of the Roman Catholic tradition she accepted the challenge to serve a large UCC congregation, understanding and appreciating the ecumenical nature of this ministry and the need to provide a prayerful presence.

Deb was part of the 1995 Evangelical Health System and Lutheran General Health System merger joining two successful parish nurse programs that became known as Advocate Health Care. Following the death of Lutheran General parish nurse director, Anne Marie Djupe, she became the interim manager, holding a fragile program together during its transition. Deb’s leadership both within her congregation and the Advocate program has continued over the years, successfully bringing her expertise as geriatric consultant, Tai Chi class leader, oﬀering falls prevention assessments and addressing the ever challenging changes older adults of her congregation face daily. Deb also uses her extraordinary imagination and skill as a humorist in her classes on the role of humor and laughter as part of the healing process. She has also led numerous workshops and retreats on healing and humor.

Additionally, Deb has woven her role as a certiﬁed Healing Touch (HT) practitioner into her active faith community role and won over the support of her long serving pastor, who initially was somewhat skeptical of the practice. That support has evolved into a dedicated healing touch room on her congregation’s campus to oﬀ er HT as part of her faith community ministry.

In 2011, Deb accepted the additional role of liaison to the Advocate Health Care Faith Community Support Network and also serves as the lead coordinator of the FCN Documentation Project Advocate Health care ventured into with Henry Ford. Deb led the design and implementation of the FCN Module partnership with Henry Ford and continues to serve as one of the lead administrators and educators of the Advocate FCN Documentation team.

Most recently, Deb achieved her certiﬁcation in the specialty practice of faith community nursing, again, lifting up her extraordinary ministry and years of exemplary service in the role of faith community nursing. Deb Stankiewicz is an extremely deserving recipient of the Granger Westberg Leadership in Faith Community Nursing Award. Her colleagues say “Rev. Dr. Granger Westberg would be smiling to know that Deborah Stankiewicz has received an honor in his memory!”