

Faith Community Nursing Certification:

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The American Nurses Credential Center (ANCC) has begun work to develop a portfolio application for certification in faith community nursing.

In December 2007, HMA, as the professional membership organization for faith community nurses (FCNs), formed a task force to work with ANCC to prepare documents and tools for an innovative portfolio process for formal recognition of faith community nurses. Late in 2010, the task force recommended to the HMA board that work be suspended and efforts be redirected toward addressing critical issues related to the preparation for the specialty practice of faith community nursing and demonstration of FCN competence and skill. The 2012 revision of *Faith Community Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice, 2nd edition* provides the current competencies that define this nursing specialty.

On June 12, 2013, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the Health Ministries Association (HMA) announced a new Board Certification program for Faith Community Nurses through a portfolio assessment method. The Faith Community Nursing certification is targeted to launch in 2014. This renews the process started in 2007. The program is in the initial development stages; in July 2013 ANCC posted a recruitment call for nurses with expertise in Faith Community Nursing to develop this new certification program.

The Content Expert Panel will be selected by ANCC by the end of August and will host the first of two meetings of the Content Expert Panel in Silver Spring, MD at the end of October. This group will assist in developing the ANCC Faith Community Nursing specialty certification through portfolio by serving as certification developers and portfolio appraisers. Content experts may also be asked to serve on the External Validation Committee, or Standard Setting Panel. Criteria for content experts as defined by ANCC include the following:

- a. Holds a valid and current registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse license
- b. Is actively engaged in the practice of the specialty for no fewer than 20 hours per week
- c. Has no conflict of interest that will preclude participation.

This exciting new initiative to develop faith community nursing certification will bring together qualified content experts from across the country whose work will recognize and advance the professional practice of this nursing specialty.

Formal FCN certification will promote excellence within this specialty. Individual nurses may choose this optional process to achieve recognition for their specialty expertise.

HMA is committed to advancing professional faith community nursing practice by promoting evidence of competence and excellence. HMA will keep you informed through updates in member communications as the work progresses.