For Immediate Release CONTACT:
Michelle Poskaitis (ANCC)

 michelle.poskaitis@ana.org

**ANCC AND HMA ANNOUNCE FIRST BOARD CERTIFICATION
FOR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING**

**SILVER SPRING, Md. — Sept. 15, 2014 —** The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the Health Ministries Association (HMA) announced the launch of a new certification through portfolio for Faith Community Nursing. This new certification, announced today at the 2014 HMA Annual Meeting and Conference in Hyattsville, Maryland, serves to validate faith community nurses’ unique knowledge, skills and contributions to patient care. ANCC supports HMA members and all faith community nurses worldwide in their pursuit to be certified in their specialty area. The new certification program is available now at [www.nursecredentialing.org/FaithCommunityNursing](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/FaithCommunityNursing).

The ANCC certification through portfolio is an alternative assessment method for credentialing individual registered nurses in their specialty area. Nurses document their skills, knowledge, abilities and career accomplishments as part of the application assessment process. Certification through portfolio requires equivalent rigor as examinations to meet accrediting bodies’ criteria to determine proficiency through a peer review process informed by nurse experts.

Nurses certified through the ANCC portfolio assessment method are regarded as experts in their specialties and are considered to be among the highest-qualified nurses in the world. These credentials foster both professional growth and job satisfaction while demonstrating a nurse’s commitment to providing excellent care.

ANCC incorporates the latest nursing practice standards, ensuring that nurses are credentialed using the most current criteria. ANCC’s experience with in-house certification development using psychometric practices provides an excellent foundation for the development of the faith community nursing certification through portfolio. The ability to operationalize and administer individual credentialing programs is one of ANCC’s core competencies, and ANCC is the only nurse credentialing organization to achieve ISO 9001:2008 certification in the design, development and delivery of global credentialing services and support products for nurses and health care organizations.

“Certification through portfolio is an excellent method for credentialing and will greatly serve the nursing profession. We look forward to continuing a productive collaboration with Health Ministries Association (HMA) and its members to support the important work they do in communities of all faiths,” said Executive Vice President and Chief ANCC Officer Linda C. Lewis, MSA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE.

“We are honored to collaborate with ANCC in providing the portfolio credentialing option for faith community nursing. As an alternative board certification methodology, the portfolio offers a means by which faith community nurses can articulate their specialized knowledge and expertise with the same rigor applied to national certification exams. ANCC board certification provides a credible means for HMA members and all faith community nurses to validate their knowledge, engage in lifelong learning, and be recognized for their passion, commitment, and vital contributions,” stated HMA President Marlene Feagan, MA, BSN, RN.

**About ANCC**

The mission of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs. ANCC’s internationally renowned credentialing programs certify and recognize individual nurses in specialty practice areas. ANCC recognizes health care organizations that promote nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes while providing safe, positive work environments. In addition, ANCC accredits health care organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education. ANCC’s Credentialing Knowledge Center offers educational materials to support nurses and organizations as they work toward their credentials. ANCC is the first and only health care certification organization in the United States to have successfully achieved ISO 9001:2008 certification. [nursecredentialing.org](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/)

**About HMA**

The mission of the Health Ministries Association (HMA) is to encourage, support and empower leaders in the integration of faith and health in local communities. HMA includes faith community nurses, health ministers, program leaders and spiritual leaders who have developed health ministries in diverse faith communities. They are available to assist you in your development of meaningful approaches to health, healing and wholeness. [hmassoc.org](http://hmassoc.org/)