Tom Pruski, RN, MAPS

*Heal the Sick Program, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC*

Tom Pruski, RN, MAPS directs the work of the Heal the Sick program of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC and works closely with other staff to coordinate and develop faith community health networks, institutional and congregational partnerships. Tom serves as lead faculty and curriculum manager for the health minister and faith community nurse certificates for the seminary.

He is a licensed, registered nurse with a Masters in Pastoral Studies with over 19 years of health ministry experience. Currently, Tom is pursuing his Doctorate of Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Faith, Health, and Community.

Tom has trained over 360 health advocates to lead a variety of health ministries and health and wellness initiatives in their congregations. Tom has led a team at the seminary to develop and implement a health minister education certificate at the seminary using HMA’s “The Health Minister Role: Guidelines and Foundational Curriculum Elements” as the foundation for its curriculum. Under Tom’s direction and leadership, the seminary adapted the health minister certificate to an online learning platform and it is now offered to a national audience.

Tom has served in numerous leadership roles for the Health Ministries Association’s (HMA) including being its Nominations Chair, 2014 national conference chair, and numerous national conference planning committees. He is currently HMA’s national director for health ministry. He was the lead author in HMA’s 2011 “The Health Minister Role: Guidelines and Foundational Curriculum Elements”. Tom led HMA’s health minster education committee to publish “The Health Minister Role: Guidelines and Foundational Curriculum Elements – Second Edition” (expected publication in early 2017). Tom is a lifetime member of HMA.

Tom is actively engaged in regional and national collaborative conversations on faith and health partnerships throughout the United States. For example, Tom played a critical role in organizing local and regional health ministers for focus groups and field testing of a health minister guide (HMG) on bladder health produced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. This health minister guide was the first in a new series of publications produced by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships to translate science into practical and useful ways to impact community health.