CURRENT & FUTURE TRENDS IMPACTING HEALTH MINISTRY

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HMA Annual Conference 2017

Thank You for Being Part of Health Ministry

Historical & Theological Framework for Health Ministry

• Assorted Writings and Presentation of Thomas A. Droge
  - The Church’s Challenge in Health Promotion
  - The Church’s Challenge in the Prevention of Premature Death
  - The Faith Factor in Health
  - Healthy Faith
  - New Perspectives on the Integration of Spirituality and Medicine
  - Premises and Previews of Health and Healing: The Relationship of Health and Healing in Today’s World
  - Spirituality and Health
  - Theological Reflections on Holistic Health Ministry: The Wesleyan Tradition Continues Today

Source: Interfaith Health Program website
http://theihp.org/2014/08/06/assorted-writings-and-presentations-of-thomas-a-droge/
Contemporary Seminal Document
Shaping Current & Future Health Ministry Practice

• Guidelines for Health Minister Role and Foundational Curriculum Elements, 2nd Edition (HMA)
  – Provides foundational language and concepts for health ministry
  – Mentions several emerging issues and trends
  – Provides core curriculum elements for formally training health ministers

Qualitative & Quantitative Research Used to Compile Current Health Ministry Trends

• 2016-2017 Congregational Interviews (Wesley HTS, S=12)
• 2017 Well-Being Survey of Active United Methodist Church U.S. Clergy (United Methodist Board of Pensions, S=1,360)
• 2016 Joint Faith Community Nurse Survey (Westburg & HMA, S=412)
• 2017 Faith Community Health Ministry Readiness Survey (Wesley HTS, S=81)
• 2017 Health Minister Certificate (Wesley HTS, S=53)

Wesley Theological Seminary
Heal the Sick Program

• Began in 2013; part of a new Institute for Community Engagement
• Primary Mission – Education
• Conducts Research
  • Congregational Interviews
  • Congregational Readiness Survey for Health Ministry
  • Health Minister Certificate
Wesley Theological Seminary

- Wesley is one of the most diverse seminaries in the world.
- Enrollment – about 500 students
  - 56% are women
  - 48% from ethnic minority
  - 38 denominations
- Long history & involvement in Health Ministry

Mission of Wesley Theological Seminary & Heal the Sick

Equip the whole people of God for the work of ministry - for leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square.

Prepare leaders to advance whole person health and well-being of individuals, communities, and congregations, especially those who are underserved.

Wesley Health Minister Certificate (Wesley)

- 22 hour curriculum, 10 modules curriculum based on HMA Health Minister Core Curriculum Elements
- 110 Health Ministers trained in-person over 3 years (Baltimore to Newport News, VA)
- +53 health ministers trained online (Jan. 2017 till July 2017)
- Uses Pre & Post Training Evaluation Surveys to note changes in knowledge, skills, and attitude
- Based on surveys, most popular health minister modules
  - Active listening
  - Spiritual Practices – Mindfulness, Theological reflection, Journal
- Engages with other Universities, Graduate Students (MPH),
Meta Analysis of Reviewed Research & How They Shape Current Health Ministry Trends

Congregations

- Congregations minister well to EITHER their own members and/or outside their congregation walls (most), some do BOTH (rare)
- Common ‘Commuter element’ found in congregations; people may travel (up to 2 hours) to a ‘home’ church
- Differing Generational Views Impacting Sense of Community @ Church (Millennial, Senior congregants)
- ‘Silos’ commonly exist among ministries @ church, preventing coordination of ministries

Meta Analysis of Research Studies & How They Shape Current Health Ministry Trends

- Varying views and acceptance on being in ministry and being ministered to
- Congregation Vary Greatly in Different Levels of Organization in Resources, Infrastructure to Ministries, Defining Minister Roles, Communication/Collaboration Among Ministries
- Self-Care is usual secondary for ministry leaders in interviews; Self-Care seen as an afterthought because of lack of time dedicated to ministry
Clergy
(Source: United Methodist Board of Pensions, 2017 Well-Being Survey of Active United Methodist Church U.S. Clergy)

- 80% report working long hours, balanced with few vacation time
- 43% report feeling overweight
- 7% suffer from depression as measured by frequency of depressive symptoms
- 2.5% are current users among current users for depression, managing their symptoms
- 58% report high or very high levels of financial anxiety
- 52% report being very or extremely satisfied with their retirement plans

Congregations & Health Ministry

How long has a health ministry been in existence at the church?

- 30.3% Not applicable
- 11.1% 1 year or less
- 11.1% 1-3 years
- 11.1% 3-5 years
- 30.3% More than 5 years
How often does the health ministry team meet?

- Not applicable: 19.8%
- Once a Quarter: 13.5%
- One meeting per month: 4.2%
- One meeting per week: 12%
- More: 50.2%

Is clergy in regular communication with health ministry team or lead health minister?

- Not applicable: 25.6%
- Yearly: 19.0%
- Quarterly: 11.1%
- Monthly: 11.1%
- Weekly: 0.0%
- Daily: 35.5%

Regular reports provided by health ministry to church leadership

- Not applicable: 16.5%
- Yearly: 17.3%
- Quarterly: 12.4%
- Monthly: 13.7%
- Weekly: 0.0%
- Daily: 33.9%
Does the congregation have dedicated Funds & a Budget for Health Ministry?

- 61.7%: We do not have a budget for any of our health ministry work.
- 12.0%: We work on health activities as funds, grants, and resources are available.
- 12.0%: We receive funds from our faith community’s budget to do our health ministry work.
- 6.0%: We receive funds from our faith community’s budget to do our health ministry work and we review the bu...

Has a congregation asset & need survey ever been done?

- 23.3%: Never
- 12.0%: Within the last 1.3 years
- 12.0%: In the past 5.5 years
- 4.0%: Five more years
- 50.0%: More years

Who were the survey results shared with?

- Pastor/clergy: 31 (50.0%)
- Ministry lead: 25 (75.0%)
- Congregational: 14 (42.0%)
- Local: 0 (0.0%)
The Congregation, Health Ministry, & Its Relationships With Other Institutions

Congregational Partnerships with Health Care Institutions

- We do not have a partnership with a health care institution.
- We do not have a relationship with a health care institution that supports health ministries, but we are working...
- We occasionally partner with a health care institution that supports health ministries.
- We have an ongoing, active partnership with a health care inst...

Congregational Partnerships with Research/Educational Institution

- We do not have a partnership with a research or educational institution.
- We do not have a relationship with a research or educational institution that supports community-based research.
- We occasionally partner with a research or educational institution that
Health Ministry Roles:
Faith Community Nurse (FCN) & Health Ministers (HM)

Health Ministry Roles

• Faith Community Nurse
  - Employment
    - 40% employed by a healthcare organization (40%)
    - 20% of FCNs are employed by faith communities
    - 60% of FCNs are unpaid
  - FCN Age
    - 60% FCNs are over 60 years of age
    - Less than 15% of FCN’s under 50 years of age

• Health Ministry
  - Most UNPAID
  - Exploring a Potential Payment Model - Community Outreach Worker role
  - A Few States Provide Limited Reimbursement under ACA for Role
  - Need for Cross Training in Faith & Health
  - Both pushing for ‘value’ of contributions, recognition, role sustainability

Important Notes to Meta Analysis of Current Health Ministry Trends

• Each trend based has its own limits (sample size, bias, etc.)
• More research needs to done to reaffirm findings
• Common trends begin to emerge around:
  - Congregations & Its Culture
  - Health Ministry in Congregational Setting
  - Health Ministry Roles
  - Health Ministry & Its Relationship with General Society/Institutions
RURAL
URBAN
SUBURBAN
HEALTH MINISTRY SAMPLES
HMA Annual Conference 2017

JILL SCHAFER BSN, RN
RURAL HEALTH MINISTRY MODEL
HEALTH MINISTRY FISHER TITUS MEDICAL CENTER
HURON COUNTY OHIO
HMA Annual Conference 2017

Huron County
• 1 hr from Cleveland and Toledo
• Population- approx. 60,000
• 90% Caucasian
• Large agricultural
• Hospital biggest employer
Fisher Titus Health

Fisher Titus Medical Center
not for profit community hospital less than 99 beds

Health Ministry

- Started in 2000
- "Health Ministry"
- Community served
- Unpaid model
- Changes/Connecting

Mission Statement
To enable, encourage and support the formation of a health and wellness ministry by working collaboratively with congregations in communities served by Fisher-Titus, while respecting the uniqueness and needs of each congregation or faith community.

Current Trends

- Blood Pressures
- Monthly health blurb/Newsletter
- Feeding Programs
- Medical Notebook
- CPR/AED
Future Trends

- Community Health Assessment
- Population Health

HEALTH MINISTRY IN URBAN ARIZONA: A SNAPSHOT OF ISSUES AND TRENDS
REV. KAREN MACDONALD
FAITH COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS NETWORK, TUCSON, AZ

HMA Annual Conference 2017
Health Ministry in Southern Arizona

Mission Statement: Faith Community Health and Wellness Network (FCHWN) is an intentional, spiritual presence promoting health and wellbeing in and through faith communities.

Scope of Health Ministry

- Oldest health ministry is 20 years old; newest is 1 year old.
- Sample activities in congregations:
  - Organ donation education on Sunday morning and with youth group
  - End of life care planning workshops
  - Monthly blood pressure checks
  - Visiting those sick or in hospital
  - Health fairs
  - Healing services, such as during holidays
- A few health leaders are paid, most are unpaid
- Congregational Health Leader training

Sampling of Current Issues

- Older adults
- Mental health
- Immigration
- Diverse populations
Emerging Challenges/Opportunities

- Expanding population of older adults
- Environmental concerns
- Connecting health ministry with youth
- End of Life Care Partnership
- Strengthening and expanding the capacity of FCHWN

TOM PRUSKI MAPS, RN
SUBURBAN HEALTH MINISTRY MODEL
WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, DC

Mt. Vernon, VA

- 30 min. from Washington, DC
- DC Population- approx. 9,331,587
- Diverse population in race, cultural, and faiths
- Numerous Hospitals and Healthcare Systems in VA
Mt. Vernon, VA
- Busy four lane highway (Route 1) dominates community’s main thoroughfare.
- Numerous big box stores and shopping centers along Route 1
- Numerous faith communities are located along Route 1

INOVA- Hospital Partner of Wesley HTS

Current Issues
- High Poverty Rate
- Lack of Primary Care Practitioners
- Large Immigration Population
- Diversity of Faiths
- Growing aging population
- Advanced Care
- Lack of extensive transportation network
- Excessive alcohol, drug abuse, and domestic violence
- High Emergency Room Usage in community
Current Health Ministry Environment

- UNPAID congregational health ministry model
- Volunteer Chaplains at hospital link to community congregations
- Wesley provides Health Ministry training; INOVA Hospital provides scholarships
- Ambiguous Commitment by Hospital to Support Ongoing Mt. Vernon Health Ministries
- Main Health Issues faced by HM’s
  - Diabetes
  - Advanced Care
  - Mental Health Care & Services

Emerging Challenges/Opportunities

- Stabilize Networking anchor for congregational health ministries
- Bring health ministers together on regular basis
- Develop leadership capacity of passionate health ministries
- Create Mentoring Opportunities for Health Ministries
- Strengthening the relationship between congregations and other institutions through hospital (or other) network

Context Shaping the Future of Health Ministry
Current Uncertainty of Healthcare Presents Many Challenges

• Research - DO people know what health ministry is on basic level?
  - Congregation, Clergy

• ‘Sustainability’ Issues for Health Ministry Overall
  - Most Faith Community Nurses & Health Ministers are UNPAID
  - Aging Faith Community Nurse population

Who will Support Critical & Essential Role of Health Ministers & Faith Community Nurses in Health & Wellness?

Future Health Ministry Trends

• **Spirituality** is at heart of health ministry - make it operational on a daily basis - personally and communally.

• Educate Others about Health Ministry - *Educate, Educate, Educate,* in Multiple Sectors (congregation, business, faiths, education, government, etc.)

• Improve Communication about Health Ministry, especially with Clergy & Congregations

• Health Ministry has a Big Tent – seek out, promote mutual respect and diversity of roles.

• **Build Capacity** of Congregations in Health Ministry by Promoting Formal Health Ministry Education, esp. at Congregational Level
Future Health Ministry Trends

- Health Ministries are **Unique** to Each Geographical Area
- Tell Health Ministry **Story** (social media, Facebook, videos, etc.)
- Develop and seek out relationships between faith traditions
- Engage in **Research** (in small and BIG ways) to Understand Congregational Cultural & Health Ministry
- Develop More Mentoring, Formal Training, Networking Capacities at all levels of ministry practice

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It’s up to **You** to Shape the Future of Health Ministry

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