

HMA Bio: Denise Viker, BSN, RN

I began my nursing career in the Intensive Care Unit. It only took a few years for me to learn that I was better suited with patients who were not intubated. I worked in a Home Dialysis Unit for many years, progressing from educating patients, to educating staff, and then into a management role. Once I became a mom, I wanted a schedule that matched my children and began working in a Christian School. In 2001, the pastor of my church asked me to consider attending a Foundations course in preparation to become the Parish Nurse. Initially, I declined, but quickly the Holy Spirit showed me that I was being called to serve in this role. I accepted the call, and began a program of Health and Wellness ministry at Desert Cross Lutheran Church. The ministry grew as the church grew, and I now serve a multi-site congregation.

My role at Desert Cross brought me in contact with many wonderful nurses who were serving in health ministry. I learned many things from their programs and experiences, and appreciate the ways in which they helped me grow in service to God. In 2010, I assumed the role of Director of Congregational Health for Duet, a Phoenix non-profit organization which provides education and support for program development. In 2014, I began working with Dignity Health as the Field Coordinator for the Center for Faith Health Partnerships, using my experience to shepherd other congregations who are interested in creating health and wellness faith-focused programs. I am also blessed to work with nursing students, providing them opportunities to learn about community health.

I see HMA as a dynamic place for clergy, nurses, health ministers, and others to come together to share creative ideas, best practices, and resources utilizing technology to facilitate communication across the country. Our membership, with its diversity, experience, and passion, is a wealth of knowledge for impacting wellness in our communities. I would like to shepherd the team as we journey together as “People of Faith Working Together for Healthier Communities” tackling the health challenges facing our society.