The parish nurse understands health to be a dynamic process which embodies the spiritual, psychological, physical and social dimensions of the person.

The parish nurse, in collaboration with the pastoral staff and congregational members, participates in the ongoing transformation of the faith community into a source of health and healing. Through partnership the parish nurse fosters new and creative responses to health and wellness concerns.

“I have come that you may have life, and may have it in all its fullness.”
John 10:10

Co-sponsored with the Avera Parish Nurse Center.

Augustana University
Sioux Falls, SD
Purpose of the Parish Nursing Center

To educate registered nurses to meet the health needs within a congregation.

What is a Parish Nurse?

A parish nurse (also known as Faith Community Nurse) is a registered nurse who facilitates the wholistic health of a congregation or faith community, thus reclaiming the health ministry of the church. The parish nurse focuses on the spiritual, emotional, physical and social dimensions of persons as they strive to achieve wellness and wholeness. The parish nurse functions as a health educator, health counselor, referral agent, and an advocate, while promoting the understanding of the relationship of faith and health.

Parish Nursing at Augustana

To meet the needs of more nurses traveling from a distance, and those with busy family and personal as well as professional lives, the Augustana parish nurse course provides a hybrid format. Approximately two thirds of the course is on-line. This is followed by two days on-site. A participant must complete both the on-line and the on-site portions to receive a certificate of completion. Specific details will be provided with registration.

Parish Nurse Preparation

This Foundations of Faith Community Nursing (Parish Nursing) course prepares the nurse to initiate and maintain a parish nurse ministry within a given congregation, and to function in the leadership role for the faith community’s health ministry.

The curriculum focuses on the concepts of spirituality, professionalism, wholistic health, and community.

Specific topics include:
- History and philosophy of parish nursing
- Spiritual care
- Healing and wholeness
- Self-care
- Legal and ethical issues
- Documentation
- Communication and collaboration
- Getting started
- Health promotion
- Accessing resources
- Advocacy
- Care coordination

This Foundation of Faith Community Nursing Curriculum is based on the curriculum developed through the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, which curriculum is owned by Church Health Center of Memphis, Inc., 1210 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104.

2016 Offering

The Foundation of Faith Community Nursing course will be offered in two parts. The first part will be offered January 25 through March 19, 2016. This part will be offered in modules of approximately two hours each. The later part of the course will be held April 14-15, 2016 at Avera Central Office in Sioux Falls, SD. Both sections of the course are required for completion. The registration fee is $550, payable to Augustana University. Registration deadline is January 11, 2016. Late registration (postmarked after January 11, 2016) is $575.

This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Alabama State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

Contact

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