



Health Ministries Action Team (HMAT) Meeting @ MN Church Center, Room 508

Date: August 16, 2017; 1-3 PM

Present: Wanda Alexander, Gretchen Fogo, Tracy Keibler, Judy Lightowler (by phone), Carol Walvatne, Ed Holland (Team Leader)

Excused: Stephanie Escher & Marion Hansen

Agenda/Minutes: Recorded & Submitted by Ed Holland

Introductions & Check-in (Members of the HMAT): Today was the first meeting of the newly constituted HMAT, a Team which hasn't met for several years.

MAC, Mission Promotion Team & the Health Ministries Action Team (Reports, Rosters, etc.): Organizational "chart" and reporting relationship were reviewed, as was the "Journey Toward Vitality" conference initiative. We discussed how and where our HMAT fits and agreed that wholistic health ministries are integral and vital to:

"Growing in love of God and neighbor

Reaching new people

Healing a broken world"

Golden Cross Sunday Offering (GCSO) & Grants (Current Balance & Application Form): Golden Cross Sunday is a day set aside to highlight and support the health ministries of the MAC, traditionally observed annually on the first Sunday in May. A mandatory Golden Cross offering is to be received to financially support authorized health care ministries in the MAC, such as parish/faith community nurses, AED education, health promotion and wellness programs, etc. Grant requests are reviewed and approved or not approved as they are received by the HMAT. The GC fund balance, as of July, 2017, was \$7,722. No requests or awards are pending as of today. The Team discussed ways to promote the GCSO but nothing was decided nor action taken.

MN UM Parish Nurse Association (MUMPNA) & Faith Community Nurse Network (FCNN): Judy and Wanda reported about these organizations and their activities, both designed to promote and support parish/faith community nursing. Go to: <http://www.mumpna.com> and <http://www.fcnnct.org> for more information.

Examples of Health Ministry Projects: Activities and programs were discussed as possible priorities for promotion and action by our Team. It seemed that the most energy and enthusiasm focused on older adult ministries. Concern was expressed by several Team members that, with so much focus on youth and young adult ministries, older adults and their needs are being neglected or forgotten. Gretchen and Tracy shared examples of some of the work that they've done with congregations. All agreed that this should be a priority for our Team.

A first step will be to heighten awareness in the MAC about the needs of older adults and share examples of programs that congregations and community groups have offered.

Gretchen and Tracy agreed to write an "article" that could be used as a foundational outline. Other Team members were encouraged to add their written comments and suggestions, which Ed will review and edit. He'll then contact Christa Meland, the MAC Director of Communications, in hopes that she'll help publicize our concerns and ideas.

Among those ideas are the following. Parish/faith community nurses have been, are, and will be important initiators. However, not all congregations have parish nurses on staff. This means that others in congregations will need to help.

Advance Care Planning

The Age Wave & End of Life Ministries

Disability Awareness

Caregiver Support

Impact of Changes in the ACA (Affordable Care Act)

Other

What's Next? Please submit by email your ideas and suggestions re. the above "older adult initiative" to Ed Holland by September 20.

Next Meeting: TBD

Upcoming MAC-UMC Events:

Twin Cities District Ministry Resources Seminar, September 16, 9 AM to 12 Noon @ Centennial UMC in Roseville

Church-School Partnership Round-Up, September 16, 10 AM to 2 PM @ Hennepin Ave. UMC

Mission Summit in Duluth, September 30, 9 AM to 3:30 PM @First UMC

Conversations on Aging, September 30, 9 AM to 12:30 PM @ Perham UMC