

Roles of a Parish Nurse/ Faith Community Nurse

A Parish Nurse is an Integrator of Faith and Health, reminding people to care for the body, mind, and spirit. The parish nurse fills many roles within a faith community. These roles may include:

Health Educator, providing programs in all formats from one-on-one to group seminars, encouraging the understanding of the connection between faith and well-being and the needs of the community at large. Educational programs may include all aspects of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

Coordinator of care, enlisting, training, and assisting volunteers within the faith community to support members with their health and wellness needs.

Resource person, assisting members in identifying and securing appropriate and available resources that address health and spiritual needs across the health care continuum.

Health advocate and counselor, aiding members in the understanding of health concerns and helping members access appropriate health care. In this role, the parish nurse may assist members with life transforming issues.

Member of the pastoral team, collaborating with the spiritual leaders to provide faith education and worship offerings, comfort and support to members in need, and visitation to members in their homes or in various health care settings.



Benefits of Membership

1. Participate in educational events sponsored by the organization, with continuing education units offered. These events promote professional and spiritual growth
2. Access to the ELPNA Member Directory for networking purposes
3. Reduced fees for educational program registration
4. Access to the Members Only portion of the website, which contains valuable resources
5. Access to a member discount for The Journal of Christian Nursing (JCN) subscription
6. Access to a discount for joining Nurses Christian Fellowship, which includes the JCN subscription
7. Allows you to respond to your responsibility to belong to a professional nursing organization as a parish/faith community nurse

For more information

Visit www.elpna.org or contact elpna.national@gmail.com

The ELPNA is a 501c3 organization under the auspices of the ELCA.

For purposes of this brochure, the terms Parish Nurse and Faith Community Nurse are used interchangeably. The term Parish Nurse is rooted in the Lutheran tradition.

Revised 7/2022

Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven . Matthew 5:16



Who is Eligible for Membership?

An ELPNA Parish Nurse/ Faith Community Nurse:

- is a Registered Nurse, currently licensed to practice professional nursing (preferred Baccalaureate preparation).
- has completed a faith community nurse course to prepare them for this ministry. A course is not required for Associate Members.
- practices, utilizing the *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* as developed by the Health Ministries Association (HMA) and the American Nurses Association (ANA).
- ministers in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the beliefs of the Lutheran Church in which they serve.
- serves a Lutheran congregation as a Faith Community Nurse or is a member of a Lutheran congregation.
- may be a retired Faith Community Nurse who served a Lutheran parish or currently belongs to a Lutheran congregation.
- may be a Faith Community Nurse Coordinator serving an organization that is Lutheran and/or supervises Lutheran Faith Community Nurses.



Why Join?

Why Join the ELPNA?

- To promote and encourage development of parish nursing ministries within Lutheran congregations
- To enhance and support the spiritual development of Lutheran Parish Nurses
- To support parish nurses in their ministries and encourage appropriate compensation and benefits
- To provide networking opportunities and forums for sharing programs, projects, and resources
- To promote wellness among congregational members and church leaders
- To support relationship development with synods and the broader Church, through which the organization promotes integration of Parish Nurse ministry in the future Church

Parish Nursing Practice is governed by

- * The state nurse practice act directing the parish nurse's activities
- * *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*
- * *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*
- * *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*

How to Join ...

1. Visit www.elpna.org and click on "Join Us"
2. Scroll down the page to find the membership options
3. Select a membership option:
 - \$40.00 for one year
 - \$60.00 for two years,
 - Associate Member: Same dues as above, but open to RNs who have not taken a PN/FCN preparation course. Please see specific parameters on the website.
 - \$300.00 for a lifetime membership
 - \$20.00 for those retired as both a PN/FCN and from any other nursing position. No active nursing license required.
 - A new Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse who completes a preparation course will receive one full or partial year free membership, depending on completion date of course.
 - New members joining July 1 and following in a calendar year will pay prorated dues of \$20.00 for the remainder of the year with renewal for the full amount in the following year.
4. Complete all questions on your membership profile

Please note

- Members joining or renewing in November or December are enrolled for the subsequent year
- Dues may be paid online or by personal check. Send a request to elpna.national@gmail.com for the address of our current treasurer.