



Benefits of Health Ministry for Your Congregation

1. The Church can reclaim and enhance the healing role of the Body of Christ.
2. The quality of life for individuals, families, congregations and communities can be improved and Christ's desire for us to live an "Abundant Life" becomes a reality as spelled out in the policy statement adopted by the General Assembly in 1988.
3. Most congregations are already involved, to some extent, in the ministry of health, whether or not that title is used. Intentional Health Ministry programs assist and support clergy and staff.
4. Health Ministry programs provide wonderful opportunities to welcome and integrate new members into the life of the congregation. Individuals, families, congregations and communities are offered the opportunity to incorporate their belief system and spiritual intentions into their daily lifestyle choices.
5. Health problems, both temporary and chronic, are present but not always shared with church staff and the membership. The church staff and leaders will have a ready resource for health questions related to their own or members concerns
6. Health Ministry's emphasis on "Wellness" reduces illness care costs.
7. Frail, elderly people can remain in their homes more readily, thereby increasing their life satisfaction and reducing the cost of care. In addition, congregation members can create meaningful intergenerational experiences through enjoyable programs such as recording oral histories and pet visitation.
8. Chronically ill persons can be resourced for promotion of optimal self-care. The church can provide for health education, advocacy and referral.
9. Personal responsibility for health and lifestyle choices will be encouraged and supported.
10. Health Ministries can open the ground of our hearts for the seeds of God's love to be planted and to grow for building a better world for all of God's children for living out the Golden Rule.

Jesus said, *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*
John 10:10