

Jesus had a healing ministry.

Jesus healed both body and spirit. He sent his earliest followers out for ministry that included not only preaching but healing (Luke 9:2). As his followers we seek to do as Jesus and the disciples did.

The body and spirit belong together.

In the scope of history, the separation of body from spirit is relatively recent—only in the last two or three hundred years. However, the Bible is consistent on their union, so the work of the church includes bringing them back together.

Health ministry makes a difference.

Both individuals and the congregation as a whole benefit from health ministry. As the congregation journeys to find wholeness and well-being as individuals, they discover that together they are better prepared to reach out and serve the community around them.

Why Congregational Health Ministry?

Q. Don't we have doctors for when we get sick? Why do we need health ministry at church?

A. Health ministry in the congregation plays an essential role not just in preventing some illnesses but in embodying the gospel's call to live whole and healing lives.

Churches hold many of the ingredients of healing.

Health ministry is an organized effort to address health and wellness needs in the congregation, but it can take many forms. Worshipers see each other regularly. All ages participate. Social support is available. Volunteers are ready to help. They influence the surrounding community. They reach out to those in need—including need for healing. All these factors contribute to health.

Health is for the whole person.

God loves the whole person. Congregations can assist with change in all the dimensions of life that impact health—emotional, nutrition, movement, medical and work, along with the more obvious areas of faith and friendship.

Healing ministry is love in action.

Congregational health ministry puts action on the words we believe—that we are beloved by God, that God offers us an abundant life, that Jesus healed both body and spirit. Building on the assets already present in their midst, congregations can motivate people in ways most health-minded programs cannot touch. Health ministry is a natural fit in a faith community, in everything from blood pressure clinics, cooking classes, exercise groups, social gatherings, and support groups to having a faith community nurse as a paid member of the staff.