

**Health ministry** is “the intentional reaching out to others by a church that promotes health. Health is understood as harmony with self, others, the environment and God. The motivation for health ministry comes from a shared understanding of the call to wholeness as illuminated in Christian tradition. Health ministry includes the intrinsically health promoting qualities of a congregation and the health services provided with the support of a health professional. Health ministry respects the culture in which it is expressed, recognizing individual and community responsibility for health among those it serves.”

Chase-Ziolek, M. (1999). The meaning and experience of health ministry within the culture of a congregation with a parish nurse. Journal of Transcultural Nursing, 10(1), 46-55.

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I just wanted to let you know about a great outcome from our blood pressure clinics we are doing at my church. We had provided the checks last week and a gentleman found out his BP was up. The next am he had some chest pain when he went for a walk and since he knew his BP had been up, he decided he better get it checked. He went in and saw the Dr that day and the Dr felt he needed to be sent to Topeka. He ended up having a small heart attack in route to Topeka and they ended up doing angioplasty. He was able to come home the following day. This gentleman was at church on Sunday and at our voter's meeting he stood up and let everyone know how he felt this service (Parish nursing) helped save his life! Just thought you would like to hear about this.

## **Who are Congregational Health Promoters?**

Congregational Health Promoters are volunteers who provide information about health care and wellness and encourage healthy lifestyle behaviors among members of their congregations and surrounding communities.

### **CHPS:**

- ◆ **Are Natural Helpers**
- ◆ **Are respected by their congregations**
- ◆ **Caring and concerned for their own health & well-being as well as others**
- ◆ **Understand that health is more than medical**
- ◆ **Are resourceful and dependable**
- ◆ **Are open-minded and sensitive**
- ◆ **Possess some degree of organizational skills**
- ◆ **Know when to ask for help**
- ◆ **Care for their own spiritual lives**