Faith Community Nurse Network of the Greater Twin Cities

White Paper on Research Emphasis within the Network

The mission of the Faith Community Nurse Network (FCNN) is to champion faith community nursing through education, program and professional development, networking, advocacy, and research. Bold FCNN 2013 research initiatives reflect the organization's belief that ongoing discovery of knowledge, dissemination of research findings, and evidence-based practice are foundational to specialized practice in faith community nursing. A profession is accountable to the broader society for shaping and advancing its knowledge base in each area of specialized practice. To this end, FCNN is committing organizational resources in four research related areas: strengthening FCNN research infrastructure, partnering with regional graduate nursing programs to promote research in faith community nursing, encouraging young nursing scholars to focus research on faith community nursing practice, and raising awareness of evidence-based practice among practicing faith community nurses within its network.

Infrastructure strengthening is reflected in increased research focus of the Research and Education Council, and in forming a separate Research Committee to function as a "think tank" for research within the organization. The Research and Education Council has taken logistical responsibility for establishing and implementing FCNN research grant awards, as well as moving into other new research related activities. At its inaugural meeting in May 2013, the Research Committee crafted a purpose statement, listed committee responsibilities, and established goals for its first year. Both of these groups within the FCNN infrastructure reflect the organization's strong intent to champion research in increasingly significant ways.

Action plans have been projected by the Research and Education Council to encourage faith community nursing research in local and regional graduate nursing programs. Conversations with graduate nursing programs will be pursued to identify synergistic areas of mutual vision and to launch specific cooperative research partnerships.

Young nursing scholars will be challenged to launch research studies and programs that will build and test theories relevant to faith community nursing practice. In fall 2013, FCNN will issue a call for research proposals and will award grants to proposals holding promise of advancing faith community nursing.

The Continuing Education Committee and Research & Education Council are making plans to develop the October 2014 Workshop with a focus on some aspect of ongoing discovery of knowledge, dissemination of research findings, and/or evidence-based faith community nursing practice. The *Foundations of Faith Community Nursing* course curriculum offered by FCNN will be reviewed for appropriate inclusion of objectives interrelating theory, research and practice.

The intent is to position the FCNN, with its multiple research activities, as a strong partner locally, regionally, nationally and globally in building, testing, and disseminating knowledge foundational to the specialized practice of faith community nursing. Such a goal is appropriate to an organization soon to complete a decade that has been marked by significant contributions to faith community nursing within its local and regional area.