

PNIG AGM 2018

### **Resolution: PNIG Name Change**

**WHEREAS** *parish nursing* was the term used by Rev. Granger Westberg to describe the unique, specialized practice of professional nursing in faith communities; and

**WHEREAS** at first parish nurse programs were more common in Judeo-Christian faith communities, but now the concept of parish nursing has grown to include many other faith traditions; and

**WHEREAS** the term “parish” in *parish nursing* is not universally acceptable to, or inclusive of all faith traditions, and does not accurately label the location and central focus of practice; and

**WHEREAS** the current terminology used in the American Nurses Association (ANA) *Scope and Standards* document is “faith community nursing” (ANA-Health Ministries Association (HMA), 2005, p.2)

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Parish Nursing Interest Group (PNIG), be renamed Faith Community Nursing Interest Group (FCNIG)

#### **Background**

Within Canada and PNIG, parish nursing has not as yet grown to include other faith traditions. However, as a professional association representing this practice, we must have a name that reflects and is inclusive of the diversity of faith. In addition we should expect that registered nurse-led programs will evolve and grow across faith traditions. Patterson and Slutz (2011) wrote that “There are now approximately 15,000 Faith Community Nurses in a variety of congregations, synagogues and mosques around the United States and abroad” (p.32). Likewise this article argues for a preference to the term *parish nurse* in a Christian settings. “While the generic interfaith moniker of “Faith Community Nursing”, is certainly appropriate to describe this broad specialty across all faiths, the title “Parish Nurse” should not be abandoned by those working in the context of Christian faith communities.” (Patterson and Slutz, 2011, p. 32).

This same idea is found in the *Scope and Standards of Faith Community Practice*. “In a given setting, the faith community nurse may still be referred to as a *parish nurse*” or others titles

such as "congregational nurse, health ministry nurse, crescent nurse, or health and wellness" (ANA-HMA, 2005. p.2).

Since the term "parish" does recognize the Christian roots of wholistic nursing practice, this history should be acknowledged and up-held.

Hickman (2006) examined the major faith traditions that exist in America, and gives an overview, doctrines, and health related customs of the major faith traditions present in American culture. These are Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

Weis, Matheus, and Schank (1997) state that the doctrines of the major world religions contain "a clear relationship between their God and their physical, mental, and spiritual state" (p. 368).

This name change will also prevent the confusion and errors which have often occurred at RNAO Home Office and among other interest groups with similar anagrams, PCNIG, PedNIG, and PNEIG.

#### References

- American Nurses Association & Health Ministries Association. (2005). *Faith community nursing: Scope and standards of practice*. Silver Springs, MD: ANA.
- Hickman, J.S. (2006). *Faith Community Nursing*. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- Patterson, D.L., & Slutz, M. (2011). Faith community nursing/parish nursing: What's in a name? *Journal of Christian Nursing*, 28(1), 31-33.
- Weis, D., Matheus, R., & Schank, M.J. (1997). Health care delivery in faith communities: The parish nurse model. *Public Health Nursing*, 14(6), 368-372.