

Certificate in Parish Nursing

In 2010, the Institute for Ongoing Formation at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, established *Foundations in Parish Nursing*, an ecumenical education program for registered nurses interested in spirituality and health, and in understanding and establishing a Parish Nurse Ministry. This program meets the education requirements set forth by the Canadian Association for Parish Nursing Ministry (CAPNM).

Program Components

A - Foundations in Parish Nursing

A one-week Summer Residency offered biannually in July.

- Upon the successful completion of this component, the candidate receives a *Certificate of Completion for the Foundations in Parish Nursing Summer Residency Program*.
- **Spiritual Reflection paper:** includes a 3 – 5 page (double spaced) spiritual reflection paper outlining the candidate's experience, learning and desired direction regarding parish nursing following the summer study period. (*Feedback given but no grade assigned*). Due date: Sept. 11th 2016. This is to be forwarded to: cleach4@uwo.ca .

If the candidate wishes to complete a more comprehensive parish nursing education program as recommended by the Canadian Association for Parish Nursing Ministry, it is suggested that she/he pursue the *Foundations Plus* segment and study towards a **Certificate in Parish Nursing**.

B - Foundations Plus

During the next fourteen months or more following the summer residency, the parish nurse candidate will take part in and complete the following components of the *Foundations Plus Program*:

- The aforementioned spiritual reflection paper of the summer residency experience.
- Additional reading and assignments.
- Completion of a reflection paper on spiritual growth, an essay on parish nursing practice and a personal mission statement.
- Completion of 100 hours practicum experience utilizing a mentor as outlined in the CAPNM Standards of Practice and Core Competencies for Parish Nurses with feedback submitted from the mentor and mentee.
- Two on-line courses developed for this certificate and offered through the Institute for Ongoing Formation in affiliation with the University of Dayton.
- One weekend of on-site further study, generally held in September of the year following the Summer Residency. This will include a graduation ceremony for successful candidates.

To receive a registration form for the Foundations Plus program, contact Catherine Leach at St Peters Seminary by email at cleach4@uwo.ca.

Foundation Plus Assignments:

All assignments must be completed for a Certificate to be granted. They will be reviewed and evaluated by members of the program team.

Recommended Textbooks: The on-line courses and final weekend of study will include reading assignments from the following texts:

Hickman, Janet S. (2006). *Faith Community Nursing*. New York: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins.

O'Brien, Mary E. (2013). *Spirituality in Nursing: Standing on Holy Ground* (5th ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

O'Rourke, M., & Dufour, E. (2012). *Embracing the End of Life: Help for Those Who Accompany the Dying*. Toronto: Novalis.

Patterson, Deborah L. (2005). *Healing Words for Healing People: Prayers and Meditations for Parish Nurses and Other Health Professionals*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press.

- **Two on-line courses** are usually completed following the summer residency, but may be taken before if desired.
 - If you are not registered with the Foundations in Parish Nursing program, the cost of the online courses are \$50.00 (USD) for each of the 2 - 5 week courses, payable to [VLCFF](#). In addition, there is a \$25.00 (CDN) “one-time affiliation fee”, which is payable to St. Peter’s Institute for Ongoing Formation. Send your completed application form (link below) and \$25 cheque to the attention of Catherine Leach, 1040 Waterloo St. N., London, Ontario N6A 3Y1.
 - For those affiliated with St. Peter’s Institute for Ongoing Formation at St. Peter’s Seminary, (participants of the Foundations in Parish Nursing Program) the cost of the online courses are \$50.00 (USD) for each of the 2 - 5 week courses, payable to [VLCFF](#) and the one time affiliation fee to St Peter’s Institute is not required.
 - Both courses are offered in blocks of five sessions once each year. It is not possible to register for individual sessions during a course. Courses have been developed by Fran Hudson, RN, Parish Nurse and Anne Marie Webster, RN, Parish Nurse and endorsed by Rosemarie Matheus, RN, MSN.
 - VISIT: <http://www.stpetersseminary.ca/Programs/Parish-Nursing/21> under online courses to apply. Register early as class size is limited.
 - Successful completion earns 2.5 CEU's per course.
 - *Certificates of completion for successful nurses will be granted by both Dayton University and the Institute for Ongoing Formation.*

Foundations Plus Assignments Continued:

- **Reflection paper #2:** a 3 – 5 pages (double spaced) identifying ***ways to nurture personal spiritual development***, including goals for the candidate's own spiritual development (*feedback will be given but no grade assigned*). This will be due prior to the final September weekend. Due date to be announced.
- **Final Formal Essay:** an 8 – 10 page assignment (double spaced): ***identifying essential steps in creating a parish nurse practice***, including how to analyze needs of the parish/congregation and establishment of a health committee/council. It will also include reflections on these elements from the candidate's experience. This assignment will be marked and graded. Due date to be announced.

The essay will be graded on the following criteria:

- Inclusion of elements identified above under description of formal essay written clearly, logically and cohesively.
 - Provide original interpretations in one's own words.
 - Evidence of additional reading on the topic and references are cited appropriately.
 - Evidence of new insights gained and/or identifies additional questions for consideration.
 - Inclusion of connections to her/his own spiritual/faith growth.
 - Ensure essay free of spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors.
- **Weekend of Onsite Study:** The following assignments are required prior to the final study weekend and graduation in September.
 - The development of a personal mission statement, as outlined in the document *Wholeness Family Clinic: Writing a Personal Mission Statement*. This is to be completed prior to attending the September weekend and will be used in group discussion during that gathering (not formally submitted for evaluation).
 - Pre-reading from textbooks (to be assigned).

Practicum:

Between the Summer Residency and Graduation, (approximately 14 months), it is expected that the parish nurse candidate will complete 100 hours of practicum experience, related to parish nursing ministry. This can be paid or voluntary in nature.

During this time, the parish nurse candidate will keep a summary of hours spent in different areas of the practicum with explanatory comments. This is to be shared with their mentor which includes: various parish nursing experiences, professional development opportunities, and opportunities for support, spiritual growth and renewal.

- Mentorship Program: It will be expected that each parish nurse candidate secure a parish nurse mentor for the practicum experience. A list of potential mentors are available upon request. The name of the mentor must be submitted to cleach4@uwo.ca prior to establishing a mentor / mentee relationship for approval and then a mentoring package will be sent to the candidate with the necessary forms to be completed. The mentor and mentee are required to meet monthly to share their questions and experiences. This meeting can be done in person, by phone, or electronically i.e. Skype, depending on the location of the mentor. In addition, mentors from the parish leadership team may be helpful in providing feedback during the internship.

It will be expected that the parish nurse mentor will complete a midterm evaluation with the parish nurse candidate after she/he completes 50 hours of their practicum experience and a final evaluation after completion of 100 hours of practicum experience. Following review of the evaluation with the candidate, each evaluation is to be sent to Louise Trapp, the Administrative Coordinator, with the final evaluation to be received no later than July 31st prior to graduation.

Course Length:

For various reasons, candidates may not be able to complete the program within the established fourteen month timetable. In consultation with the Administrative Coordinator, this can be extended to enable the candidate to complete all of the requirements of the certificate program.

Further Study

Other opportunities for ongoing professional development will be planned for and made available following completion of the certificate. This may include conferences, retreats and distance education.

Revised July 27, 2016