

ICHM's Parish Nursing Ministry Support Resources

InterChurch Health Ministries (ICHM) has developed a way to support partner congregations and parish nurses in their ministry. The following is a summary of the ways ICHM provides this support.

1. **Practicum and Mentorship during Education Program**, enabling the Parish Nurse Candidate to practice the learning from the classroom, with the help of an experienced Parish Nurse.
2. **Access to Education Program after the Parish Nurse graduates** so that new Health Committee members and new clergy might access the learning opportunities, returning to the congregation with renewed energy and vision for the ministry. This also supports the transition in a congregation when a Parish Nurse begins a new ministry after a retirement or resignation.
3. **Consultation and support on a request basis for both parish nurses and congregational partners.** Often, the input of ICHM staff is requested based on a variety of issues.
4. **Regular Parish Nurse Support Group meetings.** In Ontario we support seven Parish Nurse Support Groups. Most meet monthly for the purpose of mutual support and learning.
5. **Regional Health Committee gatherings** are encouraged, sponsored by Parish Nurse Support Groups, providing an opportunity for Health Committee members to gather for learning and mutual support.
6. **An Annual Education Day** provides the opportunity for any member of a partner congregation to gather for further learning.
7. **An Annual Parish Nurse Retreat** provides a significant opportunity for Parish Nurses to gather for a time of rest and renewal around a variety of foci.
8. **Ongoing Information Forums** are the primary way that ICHM gets the word out about parish nursing ministry and the development of a congregational health and healing ministry
9. **Newsletter publication, *The Pulse*,** communicates the ministry of ICHM to partners and parish nurses.
10. **Monthly Parish Nursing Ministry Notes** emailed to Parish Nurses and Health Committees.
11. **Our Website**, which includes timely job postings, and an invaluable resource section.

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