

**“HEALTHY CONNECTIONS”
CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER OF HEALTH TRAINING**

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**ARE YOU READY TO BEGIN OR ENHANCE HEALTH MINISTRY
AT YOUR CHURCH?
THEN THE “HEALTHY CONNECTIONS’ TRAINING IS FOR YOU!**

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WHAT IS HEALTHY CONNECTIONS?

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“Healthy Connections” is a model ministry of Justice & Witness Ministries, UCC. It is designed to identify, train and certify lay persons in the church as ministers of health who are skilled and equipped to establish a health ministry in their congregation. The training cycle consists of four six-hour sessions over the course of 4 weeks. The sessions are facilitated by the Minister of Health Care Justice and/or various health professionals in your community and former Lay Ministers of Health.

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Training sessions include: Spirituality-Health Connections, Healthy Lifestyles and key health issues, Healthy People 2010, Health Care Justice, Health Disparities and Advocacy, Starting and/or Enhancing Your Health Ministry, Listening and Empowering Skills, Leadership Development, and Conducting a Congressional Assessment.

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WHO ARE HEALTHY CONNECTORS?

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Healthy Connectors are trained natural lay leaders who make a tremendous impact on the health and wellness of their congregations. Healthy Connectors may work with the congregation’s parish nurse or be instrumental in beginning the health ministry committee.

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WHY HEALTHY CONNECTIONS?

The mission of the United Church of Christ in Health and Human Services is rooted in the ministry of Jesus Christ and empowered by god's spirit. This mission calls upon UCC Congregations to commit to and engage in Diakonia—the ministry of healing, service, care, compassion and hospitality.

The Twenty-first General Synod Resolution encourages all UCC congregations to “Reclaim the Church’s Ministry of Health and Healing” by establishing or designating a body to address health and human service issues confronting members and their communities. This Synod Resolution recognizes health ministry and parish nursing as specialized ministries of the Church.

The Healthy Connection’s Program was created and developed in response to this GS Resolution. A specific goal of the training is to support lay health ministers as they establish or enhance congregational health ministries in their local churches and communities. At the end of the training, “Healthy Connectors” (Lay Ministers of Health) return to their local congregations and partner with the Health Care Justice Program, Justice and Witness Ministries to: share health information with their members, identify congregational health needs and plan health-related activities to address these needs, develop partnerships with local health and human service agencies, and advocate for health care justice. The program was not created to detract from a congregation’s Parish Nurse Ministry, if one already exists. Rather, it is designed to enhance, support and compliment existing health ministry programs or to establish a new ministry.

Lay Ministers of Health are affirmed and certified by the UCC national setting as a reminder that they have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of the United Church of Christ to serve. The Certification establishes that they are links and partners in this health ministry.

The program works with Conferences, Associations and local congregations to create a tailored program adapted to your community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Where the Church is, there is the mission. Where the Church is, there are those who have been called to live “for the sake of the other.”
United Church of Christ Mission Statement on Health and Human Services

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