



Health Minister Pledge

Wesley Theological Seminary’s Heal the Sick program offers an exciting educational opportunity for people in faith communities to build healthier faith communities as a Health Minister. Health Ministers can be clergy, professionals from various disciplines, stay at home parents, caregivers, and others trained to help families, friends, faith community members, and their community to find information and local resources and promote health and wellness in their faith community and/or the community at large. **While Health Ministers do not provide any level of direct medical care, they can provide basic information, promote health education and training, and make referrals to local health and human services.**

The Wesley Theological Seminary’s Heal the Sick program encourages faith communities to **create teams of 2-4 people or send people from current caring, whole person health ministries** to attend the Health Minister certificate. The certificate provides basic foundational knowledge and skills in understanding individual and community assets and needs in the new healthcare environment. Some of the practical pastoral skills of the certificate include listening skills in a helping relationship and how to grow spiritually in your role by reflecting on ministry experiences. These skills help clergy and faith community members to support faith community needs in areas such as homebound/sick visitation and promote healthier lifestyles in a faith community. The certificate helps enhance and support the needs, strengths, and preferences of the faith community to address whole person health in real practical ways.

A person who receives a Health Minister certificate is expected to:

- o Attend **all** Health Minister online certificate modules (22 hours) and **complete all evaluations & questionnaires.**
- o Make a **one year** commitment to serve their faith community as an active health minister
- o Keep in **regular communication and complete monthly health ministry reports** with Wesley Theological Seminary’s Heal the Sick regarding all health activities being organized and held so they can assist with resources, ongoing training needs, and assist with coordination among congregations.
- o Provide at least **10 hours per month** toward planning and implementing creative whole person health activities/ministries and be available to faith community members for information and referrals
- o **Attend Health Minister network meetings regularly** (about every other month with a summer break in meetings) to connect with other faith communities and learn about the latest information and health promotion programs and connect to a local or regional faith community network near you.
- o Implement at least **one health education/ health promotion activity** at their faith community within one year
- o **Meet regularly with their faith community leader** (pastor, senior ministry leader, rabbi, imam) and health committee of their congregation to coordinate and inform them of all health activities.
- o **Seek assistance** from available community resources, other faith communities, and Heal the Sick to answer questions and provide accurate health information and resources to community members
- o **Participate in ongoing learning and training opportunities** to help support their role in their faith community

I, _____, understand the responsibilities of a Health Minister or other designated title _____. I commit to use my time and talents to fulfill the role of Health Minister/_____ for my faith community at _____ and I accept the responsibilities listed above.

Your Signature _____ Date _____
Clergy Member’s Signature _____ Date _____