

Penn Northeast Conference Mental Health Ministry Team Purpose

Name of Ministry Team: Mental Health Ministry Team

Purpose of Team:

The Mental Health Ministry Team is established to resource and educate congregations and pastors regarding:

1. The WISE process (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Encouraging to individuals identified with Mental Illness) through the United Church of Christ,
2. Education around counseling guidance and resources for ongoing counseling,
3. Breaking down the silos between the community services and the local church,
4. Advocating for individuals with Mental Health conditions,
5. Addressing veterans and moral injury,
6. Providing resources for conversation and worship, and
7. Suicide Prevention education.

Describe how this Ministry Team aligns with the vision, mission, and goals of the Penn Northeast Conference and the United Church of Christ:

The Mental Health Ministry Team seeks to support PNEC Goal 2 - Develop and implement models/methods for collaboration and cooperation between congregations, ministers, the UCC, other denominations, and/or interfaith communities by providing:

- A WISE conference for education in 2022.
- Developing a resource list to support congregations and pastors in addressing the needs of individuals identifying with mental illness conditions in 2021.
- Providing Mental Health First Aid training in 2021.
- Provide information about suicide prevention and becoming a Lifesaving Church in 2021.
- Develop and distribute worship resources for congregations focused on serving individuals with mental illness throughout 2021-2022.
- Assess the support needed for local Veterans suffering from soul and moral injury throughout 2021-2022.

Describe how people can become engaged in this work of this Ministry Team

Individuals can volunteer to join or support the work of the Mental Health Ministry Team by contacting one of the co-conveners: Rev. Teresa Martin at RevTeresaMartin@outlook.com or Rev. Emily Hall at Emily.hall@nyac-umc.com