



Triennial Assembly 2016 - Diakonia: Engaging God's Mission Open Space Notes

Mental Illness Ministry

Barbara (Minnesota)

Offer opportunity to gather for spiritual support and worship during January and February. Also offer material support when needed. We don't talk about mental health issues among ourselves. We can talk about everything but don't talk about mental health issues. We don't have support for ourselves. Need to make mental health care a goal for ourselves. Need to make safe space for mentally ill to be open about their disease. Addiction and mental illness relationship. Has found forums to be good way to expand community. Also raise awareness and let people know what is needed materially and legislatively.

Susan (Delaware)

Folks from group homes come to church to mix with parish members over a meal for conversation and entertainment. Provide funeral services for those without families. Works with NAMI . Mental health first aid and QRS (question, resources, support) which provide intervention for suicide prevention.

The Episcopal Mental Illness Network (<http://www.eminnews.com/wp/>) is resource.

NAMI Faithnet is resource for presenting to church.

John (San Francisco)

Support for family members of those who commit suicide. Urban church with aging population. Wife works with street church.

Marj (Pennsylvania)

Need to bring people into the church so that they can be included and embraced by the community. They become "ours." How do we get faith community to bring more in or to expand their vision of what is their community?

Brenda (Minnesota)

Everytime we have a massacre, we are outraged about the guns. We should get rid of guns but we don't support the families of the killers. Stigma of mental health keeps people from getting help. Shaming of mental illness is barrier to getting help.

Janet Schisser (Missouri)