

Called to Care

What is Called to Care?

Called to Care is a resource which helps a church or other organization:

- ◆ develop a caregiving program
- ◆ train caregivers
- ◆ continue to develop and support the program and the caregivers

What is a “caregiving program”?

Caregiving may take many forms, and congregations or organizations may wish to organize some caregiving into programs to make them more helpful and effective.

For example:

- ◆ Many churches organize programs of visitation for members and friends who are homebound, or in hospitals or other care facilities
- ◆ A church might organize assistance for particular groups, such as young mothers; those recently widowed; or people who are themselves providing care for relatives. Programs to meet specific needs could be respite programs, support groups, social opportunities, or others.
- ◆ A church may want to offer support to a group which is in the community, or may itself offer services for groups outside the church, such as those with mental illness, prison ministry, or hospitality for resettling refugees.

How does Called to Care provide preparation for such varied programs?

A section of the manual aids church leaders as they seek to discern how the congregation is called, and as they plan for the particular form of ministry the church wishes to organize. Caregiver training has core elements which are basic to most forms of care. This basic training can be supplemented by resources and experts in the community.



What are Carecards?

For the ongoing use of caregivers in any program, **Called to Care** contains resource sheets called *Carecards* which

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summarize conditions and issues they may encounter. These range from domestic abuse to heart disease; from job loss to cancer. They also address social barriers which are important for caregivers to be aware of, such as heterosexism and racism.

Each card contains:

- ◆ basic background information
- ◆ targeted information for caregivers
- ◆ sample scriptures and prayers
- ◆ suggestions for congregation-wide involvement
- ◆ A listing of other helpful media, including books, video materials, websites, and organizations offering expertise and support.

Some related materials are available for purchase by programs. Samples of these are included with the resource notebook and/or CD. These are:

- ◆ caregiver pins
- ◆ a *Pocket Handbook* with prayers and psalms for caregivers' use
- ◆ *Caregiver Record Cards* to track encounters
- ◆ inspirational *Message Cards* to leave for support after visits.

