

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM) Releases New Website Site Will Expand the Reach of Health Ministry and Offer New Resources in Support of Resolution AO77.

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Indianapolis, IN, Monday, December 7, 2009-- National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM) today unveiled a powerful new resource for dioceses and local congregations exploring health ministries: a completely redesigned website with easier navigation, new resources, and a user-friendly design.

Resolution AO77 urges congregations to explore and implement health ministry by 2012 and to raise awareness of health ministries and promote the understanding that health includes body, mind and spirit. NEHM's new site will be a tremendous new resource for congregations striving to become vibrant, caring places of health and wholeness.

Why the site redesign?

“Our previous site had begun to suffer from trying to do too many things that it was never designed to do in the first place. Over time, this meant navigation on the site had become confusing,” said Matthew Ellis, executive director of NEHM. “We wanted to take this opportunity to redesign the site from the ground up and give everything a place, while also planning for future growth.”

How has the site improved?

1. **Free Access:** Previously, some information was held in reserve for ‘Members Only’. After much reflection, it is simply not consistent with our mission to not allow everyone to access all information available to them. The only materials for sale on the site now are those that require printing and shipping costs.
2. **New Resources:** New resources have been added and familiar resources have been organized in new ways. There is also a method to submit resources that might be useful to others in health ministry.
3. **Events Calendar:** Find out what regional and national health events are coming up. For instance, in April 2010 there is a national conference co-sponsored by NEHM, Episcopal Community Services of America, and Jubilee Ministries featuring a keynote address by The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori.

4. **Blog:** A blog prominently featured on the home page will offer regular links to new information, as well as guest posts from those focused on health and wellness in the church.
5. **People:** One valuable role NEHM plays in the church is connecting those in the church interested in health ministry to health ministers with experience who can provide guidance and support. This new section will facilitate that process.

"Health ministry programs have the ability to have a profound impact on the lives of our congregations," said Matthew Ellis. "It is my hope that this new website will allow our ministry to expand in ways we can't even yet imagine."

About National Episcopal Health Ministries

Our vision

...that every Episcopal congregation becomes a vibrant, caring place of health and wholeness.

Our mission

...to promote health ministry in Episcopal congregations, assisting them to reclaim the Gospel imperative of health and wholeness.

Our commitment is to:

- Christ as Healer
- Health as a holy, natural and continuous process
- Stewardship of the body and all God's creation
- Authentic and holy relationships
- Integration of the inner journey and the external life
- Reconciliation in a broken and fragmented world

The Executive Director of NEHM, Matthew Ellis, is available for interviews about how to develop or strengthen health ministries.

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NEHM's website was developed in partnership with www.SmallBoxWeb.com.