

SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH:

NAMI FaithNet OFFERINGS at the 2010 NAMI NATIONAL CONVENTION

Come and explore the many dimensions of spirituality and mental health education, awareness and recovery at the NAMI FaithNet networking session, workshop and exhibit booth. New training modules will be introduced and a closely related symposium by Sister Nancy Kehoe, M.D. will help equip you for faith community outreach. Mark your calendars now!

Wednesday June 30, 1:45 – 4:30 pm, NAMI FaithNet Networking Session: (Registration for the convention is not required for persons in the DC area who wish to attend this Networking Session. There is no charge.) In this networking session, we will pilot a new NAMI FaithNet *presentation* that shows the importance of spirituality in recovery and points to resources about faith and mental illness. *Come learn what's going on in other NAMI affiliates as they reach out to faith communities. Bring copies of your own summary of NAMI FaithNet-related activities and resources for the handout table.*

Friday, July 2 – 2:00 – 3:30 pm – SYMPOSIUM : Wrestling with Our Inner Angels: Faith, Mental Illness and the Journey to Wholeness – Dr. Nancy Clare Kehoe will summarize her 25 years of working with clients in a day treatment program support group. Spirituality is a key component of our humanity, yet attention to an individual's belief system and spiritual practices has been largely ignored by those who work with people with mental illness. This session will explore and explain the value of exploring this part of a person's life.

Friday, July 2, 3:45 – 5:15 pm-. Telling to Touch: Sharing Your Story in Faith Communities

Helping congregations and clergy develop a more informed view of spirituality and mental illness starts with the sharing of our personal stories. The way in which we tell the story can open doors to understanding and encourage a willingness to learn more. Join the leaders of FaithNet for an interactive, skill building workshop that will lead you through the steps of telling your story in the unique environment of a faith community.

NAMI FaithNet Exhibit Booth (see NAMI Land schedule): Find resources for helping to create welcoming and supportive congregations for individuals and families living with mental illness—handouts, books, brochures and much more. Come and share your ideas, successes and questions.

New Resources on the NAMI FaithNet web pages:

NAMI FaithNet is committed to providing resources for NAMI members, affiliates and community partners (1) to develop supportive congregations for those living with serious mental illness and their families; (2) to point out the value of spirituality in recovery and for caregivers; (3) to educate clergy and congregations about the biological basis of mental illness and its impact on individuals, families and communities; and (4) to encourage advocacy within faith communities.

Explore the pages at www.nami.org/namifaithnet and discover NAMI FaithNet's mission and guidelines, monthly Top Story Articles, mental health ministry news, a downloadable Mental Health Awareness Month Toolkit, suggestions for getting started with faith community outreach, service planning resources and links to other related sites.