



Mental Health Certification for Churches in Granville and Vance Counties

Goal: The “Faith in Mental Health” certificate program is intended to equip churches to better respond to individuals in their congregation and community who may have mental health, behavioral health, or substance use disorders. FREE certification provides a better understanding of mental health and equips churches to start and manage a mental health ministry.

Three Levels of Certification: Because churches come in a variety of sizes with a range of staff and resources, if there is only one way to be a part of the mental health certification program, it could seem daunting. Three different certification levels are designed to make the program doable in any local church. All churches can identify a level that works for their congregation.

1. **Basic certification:** Orients the church to resources and providers in the local mental health community
2. **Intermediate certification:** Establishes the church as a hub for mental health-specific resources for members of the congregation and begins equipping members of the congregation to assist those with acute mental health needs.
3. **Advanced certification:** Ensures that most of an individual’s needs and questions regarding mental health, except for the provision of treatment by licensed professionals, can be adequately responded to by members of the Church.

Within this program, the word “churches” is used to encourage participation from church pastors, leadership, personnel and members. “Mental health” refers broadly to an individual’s psychological and emotional well-being, which is inclusive of both behaviors and mental states typically captured under the categories of mental illness, behavioral health, and substance use and addiction.

The development of this program is a joint effort between Pastor Frank Sossamon, members of Granville Vance Public Health, representatives from Vaya Health, and NCDHHS division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Karl Johnson (kjohnson@gvph.org)



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