

Appendix 5

Materials and Resources for Use with Congregations

Interfaith Dialogues for End of Life Ministry: A manual for building successful, faith-based ministries to address death, dying, and life at the end of life. A Project of the Community State Partnership, the Maine Consortium for Palliative Care and Hospice, and the Maine Council of Churches. Retrieved January 15, 2008. Go online to www.maineospicecouncil.org/resources/publications.htm and look for “Interfaith Dialogues for End of Life Ministry.”

The Maine Council of Churches Dialogues list

- To Accept the Things We Cannot Change: The Spirituality of Death and Dying (meaning and death, religious traditions, rituals, spiritual growth)
- Caring for a Loved One with a Life Threatening Illness (primary caregivers, respite, support groups, chronic illness)
- The Effects of Life Threatening Illness on the Family System (communication, family dynamics, stress, emotions, support)
- Grief and Bereavement (the process of grieving, reactions to loss, styles of grieving, mourning rituals, red flags, signs of unhealthy grief)
- Courage to Change the Things We Can: Decision Making at the End of Life (advance directives, estate planning, power of attorney, advance care planning, decisions in the critical care unit)
- How We Die (basic physiology and disease processes, signs and symptoms of approaching death, personal death awareness)
- Providing Freedom from Pain: Palliative Care and Hospice (types of pain, medication options, complementary therapies, hospice philosophy, palliative care)
- How Can I Help? (hospice volunteering, lay ministry, organ donation, community outreach, prayer care)
- To Accept the Things We Cannot Change: The Spirituality of Death and Dying — Part II (meaning and death, religious traditions, rituals, spiritual growth)
- The High Cost of Dying (meaning and death, religious traditions, rituals, spiritual growth, reimbursement, navigating the health care system)
- The Details of Dying (calling hours, funeral and memorial services, cremation, other options, legal issues, organ donation)

EndLink is an Internet-based end-of-life care education program established by the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. It lists twelve activities to encourage participation of faith communities in end-of-life care. See http://endlink.lurie.northwestern.edu/more_about/communities.cfm.

1. Providing ongoing education of members on beliefs about meaning of life, suffering, illness, healing, dying and death, and afterlife.
2. Raising awareness about fundamental religious values vis-à-vis medicine.

3. Offering educational forums on specific issues related to end of life such as advanced directives, funeral and burial customs, legal matters and estate planning, and hospice care.
4. Advocating within the medical system respect for religious beliefs, practices, and prohibitions as well as stressing the importance of spiritual care at the end of life.
5. Helping members clarify specific goals of medical care that are in keeping with religious beliefs and values.
6. Assisting patients and families with difficult decisions regarding the direction of medical treatment and ethical dilemmas about withdrawal of life support, artificial nutrition, use of antibiotics, etc.
7. Providing spiritual care and counseling to patients who are terminally ill and to their families.
8. Mediating divine presence and affirming value and personhood.
9. Providing assistance in sustaining religious practices and rituals for patients in the hospital or unable to leave home.
10. Providing practical assistance such as respite for caregivers, meals, running errands, and housekeeping.
11. Ensuring proper disposition and treatment of the body at the time of death and conducting funerals, memorial services, and burial rites.
12. Offering bereavement counseling and grief support groups.

The Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life is creating a Toolkit for Faith Communities to help them address end-of-life issues. It was in process at the time of the creation of this list. See www.iceol.duke.edu/about/programs/toolkit.html.

Florida Statewide Hospice Clergy End-of-Life Education Enhancement Project.
www.hospicefoundation.org/professionalEducation/clergyEducation/.

Hawaii. *The Complete Life* is a two-part curriculum developed as part of a larger effort to improve end-of-life care in Hawaii. Designed specifically for faith communities.
www.hawaii.edu/aging/eliflife.htm.

Respect My Wishes Information and Resource Guide for Grand Island, Nebraska, for clergy www.respectmywishes.org/professionals/clergy.html.

Compassion Sabbath resources: You will find this information on the website (www.deathisnottheenemy.com).