

February 2016

FCNI News March 2016

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Recommended Citation

Siegrist, Beverly (2016) "FCNI News March 2016," *International Journal of Faith Community Nursing*: Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 1.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ijfcn/vol2/iss1/1>

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FCNI News

Readers, I am pleased to report that the FCNI website will be alive in March. The board's goal is to have this information available to our members prior to the Westburg. There are several important items for each of you in this brief message.

First it is time to renew your membership. You may download the brochure from this website and sent your information via snail mail. Please note that dues are \$50 for the year. The \$40 amount was for charter members during our first year. The board looked closely at the amount of money required to balance our budget this year. We have several expenses such as our web designer, purchasing computer and membership management programs, etc. We would welcome donations to cover the cost of our additional expenses and will keep you informed. As stated in our bylaws we value transparency, and will provide more information on the website.

Next, if you are attending the Westburg in Chicago, please stop by our booth in the display area. Introduce yourself and help the board understand your needs as a FCN. *We are also seeking volunteers to relieve board members and would welcome your help in manning our booth.*

I realize that we all have different faith traditions during Lent, but we are one in God's eyes. I know each of you will all agree that this is a time to draw closer together as we prepare for Easter. I love this time of the year. Did you know that the word Lent comes from the middle-English work for 'springtime'? We come to life again like nature, as we renew ourselves during Lent. The need for FCN leadership is greater during this time as more individuals are reminded of our reason for gathering and working for Christ. We remember the important of sharing and giving. Perhaps this prayer from *Psalm 51* may be helpful to you in this season.

Have mercy on me, O God,
According to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant mercy
Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
And do not take your hold spirit from me.

Blessings,

Beverly Siegrist

FCNI Board President