

Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community

Introduction

Over the last several decades, there has been a growing recognition of faith communities as key public health partners. This is based on shifts in the role of public health as well as public health science-based approaches associated with behavior change, disparity elimination, social determinants, community capacity, social capital, and the social-ecological conceptual framework.

We believe that the Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community is significant because of the reported increased confidence (by President Bush's Faith Based Initiatives campaign) in assuring the optimal role of faith-based organizations' engagement in contributing to the health of the public. The emphasis on faith-based collaboration and involvement in health promotion is also growing among many public health organizations and APHA members as well.

Mission/Purpose

The purpose of the Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community is:

- a. To represent and provide advocacy for the health interest of the faith community, both within and outside the APHA structure;
- b. To facilitate active participation of faith community public health workers in the organizational and programmatic activities of the APHA; and
- c. To provide a means for professional growth for members of the Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community.

Membership:

Membership in the Caucus is open to individuals and organizations. General membership is open to any individual who holds membership in APHA and espouses the objectives of the Caucus on Public Health and the Faith Community, and any individual who is not a member of APHA but who espouses the objectives the Caucus.