

Resource Scan of Faith-based Materials Addressing Suicide Prevention

Suicide Prevention Resource Center
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SPRC
Education Development Center, Inc.
55 Chapel Street
Newton, MA 02458-1060
Phone: 877-GET-SPRC
Fax: 617.969.9186
Web: www.sprc.org

Introduction

During the summer of 2006, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center conducted a number of “resource scans”, designed to identify readily available materials for specific audiences on given topics related to preventing suicide and promoting mental health. By “readily available”, we mean print or printable formats that can be accessed without barriers such as high cost, membership requirements, technical knowledge, or specialized education. The results of each scan help us to a) add new resources to our online library (available at <http://library.sprc.org/>); b) highlight gaps in materials and provide recommendations to fill those gaps; and c) summarize the available resources.

We encourage readers to review other documents produced by SPRC that relate to the topic of faith-based communities responding to and preventing suicide, including: *Meeting Summary of the Clergy Workgroup on Suicide Prevention and Aftercare* www.sprc.org/library/faithbasedconf.pdf and *After a suicide: Recommendations for religious services and other public memorial observances* <http://www.sprc.org/library/aftersuicide.pdf>

Purpose

The purpose of the Faith-based Resource Scan is to identify the availability (or lack of availability) of materials and training addressing suicide, risk factors for suicide and mental health services to prevent suicide that are geared toward or produced by faith-based communities. Members of faith-based communities include clergy, lay membership, faith advocacy organizations and institutions providing governance to membership. The scan was conducted by SPRC professional library staff.

Methods

SPRC began the scan by tapping our own resources and our core suicide prevention audience. SPRC library staff:

1. Posted solicitations for faith-based materials to SPRC’s Weekly Spark (an email newsletter)
2. Posted solicitations for faith-based resources on SPRC’s website
3. Consulted with SPRC program staff with suicide prevention expertise concerning suicide and suicide prevention in faith communities and contacted organizations identified by those staff
4. Contacted SPRC partners for resources the partners may have produced or could recommend.

We then searched broadly within faith-based communities in the U.S. for materials they may have produced or disseminated. Websites for major divinity schools and theological seminaries were searched to identify training and guidance for theology students in ministering to suicidal or depressed parishioners. The Healthcare Chaplains Ministry Association, a professional organization for hospital chaplains, was examined to identify

training and guidance for hospital chaplains in ministering to suicidal or depressed or patients. Using Census data, we identified the 30 faiths with the highest membership in the United States. We subsequently identified major organizations in the United States representing those faiths and searched their websites for materials relating to suicide, depression and mental health services. Finally, we compared our results with national objectives and recommendations.

Audiences

Resources geared toward three audiences were included: *Clergy* (Formal religious leadership within a given religion), *faith community members* (lay membership within religious groups or churches, and *mental health professionals* (practitioners who are employed or who volunteer to provide counseling, medication or a combination to individuals with mental health needs).

Formats

Formats include print material or material displayed in printable formats. (See appendix for the full list.) We excluded journals, journal articles, books, and websites where content was not in a printable format. In general, we did not include materials produced for conferences with the following exception: SPRC regularly tracks conferences and meetings related to mental health and suicide prevention. We reviewed the agendas of recent meetings for content related to faith-based initiatives. Presentations were generally not included because the slides themselves, without a presenter or script, did not provide a complete resource. We did include two presentations because they were produced by a divinity school or seminary and we had few other resources from these settings. We selectively included newsletters, newsletter articles, video recordings if part of a training package, and DVDs.

Results

A total of 115 resources were identified, after consulting 67 potential sources of information. The final set of resources were found in just over half (37) of the source organizations. All of the materials found came from Judeo-Christian sources. Most materials had been produced in the past three years. Very few resources (4) were found in training settings (divinity schools). Almost all materials were available at no cost. Most materials addressed mental health services (62) or suicide (30).

Faiths

Only Christian, Jewish, and Interfaith resources were found. Materials identified by the producer as interfaith (applicable to all faiths), were Christian, Jewish or Judeo-Christian in their focus. The 30 faiths in the US with the highest membership included Muslim/Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist organizations but we were unable to find resources produced by these affiliations within the US.

Many of the materials were aimed at broad interfaith or multi-faith audiences, as well as some that were intended for audiences within a given faith or sect.

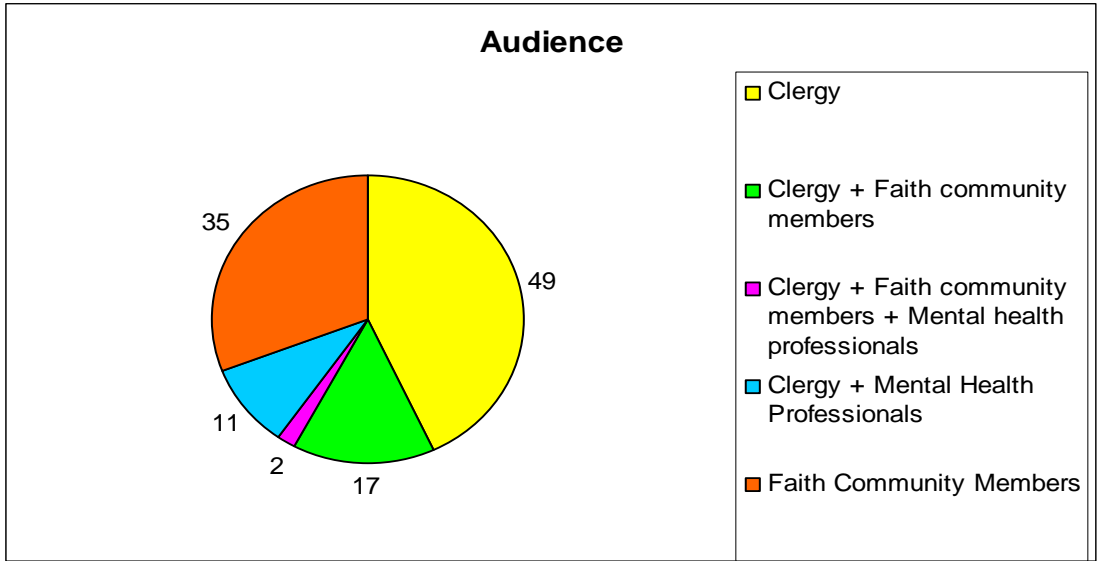
SOURCE	# OF ITEMS FOUND
Interfaith	33
Christian, all other & unspecified	23
Mennonite	15
Presbyterian	10
Methodist	8
Mental health	6
Brethren	6
Assemblies of God	5
Chaplaincy & Divinity schools	5
Lutheran	4
Jewish	2
Catholic	1

Topics

More than half (53.9%) of the total resources concerned mental health services only. 26.1% were focused on suicide only. Two-thirds of these did not provide information on prevention, but provided information on assisting survivors or church policies regarding suicide. Only 9.5% of resources focused only on depression. Most of these provided at least some guidance on recognizing symptoms of depression. 10.4% of resources consisted of some combination of suicide, depression and mental health services. All but one of these included suicide as one of the topics.

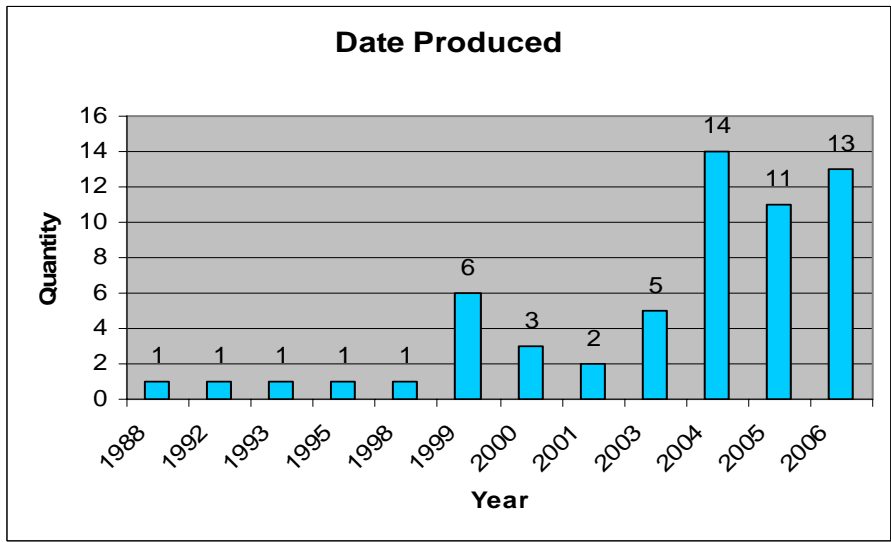
Audience

The majority (43%) of resources identified were geared toward practicing clergy. Faith community members were the second most frequently specified audience (30.7%). Resources addressing any combination of clergy, faith communities, and mental health professionals represented 26.3%. There were no faith-based resources geared toward mental health professionals exclusively.



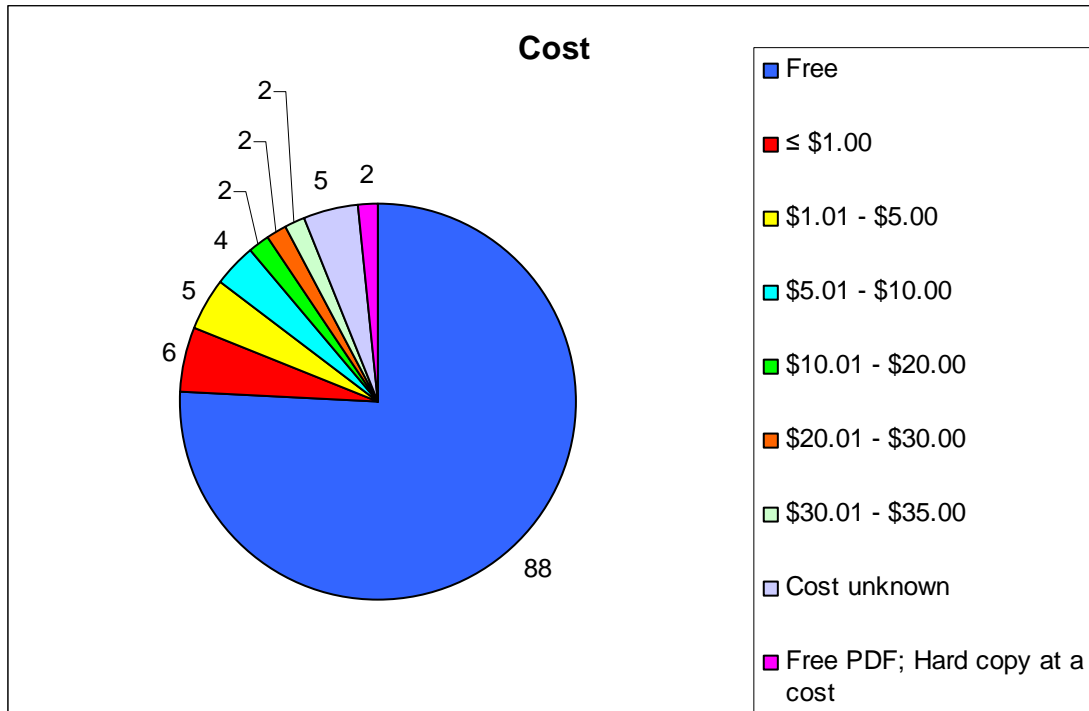
Date (currency)

For the majority of resources (55), the date of publication was not specified. Of resources that included dates, 91.5% were produced from 1999 through 2006. The majority of these (70.4%) were produced from 2004-2006. 8.5% were produced before 1999. Only one resource was produced before 1990. The majority of faith-based resources addressing depression, suicide and mental health services (where date is known) were produced within the past three years. Nearly all were produced in the past seven years.



Cost

The majority of resources (76%) were available at no cost. 20% were available at some cost under \$35. Cost does not appear to be a significant barrier to obtaining faith-based resources addressing suicide, depression or mental health services.



Discussion

Response of Faith Communities to the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

Acknowledgement of the value of faith communities in preventing suicide, and plans to promote efforts of faith communities in preventing suicide is well represented in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Although NSSP states that “scores of faith-based” initiatives addressing suicide and mental illness are already in existence, our scan did not find materials produced by these initiatives. Goal 2, and specifically Objective 2.4 and Objective 6.4 specify how faith-based communities can take a leadership role in preventing suicide.

Response to Objective 2.4 (National Strategy) By 2005, increase the number of nationally organized faith communities adopting institutional policies promoting suicide prevention.

We identified six official statements, policies, statements and resolutions we considered to be institutional policies on suicide.¹ Only two were issued after the release of the National Strategy.

¹ 1. Vatican. (1993) Catechism of the Catholic Church; Part Three: Life in Christ; Section Two: The Ten Commandments; Chapter Two: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"; Article 5: The Fifth Commandment.

Response to Objective 6.4 (National Strategy): *By 2005, increase the proportion of clergy who have received training in identification of and response to suicide risk and behaviors and the differentiation of mental disorders and faith crises.*

We searched the websites of eight major divinity/theology schools in the United States and found four resources geared toward training clergy or future clergy in the areas of suicide and depression. Of these, only two² were available in their entirety and could be examined for content related to identification and response to suicide risk and the differentiation of mental disorders from crises of faith. Both resources provided information to clergy on risk factors for depression and suicide. No resource helped us to determine what proportion of clergy are or are not receiving suitable training.

We do not consider this resource scan to be an exhaustive examination of educational opportunities for clergy because materials produced or used by divinity schools are often

Takes the position that suicide is a sin although there are allowances for some mitigating circumstances such as severe mental illness which may exempt an individual who dies by suicide from eternal damnation. Does not mention prevention of suicide. Pre-dates the National Strategy.

2. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. (1999) ELCA Message on Suicide Prevention. These guidelines were cited in the National Strategy as an example of a message to "...provide guidance to members on the scope of suicide and on how individuals can help prevent it." It represents a clear example we have found of "...adopting institutional policies promoting suicide prevention" as expressed in the National Strategy. Pre-dates the National Strategy.

3. Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ. (1999). Prevention of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth suicide. This resolution has a strong focus on prevention and pledges action to increase awareness of and seriously address youth suicide and the link between youth suicide and sexual or gender identity, by encouraging open discussion of these issues. Pre-dates the National Strategy.

4. Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. (n.d.) Stand of the Orthodox Church on controversial issues. The stand taken as expressed here is that suicide is the "most serious kind of murder" and individuals who die by suicide will not be given a church burial unless determined to be mentally unsound by proper medical and ecclesiastical certification. Does not mention prevention of suicide. It is unknown if this statement pre- or post-dates the National Strategy.

5. General Council of the Assemblies of God. (2006). Suicide. Takes the position that suicide is a sin but cautions that a lack complete understanding of major mental illness prevents Church members from assuming that an individual who dies by suicide is condemned. Does not mention prevention of suicide.

6. United Methodist Church. (2004). Suicide. Stresses the "obligation" of the church to ensure that those at risk for suicide receive the care they need. Calls for clergy to provide opportunities for discussion and education around suicide for their parishioners. Also calls on United Methodist theological seminary to focus on issues of death and dying, including suicide.

² Packett A., *Suicide in the Adolescent: Suffering in Silence*. (n.d.). Duke Divinity School. and Caring Communities Program. *Health Tips for Pastoral Care Home Visits*. (2003). Duke Divinity School.

available only within the context of the academic curricula. The resources themselves are made available to students and at a cost. They are generally not available in the public domain.

Response of Faith Communities to Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America

Achieving the Promise recommends a national-level, public-private partnership to advance goals of the National Strategy which should include representatives from faith communities. Specifically, recommendation 3.1 asks that these collaborations work to create awareness around mental health issues, reduce stigma associated with mental disorders, encourage individuals and families to seek help, collaborate with mental health providers and refer individuals to services when needed. Most of the resources identified addressed stigma, raising awareness, or provided contacts for assistance. No collaborations outside of those formed between faith groups were noted in the resources we located.

Recommendations

We were encouraged to find that most materials were produced relatively recently--within the past few years--and that they were available at little to no cost, at least for anyone with internet access. Most of the resources identified addressed stigma, raising awareness, or provided contacts for assistance.

However, two-thirds of the materials on suicide were not concerned with prevention. In addition, most resources were produced by a subset of faith-based sources. Perhaps because of how we conducted our scan, virtually all materials came from Christian or interfaith sources. There was little to indicate that the faith-based organizations are aware of the two seminal national documents, the *National Strategy* and *Achieving the Promise*. As also identified in our companion report, *Meeting Summary of the Clergy Workgroup on Suicide Prevention and Aftercare* www.sprc.org/library/faithbasedconf.pdf, there were very few materials for training clergy on a continuing education basis or for training hospital chaplains. For example, we found no materials providing guidance for hospital chaplains ministering to patients who may have depression or thoughts of suicide.

Leading suicide prevention and mental health organizations and faith-based organizations can:

- Promote inclusion of ministering to depressed or suicidal parishioners or patients in continuing education opportunities for clergy.
- Provide interfaith professional development opportunities for practicing clergy. These can include conferences, seminars, webcasts and distance learning.
- Engage leadership of Buddhist, Muslim/Islam, and Hindu faiths to explore ways in which suicide prevention can be incorporated into practice.
- Promote the use of incentives, such as opportunities for funding, for faith-based groups to address goals and objectives for the *National Strategy for Suicide*

Prevention and Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America.

- Encourage faith leadership to make information on faith-based prevention of suicide and depression available on request to practicing clergy.

In addition, work remains to be done to determine whether faith-based communities and organizations know about the *National Strategy* and *Achieving the Promise*. Are they aware of these documents, of the Action Alliance that has been formed to promote the NSSP goals and objectives, and of the roles that they can play in improving mental health outreach and suicide prevention?

Appendix Note

The appendix on the following pages provides link to those resources described in the report that were still available as of March, 2007. Click on the title of each resource to access it via the Internet. All items are available at no cost, unless indicated otherwise.

Materials listed were issued by the following different faith groups:

Assemblies of God
Baptist
Black Church Healing Center
Catholic
Christian (no denomination specified)
Church of Brethren
Greek Orthodox
Interfaith
Jehovah's Witnesses
Jewish (Conservative)
Jewish (Reform)
Lutheran
Mennonite
Methodist
Moravian
Presbyterian
Saddleback Church
United Church of Christ

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Title of Resource	Author/Creator	Publisher/Producer	Date	Description	Price
It is well with my soul [Brochure]	African American Churches Task Team on Mental Illness	African American Churches Task Team on Mental Illness	n.d.	A collection of songs, scriptures, prayers, devotions, readings and poems for African Americans who are challenged by mental illness.	< \$5
AAPC Annual Conferences: 2004 -6 [Proceedings/minutes]	American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC)	American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC)	2004 -6	Conference programs and descriptions of workshops.	Free
Mission and Goals for 2005-2009 [Policies (mission statement)]	American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC)	American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC)	2005	Describes the mission and goals of this organization of pastoral counselors working within health care settings.	Free
American Baptist Resolution on Mental Illness [Policies/Guidelines]	American Baptist Churches	American Baptist Churches	1992	A comprehensive, although dated, policy statement.	Free
How to help someone who wants to commit suicide [Presentation (sermon)]	Nicholson WH	Anchorage Moravian Church	2004	Provides basic strategies for first responders.	Free
Suicide [Policies (policy statement)]	General Council of the Assemblies of God	Assemblies of God	2006	Reflects commonly held beliefs based on scripture which have been endorsed by the church's Commission on Doctrinal Purity and the Executive Presbytery.	Free
Aging and Mental Illness [Report]	Loewen C	Church of Brethren	n.d.	A brief report for the Older Adult Ministry of Association of Brethren Caregivers. Focuses on two common mental health concerns in seniors - depression and dementia.	Free
Spirituality and Emotional Wellness Go Hand in Hand [Pamphlet]	Harness B	Church of Brethren	n.d.	Promotes mental health as a part of spirituality.	Free

Humanity Within Mental Illness [Pamphlet]	Wenger J, Wenger A	Church of Brethren	n.d.	A brochure that argues that "...mental illness is not an ending to normal life but another trial that is presented to humans that they can get through". Lists many famous people who had depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.	Free
Stories of Hope [Pamphlet]	Association of Brethren Caregivers	Church of Brethren	n.d.	Recounts the life experiences of some individuals who have lived with a mental illness. Describes how family, friends and church members have accompanied a loved one to get help and have offered support.	Free
Why Congregations Are Called to Care [Pamphlet]	Ober J	Church of Brethren	n.d.	Argues that mentally ill community members need the same sympathy and support from congregants as individuals with any other health problem. Discusses the stigma of suicidality.	Free
What Every Church Should Know About Mental Illness [Brochure]	Association of Brethren Caregivers	Church of Brethren	n.d.	Compiled from NAMI FaithNet materials with a few additions from the Association of Brethren Caregivers.	Free
Bridging the gap: An interfaith conference on mental health and suicide prevention [Flyer (press release, First Annual Conference). Brochure (Second Annual Conference agenda)]	CrisisLink	CrisisLink	2005	Materials from two conferences held in 2005 and 2006 at St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Annandale, VA. Co-sponsored by CrisisLink, the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Inc., and the Virginia Department of Health.	Free
Suicide in the Adolescent: Suffering in Silence [Presentation (PowerPoint)]	Packett A.	Duke Divinity School	n.d.	Provides basic facts on adolescent suicide and describes some problems and possibilities of faith-based prevention.	Free

ELSA message on suicide prevention [Policies (policy statement)]	Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	1999	Describes suicide data and stigma. Offers prevention strategies to churches.	Free
Prevent Youth Violence, Self-injury and Suicide [Pamphlet]	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	n.d.	Brief tips on helping teenagers with anger management. Includes suggestions on using religious resources - prayer, Bible citations, etc.	Free
Ways to Support Families Dealing with Depression [Pamphlet]	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	n.d.	Brief tips on helping depressed people and their families to deal with the problem.	Free
Interfaith Mental Wellness Tool Kit [Manual]	Fairfax Partnership for Youth	Fairfax Partnership for Youth	2006	Includes descriptions of potential youth depression and suicide prevention activities for faith-based communities, talking points, and sermon examples.	Free
Faith in Recovery toolkit [Manual]	Faith in Recovery	Faith in Recovery	n.d.	Based on experiences in starting ten mental health ministries in Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian faith communities, provides guidance to start a ministry in any faith community. Includes a chapter on depression and suicide.	Free
Reading list for mental health ministry [Bibliography]	Faith in Recovery	Faith in Recovery	n.d.	Lists 1999-2005 books that deal directly with both mental illness and religion. Organized by topic. Includes "Depression", "Bipolar disorder", and "Suicide" topics.	Free
Mission statement [Policies]	Faith in Recovery	Faith in Recovery	n.d.	The mission of Faith in Recovery is to assist faith communities of all religious traditions in developing mental health ministries.	Free
Stand of the Orthodox Church on controversial issues [Policies]	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	n.d.	A policy statement. Includes a chapter on suicide.	Free

Feeling blue? Depression [Training materials]	Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	2005	Materials for a retreat session with 7-12 grade students. Includes both mental health and religious elements.	Free
IHP practice models: Mental health category [Database]	Interfaith Health Program of Emory University School of Public Health (IHP)	Interfaith Health Program of Emory University School of Public Health (IHP)	n.d.	Describes two interfaith practices: Hispanic Outreach Initiative by the Blanton-Peale Institutes of Religion and Health (New York, NY) and an outpatient clinic at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (Lexington, SC).	Free
Suicide: The hidden epidemic [Brochure]	Jehovah's Witnesses	Jehovah's Witnesses	n.d.	Faith-based guidelines that include a list of warning signs.	Free
Understanding mood disorder [Brochure]	Jehovah's Witnesses	Jehovah's Witnesses	n.d.	Explains the basics about depression and bipolar disorder, and offers advice on helping affected congregation members.	Free
When someone you love has a mental disorder [Pamphlet]	Jehovah's Witnesses	Jehovah's Witnesses	n.d.	Brief caregivers guidelines. Includes suggestions on using faith resources.	Free
Clergy Workgroup on Suicide Prevention and Aftercare [Report]	Marshall DS	Link's National Resource Center for Suicide Prevention and Aftercare/SPRC	2007	Report of a meeting conducted on September 28 and 29, 2005 to identify the critical elements needed for a competency-based curriculum to train clergy in suicide prevention and response to survivors of suicide. Provides information about needs, suggests training content and format, identifies possible dissemination strategies and action steps.	Free
Mental Health/Mental Illness [Policies/Guidelines]	Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod	Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod	n.d.	A policy statement.	Free
Fierce goodbye [DVD (documentary)]	Mennonite Media	Mennonite Media	2004	Describes faith-based perspective on suicide and offers related resources.	< \$25

Role of Church and Faith : How can the church help [Guidelines]	Mennonite Media	Mennonite Media	2005	Includes guidelines for congregation members by the Presbyterian Church USA and a presentation by Susan Christiansen, a member of Trinity United Presbyterian Church's Disability Ministry and mother of an adult son who has schizophrenia, made to her congregation.	Free
In the shadow of God's wings: Group study guide [Study guide]	Gregg-Schroeder S	Mennonite Media	2005	Written to accompany Gregg-Schroeder's book by the same title, this guide provides small group leaders with the material needed to facilitate a four-session study on depression and faith.	< \$10
From the desk of Father Rubey [Guide]	Rubey CT	Mennonite Media	n.d.	Father Charles T. Rubey is founder of the Catholic Charities' LOSS program, <i>Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide</i> . These excerpts from Father Rubey's newsletters describe the major theological theses for survivors.	Free
Suggestions for helping yourself survive [Guide]	Fierce goodbye	Mennonite Media	2004	Spiritual guide for survivors.	Free
Suggestions for helping survivors [Guide]	Fierce goodbye	Mennonite Media	2004	Suggestions on how to reach out to help.	Free
Biblical record [Presentation (interview)]	Fierce goodbye	Mennonite Media	2004	A summary of an interview with G. Lloyd Carr, a biblical specialist in Old Testament study. Dr. Carr examines the biblical literature to see what is there regarding suicide.	Free

Theological perspectives [Presentation (interview)]	Fierce goodbye	Mennonite Media	2004	Excerpts from interviews with representatives from Reform Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant rabbis, priests, pastors, and lay persons on various ways faith groups view suicide.	Free
Preparing pastors to deal with suicide [Presentation (interview)]	Fierce goodbye	Mennonite Media	2004	Interview with Christine Smith, who teaches preaching at United Theological Seminary.	Free
A letter to Pastors and Counselors [Presentation (letter)]	Wirick L	Mennonite Media	2004	Louise Wirick, Founder of Survivors Road2healing, briefly describes the challenges of ministering to, and counseling with, suicide survivors.	Free
Sermon excerpts on suicide [Presentations (sermons)]	Fierce goodbye	Mennonite Media	2004	Fierce Goodbye editors chose four sermons as examples: "Embracing the windstorm" by Christine Smith, "Death by choice" by James T. Clemons, "God is with us" by Roger Steffy, and "Comfort for those who grieve a suicide" by Walter Wangerin, Jr.	Free
Faith communities respond to suicide [Presentations (interviews)]	Fierce goodbye	Mennonite Media	2004	Excerpts from interviews with survivors from different Christian and Jewish congregations on what was and what was not helpful for them.	Free
Practical tips for congregations [Manual]	Fierce goodbye	Mennonite Media	2004	A brief manual for congregations on suicide prevention and postvention.	Free

Fierce goodbye: Living in the shadow of suicide [Study guide]	Horning C, Hartzler S	Mennonite Media	2004	A guide for leading discussion on the "Fierce goodbye: Living in the shadow of suicide" film and book. Outlines four sessions: "Stories of suicide survivors", "Aftermath of suicide", "Faith communities", and "Survivor support".	Free
No longer alone: Mental health and the Church [Training materials]	Toews JA, Loewen E	Mennonite Publishing Network	1995	A book and two-part video set, capturing seminars presented by Christian psychiatrist John Toews. Bible passages support and complement the psychological, social, and biological material. Each lesson ends with a set of questions for reflection and response.	< \$20
Chaplain in Residence Program, 2007 [Training materials]	Mental Health Chaplaincy in Seattle	Mental Health Chaplaincy in Seattle	2006	Description of a workshop covering: meetings with chaplains, clergy, and congregations; conversations with consumers, survivors, and families; dialogue with staff in local community health programs; visits with colleagues providing outreach and care for homeless neighbors; conversations with faculty and students in seminaries and allied institutions.	Free
Gentle Bible: A selection of daily readings by Rev. Craig Rennebohm [Pamphlet]	Rennebohm G	Mental Health Chaplaincy in Seattle	n.d.	Selected readings adapted from the Bible, one for each day of the year, that encourage healing and community.	< \$5, PDF free
Ministry of presence [Study guide]	Rennebohm G	Mental Health Chaplaincy in Seattle	n.d.	Complements a course on ministering to the homeless mentally ill. The stories and case studies are based on actual experiences.	< \$5, PDF free

From the street to stability [Paper]	Rennebohm G	Mental Health Chaplaincy in Seattle	n.d.	Describes the Relational Outreach and Engagement Model (ROEM) which informs the Mental Health Chaplaincy's work with isolated, difficult to reach homeless, mentally ill individuals.	Free
Mental health mission moments resource guide [Manual]	Gregg-Schroeder S	Mental Health Ministries	n.d.	Includes sermon starters, liturgical material, additional scriptural references and other resources to help educate congregations about mental illness.	<\$35
Creating caring congregations [Brochure]	Mental Health Ministries	Mental Health Ministries	n.d.	Describes how churches can become Caring Congregations, educating the congregation on mental illness and welcoming those with mental illness and their families.	Free
Guidelines for clergy: Providing pastoral care to persons with mental illness and their family [Brochure]	Briottle RA	Mental Health Ministries	2004	Brief guidelines discuss confidentiality rules, permission for praying openly from the pulpit, non-stigmatizing language, handling a crisis situation, and working with mental health professionals.	Free
Comfort from the Scriptures [Brochure]	Gregg-Schroeder S	Mental Health Ministries	n.d.	A collection of Bible verses appropriate to comfort persons with mental illness.	Free
Postpartum depression and families of faith [Brochure]	Gregg-Schroeder S	Mental Health Ministries	n.d.	Briefly describes the congregation's role and opportunities for faith communities in helping depressed mothers; provides basic information on postpartum depression.	Free

The face of depression [Brochure]	Gregg-Schroeder S	Mental Health Ministries	n.d.	The author describes how she deals with her own depression and how her religion helps. Includes brief guidelines for the spouses of depressed persons, written by the author's husband.	Free
Prayer-inspiration [Flyers]	Lambert RS	Mental Illness Ministries	n.d.	A prayer to be said by a person with mental illness.	Free
Stigma of mental illness: The role of the faith community [Presentation (Speech)]	Christiansen GE	NAMI FaithNet	2003	Presented at the 2003 NAMI Oregon Convention, this speech defines stigma, discusses the prevalence of mental illness stigma in faith communities and calls for advocacy.	Free
How to rate your faith community [Guidelines]	Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network (PSMIN)	NAMI FaithNet	n.d.	These questions on mental illness competency are pertinent for congregations of all faiths.	Free
How can we help carry the burden of someone who has a mental illness? [Guidelines]	NAMI FaithNet	NAMI FaithNet	n.d.	These nine suggestions are useful as an insert in bulletins for worship services any time, but particularly during Mental Illness Awareness Week in October and during Mental Health Month in May.	Free
Lighting of Candles [Presentation (Service transcript)]	Head NL	NAMI FaithNet	2001	A candlelight service dedicated to people with mental illness, including suicide victims.	Free
A Christian Worship Service [Presentation (Service transcript)]	Trinity United Presbyterian Church	NAMI FaithNet	2003	An example of a regular Sunday service dedicated entirely to the subject of mental illness.	Free
Sermon possibilities [Guidelines]	Briotte RA, Day J	NAMI FaithNet	2001	The authors looked at the lections for mid-September to mid-November – Pentecost 15-23, Year C - to see where the mental illness preaching possibilities might lie.	Free

Sample letter to a Pastor, Priest or Rabbi concerning the development or expansion of ministry with those with a mental illness in a congregation [Presentation (letter)]	NAMI FaithNet	NAMI FaithNet	n.d.	Suggestions on how to advocate for the mentally ill members of a congregation.	Free
Steps for a congregation: Ministry with those with a mental illness [Manual]	Christiansen GE	NAMI FaithNet	2003	Discussion of eight steps in establishing ministry given at the 2003 NAMI Oregon Convention. Notes that a successful program requires ministry to, with and from those with a mental illness.	Free
National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding: October 3, 2006 (Tuesday of Mental Illness Awareness Week) [Policies/Guidelines]	NAMI FaithNet	NAMI FaithNet	2006	This special day of prayer for mental illness recovery and understanding was initiated in 2004. It has had widespread support by individual congregations and National Faith Community Mental Illness Networks.	Free
Not, 'Whose fault is it?' [Presentation (sermon)]	Masada S	NAMI FaithNet	n.d.	Describes Scripture lessons on the subject of mental illness.	Free
FaithNet Networking Meeting at the 2006 NAMI Convention [Flyer (Description in the FaithNet Newsletter)]	NAMI FaithNet	NAMI FaithNet	2006	Approximately 40 convention attendees gathered for a FaithNet networking session during the NAMI Convention. Presenters included Mental Health Chaplaincy, Pathways to Promise, Mental Health Ministries, and Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries.	Free
About us [Policies (mission statement)]	NAMI FaithNet	NAMI FaithNet	n.d.	Describes purposes of this organization, which is not a religious network but rather an outreach to all religious organizations.	Free

FaithNet Flier [Flyer]	NAMI FaithNet	NAMI FaithNet	n.d.	Describes NAMI Faithnet, NAMI's grassroots network of people of faith who seek to respond compassionately and effectively to the crisis of mental illness in their communities.	Free
NAMI Minnesota Faithways [Policies/Guidelines]	NAMI Minnesota Faithways	NAMI Minnesota Faithways	n.d.	A mission statement.	Free
Interfaith Mental Health Ministries Training [Flyer (Training description)]	NAMI San Antonio	NAMI San Antonio	2006	Describes a training conducted on April 8, 2006 in San Antonio, TX that drew over 70 clergy and lay persons from 25 faith communities. The Bexar Faith-based Mental Health Project seeks to empower members of faith communities to run faith-based support groups and offer referral services.	Free
Supporting survivors, promoting prevention: The First National Conference for Survivors of Suicide Attempts, Healthcare Professionals, Clergy and Laity [Brochure]	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS)	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS)	2005	This conference was held October 19 - 21, 2005, in Memphis, TN, and was sponsored by OASSIS. The pre-conference brochure includes the preliminary agenda, list of the presenters, and brief descriptions of presentations and workshops.	Free
Accomplishments [Report]	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS)	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS)	2005	Lists conferences sponsored, presentations, consultations, and awards.	Free
For we can face tomorrow [Presentation (hymn)]	Chiplin A	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS)	2000	A hymn recommended by OASSIS as a liturgical and homiletical resource regarding suicide and mental illness.	Free

Interfaith Worship Service [Presentation (service)]	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASIS)	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS)	2000	Used at the National Interfaith Conference on Religion and Suicide on April 5, 2000. Recommended by OASSIS as a liturgical and homiletical resource regarding suicide and mental illness.	Free
Suicide: A Matter of death and life: The First National Interfaith Conference on Religion and Suicide [Flyer (Newsletter article)]	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS)	Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS)	2000	Preliminary brief description and agenda. Conducted on April 4-6, 2000, in Atlanta, GA. Sponsored by OASSIS.	Free
What to do in a crisis situation [Guide]	Pathways to Promise	Pathways to Promise	1999	Brief guidelines for a pastor on suicide warning signs, first preventive response, and postvention.	Free
Suicide threat [Guide]	Pathways to Promise	Pathways to Promise	1999	"What to do and not to do" brief manual for a pastor encountering a threat.	Free
Suicide attempt [Guide]	Pathways to Promise	Pathways to Promise	1999	"To do" list for a pastor encountering an attempt.	Free
When mental illness strikes in a family of faith [Brochure]	Pathways to Promise	Pathways to Promise	n.d.	For clergy working with families who have a member who has mental illness. Available in Protestant, Catholic and Jewish versions.	< \$1
Pathways to partnership: An awareness and resource guide on mental illness [Brochure]	Pathways to Promise	Pathways to Promise	n.d.	Information about: traditions which enable faith communities to develop a response to the needs of people with mental illness and their families; pastoral resources; congregational resources; community outreach; educational models; and sources for information and support. Available in Christian and Jewish versions.	< \$10

Pathways to understanding: Manuals and a videotape on ministry and mental illness [Training materials]	Pathways to Promise	Pathways to Promise	n.d.	These materials (a manual for instructors; a manual for students; and a videotape on ministry and mental illness) provide information for students in seminary, clergy in continuing education settings, faith group staff, and laity involved in outreach and ministry programs.	< \$35
Who has mental illness? [Pamphlet]	Pathways to Promise	Pathways to Promise	n.d.	Describes mental illness, resources and community outreach. Available in Protestant, Catholic and Jewish versions.	< \$1
Pathways to Promise Bulletin inserts [Flyers]	Pathways to Promise	Pathways to Promise	n.d.	Uses quotations from the Bible and appropriate graphics. Includes bulletins on reaching out to someone with mental illness, children and mental disorders, mental health and aging, and more.	< \$10
My Christmas Tree is Down and So Am I: Post-Holiday Blahs, Winter Blues, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and Depression [Brochure]	National Health Ministries	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	n.d.	Explains basic facts about Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and depression, and offers advice on helping affected congregation members.	Free
Church and Serious Mental Illness [Report]	National Health Ministries	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	1988 (exception)	Report and resolution from the 200th General Assembly, 1988, about the church's call to ministry and mission with those affected by serious mental illness.	< \$1

Serious Mental Illness: Seeking A Comprehensive Christian Response [Study guide]	Task Force on Serious Mental Illness of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP)	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association, Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	2006	Four sessions for personal and class discussion and reflection. Encourages and challenges the reader to think about ways people living with mental illness are included and/or excluded from participating in the work of the church and society in general. Also available in Spanish.	< \$5, PDF free
Congregation: A Community Of Care and Healing. The (Mental Illness Awareness Resource) [Manual]	Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association, Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	n.d.	Basic guide to understanding and ministering to persons affected by serious mental illness. Part of the series, " <i>The Congregation: A Community of Care and Healing.</i> " Focuses on serious mental illness and how the church might raise awareness about and confront the realities of mental illness as it affects church members' lives.	< \$5
Honest Talk About Serious Mental Illness [Training materials]	Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association, Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	n.d.	1. Video. Helps adolescents to understand the difference between normal emotional ups and downs and more serious signs of mental illness. Explores causes and effects of depression, anxiety, manic depression and schizophrenia. Shows the important role of family, community and the church in supporting a person with a serious mental illness. 2. Leader's Guide. Suggests discussion questions.	< \$10

Mental Illness Worship Resource [Presentation (services)]	Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association, Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	n.d.	An array of Presbyterian worship services designed to incorporate concerns of mental illness. Step-by-step services are arranged, or the prayers, meditations, suggested hymns and scripture readings may be used to create an individualized worship service.	< \$5
Shedding Light on the Truth [Poster]	Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association, Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	n.d.	This poster features a colorful quilt-like image and a quotation, "Shedding light on the truth" on the front side, and resources and information on the back side.	< \$1
Setting us Free from the Stigma of Mental Illness [Poster]	Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association, Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	n.d.	This 11" by 17" poster has the image of a butterfly against a yellow triangle on a background of purple sky. On the back are ideas for celebrating Presbyterian Mental Illness Awareness Day and Week during the Year of the Child.	< \$1
Painting Pictures of Mental Health [Poster]	Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association, Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	n.d.	This 11" by 17" poster features paintings and other artwork of children describing their emotions. Provides suggestions for celebrating Presbyterian Mental Illness Awareness Month.	< \$1
Painting Pictures of Mental Health [Flyer]	Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association, Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network	n.d.	This bulletin insert includes myths and facts about children and mental illness and a litany of response.	< \$10

Purpose of celebrate recovery [Policies (purpose statement)]	Saddleback Church	Saddleback Church	n.d.	Describes Saddleback Church's Celebrate Recovery program which uses Biblical principles to treat addictive, compulsive and dysfunctional behaviors.	Free
Introduction to asset building in congregations [Pamphlet]	Search Institute	Search Institute	2003	A short description of 40 assets of healthy youth development identified by the Search Institute and a list of related resources for congregations.	Free
Integrating assets into your congregation [Training materials]	Search Institute	Search Institute	2005	This workshop is for individuals and teams from congregations of all faith traditions who want to learn how to re-envision congregational life and youth work from an asset-building perspective. Length varies from 4 hours to 3 days.	Price unknown
Building assets in congregations: A practical guide for helping youth grow up healthy [Manual]	Search Institute	Search Institute	1998	A manual for youth workers, clergy, and volunteers in congregations of all faiths. It contains strategies for introducing assets into a congregation and ideas for integrating assets in youth, family, intergenerational, and community programs.	< \$25
Second Suicide and the Black Church Conference [Flyer]	Healing Center	Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN)	2005	Pre-conference flyer. Includes the list of speakers and registration info. Conducted on June 9-10, 2005, in Memphis, TN.	Free

Caring for the Soul: R'fuat HaNefesh: A mental health resource and study guide [Manual]	Address RF (Ed.)	Union of American Hebrew Congregations Press	n.d.	A manual designed to raise awareness of and reduce stigma within Jewish congregations regarding mental health issues. Includes relevant sacred texts, traditional and modern readings for use in services and support groups, sample sermons, services and programs, background information on mental illnesses, related Reform Judaism responses and UAHC resolutions, and other resources.	< \$15
Called to care: Depression [Pamphlet]	Parish Life and Leadership, Local Church Ministries	United Church of Christ	n.d.	Brief (2 pp.) caregivers guidelines. Includes suggestions on using faith resources.	Free
Prevention of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth suicide [Policies (policy statement)]	Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ	United Church of Christ	1999	Pledges to take actions that will increase awareness of and seriously address youth suicide and the link between youth suicide and sexual or gender identity, by encouraging open discussion of these issues.	Free
Suicide [Policies]	United Methodist Church	United Methodist Church	2004	United Methodist Church policy statement on suicide.	Free
Action on behalf of the Jewish mentally ill [Report]	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism	1999	A brief action plan.	Free
Catechism of the Catholic Church; Part Three: Life in Christ; Section Two: The Ten Commandments; Chapter Two: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"; Article 5: The Fifth Commandment [Policies]	Vatican	Vatican	n.d.	A policy statement based on Bible commentaries. Includes a chapter on suicide.	Free
Our mission statement [Policies]	Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries (VICOMIM)	Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries (VICOMIM)	2006	VICOMIM educates clergy about mental health and offers mental health programs and resources to faith communities.	Free

Creating a caring community with persons with mental illnesses [Training materials]	Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries (VICOMIM)	Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries (VICOMIM)	n.d.	10-hour course on mental illness ministries. Helps lay Speaking Ministers to create a circle of caring within their congregations for those who have mental illness and for their families.	Price unknown
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