

What We Do?

We offer consultation services to congregations regarding addictions through the following:

Workshops

- ☒ Assist you in designing a workshop that will fit your community's identifying potential pitfalls in the process.
- ☒ Conduct a workshop for your congregation.

Worship Services

- ☒ Providing guest speakers
- ☒ Design and present Sunday services
- ☒ Help plan a "Recovery Sunday"

Resources

- ☒ Assistance you to create a network and support system for recovery in your UU community
- ☒ Help you develop resource lists specific to your local area
- ☒ Referrals to training resources

Standard district consultation fees apply

For consulting fees see:

www.pnwd.org (resources, consulting services, consultants.)

The District Addictions Ministry

Project's mission is

“to sponsor a PNWD addictions ministry that inspires and models programs for prevention, healing and recovery from addictions and compulsive behaviors in our UU congregations.”

AMP Committee members come from congregations throughout the region and include:

Rev. Alex Holt, Rev. David Maynard, Chris Poole, Mike Becker, Rev. Patti Pomerantz, Tom Ten Eyck

The AMP committee has received specialized training from The Rush Center of the Johnson Institute, Faith Partners Project. (www.rushcenter.org)

Pacific Northwest District Addictions Ministry Project
(800) 313-PNWD (7693)
long distance within the PNWD
(425) 957-9116
local and non-PNWD

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2-2009



Pacific Northwest Addictions Ministry Project

Assisting congregations throughout the Pacific Northwest in developing an outreach to their members regarding substance abuse and addictions.

Did You Know?

- Most people who drink alcohol are social drinkers, and most people who use drugs are social users. These people are able to handle their use responsibly and do not suffer personal or family problems related to their use.
 - Some people who drink alcohol and/or use drugs become substance abusers. Abusers will likely experience problems associated with their alcohol or drug use, but use those experiences to set appropriate limits on how much and how often they drink or use.
 - A few people who drink alcohol and/or use drugs become alcoholics and/or addicts. Alcoholics and drug addicts experience negative consequences associated with drinking or using but continue to drink or use despite those consequences.
 - Experience shows that for every person with an alcohol or other drug problem, at least four others are affected by their behavior.
 - Substances other than drugs & alcohol, including behaviors (i.e. food, gambling, sex, money, etc.), may become addictive. These addictions can be the cause of shame and devastation and create a terrible sense of isolation.
 - Clergy have reported that when confronted with family situations, though the presenting problem may be different, addiction is often an underlying issue.
 - Whether individuals experience addiction themselves, or friends and family members are affected by an addict, they may at first feel quite alone, possibly embarrassed, not knowing where to turn for help, or if anyone else would understand what they are going through.
 - Times of transition (geographic relocations, change in job or marital status or family situation, graduations, etc) can be the time of greatest risk for serious drug or alcohol abuse, or addiction.
 - Because congregations support people and families throughout the lifespan, congregations are the ideal place to provide support, awareness, education, and early intervention.
 - Most alcohol and drug abusing adults are living at home; holding onto a job, business, or profession; are reasonably well accepted members of their communities and suffer in silence experiencing a sense of shame and isolation.
 - Children are also at risk for serious substance abuse. The age of first use is now 12 years or younger.
 - Removing the stigma associated with substance abuse and behavioral addictions creates an atmosphere in which people can be open about their concerns and reach out for help and understanding.
 - People in the congregation can become trained observers, making a safe place for the conversations to occur...a sacred time.
- Stories of Addiction Issues**
From UU Congregations
- “I was newly recovering and attended a church function. It appeared that only alcoholic beverages were available. I was too embarrassed to say anything. I later found out that there were non-alcoholic drinks, but they were in a cooler under the table”*
- “We were having such serious financial problems because of my wife’s gambling problem. I was so embarrassed. There didn’t seem to be anyone who I could talk to about it.”*
- “In the RE program we realized there were issues with some of the teens around drinking and drug issues. We had a lot of difficulty finding the appropriate curriculum to use. None of us had any experience in this area.”*
- “I felt so alone. I was sure that people would think poorly of me. It was such a relief to find out that there were some people who had experienced some of the very same things I was going through. There was actually someone who I could talk to.”*
- “We held a worship service on addictions with stories presented by members aimed to bring the reality of addiction out into the open. The feedback showed this helped to remove stigmas about addictions while creating an open and supportive church for those in recovery.”*
- “The church held a fundraiser. It was a gala evening with hors d’oeuvres and drinks served. There was wine and beer. No options were considered for anyone who didn’t wish to drink alcohol (or to plan for designated drivers after the event).”*
- “Her daughter had a methamphetamine addiction. Our congregation had an elevated awareness and as her daughter began recovery, we were more able to support the entire family through that difficult time”*