

New Zealand Faith Community Nurse's Association Annual conference 'Partnerships of Hope' was held in Hamilton on the 7th -9th August. It was well attended with 45 delegates currently practicing as Faith Community Nurse's plus interested parties. The conference was opened by the Anglican Archbishop David Moxon who stated that Faith Community Nursing is about expressing the love of God in a spectrum of care. He highlighted that the wider community is looking for health, wholeness and spiritual meaning and the church can cover this with a Faith Community Nurse who speaks the language of the community.

The Association's patron Very Reverend Charles Tyrrell also addressed the conference and highlighted the servant hood of our ministry as we partner with Christ. The Faith Community Nursing ministry has much to teach and give to the church, and true partnership gives us real hope and encouragement.

Our key speakers were Dr Judith Christensen, RN, PhD and Dr Dianne Roy, RN, PhD. Dr Christensen explains that nursing is a partnership with people in need of nursing care. Central to this model is the idea that both person and nurse have specific work to do and when we both work together we achieve good outcomes.

Dr Dianne Roy, spoke about managing long term illnesses through the Flinders Self Management Programme that aims to work with people with long-term conditions to enhance their self management and maximize their quality of life. The Health care professionals should be consultants supporting the people with long-term conditions.

Rev Derek Allen from Hamilton Central Baptist encouraged us to look at our spiritual physical and emotional care, by taking the time to sustain ourselves by looking at our boundaries, our equipping and our communication within these areas and surrounding ourselves with supported people.

The conference illustrated a balance between theory and practical sessions with many stories and experience told by Faith Community Nurse's with much discussion and interaction between conference delegates.

The conference concluded with the Annual General Meeting and a prayer for the journey.

For more information Contact admin.faithnursing@xtra.co.nz or visit our website www.faithnursing.co.nz