

CCIH Integration of Faith and Health Working Group

Working Group Charter October 2021

Problem Statement and Purpose

The Integration of Faith & Health (IFH) working group will address the problem of partnership between the church and health agencies, authorities, and organizations. The problem is based on the stigma associated with specific health conditions, broken trust between public health authorities and the church, and gaps in public health tools to address Shalom as the church's definition of health and wholeness. The purpose of the working group will be to provide new insights into health that are available only within the context of the Christian faith (The Healing Church, Tübingen 1965) and create opportunities for health and faith leaders to learn how to effectively engage and communicate effectively to achieve health and wellbeing for all. Lastly, the working group will evaluate existing tools and theories that align with the mission of health and wholeness as defined by a biblical understanding of human dignity.

Goals and Objectives

By 2023, the IFH working group WG will:

5. Conduct 4 webinars on the Integration of Faith & Health targeting church leaders and public health/health care practitioners. Content from webinars will be used to inform a module to build "faith-based capacity" for CCIH network members and clergy/seminarians.
6. Write and publish 2 thought leadership pieces with each piece involving a health practitioner and church leader from the Global South.)
7. Conduct a case study competition for Christian MPH students with the winning team gaining free registration to the CCIH conference in 2023. The winning team from the case competition will have their tool or instrument published and disseminated through the IFH working group WG.
8. Support and advise CCIH on efforts to identify best practices for, and foster dialogue between, clergy/lay leaders and health leaders, including identifying web resources, reviewing web material and online dialogue.

Guiding Principles

Statements of direction or values

The IFH working group WG will focus on and be guided by the following statements:

1. Focus on local health service delivery in partnership with the local church
2. Honor the experience of the staff member and the community member
3. Respect cultural variation around the integration of faith and health
4. Sensitivity to partnerships with USAID and other secular/governmental agencies
5. Engage faith leaders from the beginning

Scope, Boundaries, and Issues

Topics that the group will likely encounter, study, or discuss, and what will remain "outside" the focus of the IFH working group.

1. Grant writing support
2. Disunity and polarizing theologies
3. Short-term health/medical missions
4. Program development and evaluation consulting requests

Requirements

1. Webinar support
2. Information dissemination to the larger network
3. Free conference registration for the winning student team
4. Publication support for faith leader materials
5. Journal fees (if needed for journal publications)

Membership Expectations

Members of the IFH working group are expected to meet every other month and complete tasks in between meetings as assigned by the group. Each member is expected to contribute to meeting one of the objectives listed above. Please identify which objective you are interested in working on prior to committing to this working group.