

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Our current Board Members are representatives from the Huntsville Association for Pastoral Care , Mental Health Association, Mental Health Center, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Grief & Loss Center, Lighthouse Ministry, the Religion and Disability Council affiliated with IMS, Madison Baptist Association, Volunteers of America North Alabama, Our Place & Various Faith Communities. As we grow anyone interested in becoming part of our group or to volunteer is encouraged to contact us.**

**Initial funding was provided through the Huntsville Association for Pastoral Care and area organizations. Other agencies and churches have contributed over the past year and donations are always welcomed.**

**We will be happy to do a short presentation for your group or church to learn more about us.**

### Contact Information

**Council for Faith & Mental Illness  
c/o Huntsville Association for Pastoral Care  
917-C Merchants Walk  
Huntsville, AL 35801**

**Phone: (256) 880-2074  
Rev. Ward: (256) 880-3222**

## COUNCIL FOR FAITH AND MENTAL ILLNESS



## WHO WE ARE

The Council on Faith and Mental Illness was started by a Steering Committee in the summer of 2003 and was incorporated February 20, 2004.



Our Mission Statement is “To provide faith and spiritual leadership to those who suffer from persistent and serious mental illness.”

Our Long Range Goals are :

1. To offer one-on-one visitation.
2. To serve as a contact point for area congregations seeking information, liturgies, discussion topics, etc. that relate to persons with mental illness or their families.
3. To assist the Alliance for the Mentally Ill and others in reaching out to area religious communities concerning matters of spiritual care for those in the community with mental illness and their families.

To help meet these goals a Chaplain was hired in the Spring of 2004.

Our current Chaplain is Laurel Ward-Winn. She was raised in Huntsville, Alabama and is a graduate of Grissom High School. Laurel has a B.S. Degree in Psychology from Samford University 1990; a Masters of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary ,1994. She did her CPE Residency at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, 1995-1996 and was ordained by First Baptist Church of Ft. Thomas, Kentucky in 1996. She has served as Chaplain of Hospice of Northern, Kentucky, and St. Elizabeth Medical Center. Laurel is also an Adjunct Professor at Calhoun Community College and a wife and mother of two.

As chaplain for the Council for Faith and Mental Illness the chaplain’s duty is to provide spiritual care benefiting those affected by serious and persistent mental illness. This is done through encouraging and nurturing faith and leading worship services.

These worship services are:

- intentionally ecumenical (broadly Christian based),
- flexible in format in a way that is responsive to the participants,
- and where appropriate, draw upon area ministry leadership, lay and clergy.



The Chaplain provides leadership of a weekly discussion group in a safe, caring, and inclusive atmosphere for those who wish to explore spiritual matters, or concerns of any kind.

Often the chaplain can be found at local gathering places for people living with mental illness such as Our Place.

Our Place is a consumer-run, drop-in center. This Center is a freestanding and independently operated facility where consumers voluntarily visit for socialization, fellowship and peer support. Our Chaplain conducts weekly worship services at Our Place.

Chaplain Ward can be reached by phone at (256) 880-3222.