

Becoming WISE

The Journey



Agenda

Introduction

History of WISE

Overview of WISE to date

What we Ask of our Faith communities

Questions and Answers





Introduction

The need is great.

Therapy versus WISE

My personal anguish and redeeming
work through MHN



HISTORY

Out of tragedy God spoke and people listened

A dirt road winds through a mountainous landscape. The road is light-colored and shows tire tracks. The surrounding hills are covered in dense, yellow and orange foliage, suggesting autumn. In the background, there are several mountain peaks under a blue sky with some clouds.

Genesis of our network in 2009.
Tragedy in a Colorado church spurred a movement
2010 A2A
Covenant writing and the WISE acronym

*The way to
get started is to
quit talking and
begin doing.*

Walt Disney

Today:

- **51 faith communities. This includes a Presbyterian church and 3 synagogues!**
- **3 UCC Conferences are WISE**
- **2 Associations are WISE**
- **College campus ministries are on the cusp**

How Did They Get There?

[https://www.mhn-ucc.org/
Wise Certification](https://www.mhn-ucc.org/Wise Certification), click. Under that tab you will see "How

to Begin the Wise Process"

Form a committee

Live with Ambiguity

Discern the Heart of Your Community

Survey for a Bird's Eye View

Resources tab, leads to Congregational Toolkits

**Assessment of Congregational Mental Health Needs Intro
(DBUCC)**

**Assessment of Congregational Mental Health Needs Survey
(DBUCC)**

**Become a support, resource and education magnet for
mental health**

2/1/20XX

Writing Your Covenant

It's already in you

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Include your organization's understanding of the suffering in mental health struggles and exclusion.

Talk about the mandate you experience to act according to the dictates of your beliefs.

What will you do? When you submit your covenant to your liaison we will be looking for whether you are caring for those in your organization as well as your wider community.

Whether you are welcoming those with mental health diagnoses into all aspects of your group life, including leadership. We ask that you continue a robust ministry after you receive your certification, and that you check in with us yearly to let us know what you are doing.

Regarding a harmful practice currently happening to many LGBTQIA+ youth, we voted last year that you cannot be a proponent of conversion therapy and receive our WISE certification.

Kent UCC's covenant

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Thank you!

Vicki K. Harvey, Psy.D.

WISE Chair

MHN Board, UCC

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