

# 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





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



2/1/20XX

January

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

Walt Disney

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## 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, 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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