Presidential & Director's Statement

What an incredible year! Pathways to Promise has a new logo, refreshed website, new strategic plan—including a new mission and vision statements—and new goals. We have even restructured our board adding three committees to help us carry out our mission. As you can see, a lot of new things have been happening with our organization.

We spent this year reimagining who we are as an organization to equip us to move forward on a firmer foundation. Yet, even in the midst of reimagining, Pathways has continued to facilitate the faith community’s work in reaching out to those with mental illness and their families.

We are excited to report that Pathways to Promise is celebrating 30 years of existence. Yes, that’s right! We are continuing to build on the work of the fourteen faith groups and mental health organizations that founded Pathways in December 1988. Pathways has established new partnerships and renewed others, including with NAMI FaithNet, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Commission on Mental Illness of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the Mental Health Chaplaincy.

In recognition of this momentous time in Pathways’ history, we honored the founding Executive Director, Jennifer Shifrin, with the Pioneer Award. We also honored Craig Rennebohm, a former Executive Director of Pathways and the founder of the Mental Health Chaplaincy and the Companionship Training program, with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

In May 2018, Pathways to Promise entered into a joint partnership with the Mental Health Chaplaincy in Seattle, WA to operate and disseminate the new Companionship Training Program. Together we are creating a Companionship Train-the-Trainer model and a movement to expand Companionship across the United States. We invite you to visit our current website: www.pathways2promise.org and our new website www.thecompanionshipmovement.org to learn more and donate!

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to many more years of serving the community.

All the best,

Robert Skrocki
Pathways to Promise Board President

Jermaine Alberty, BSB, M. Div.
Pathways to Promise Executive Director
NEW LOGO AND WEBSITE REFRESH

Meet the new and expanded Pathways to Promise!

Have you noticed our beautiful new logo? The Pathways to Promise Board of Director’s choice for the new symbol going forward reflects our renewed commitment to reach across all faiths and supporting individuals with mental illnesses and their allies on their spiritual journey to recovery and full participation within the community of God.

The lower half of the capsule-shaped emblem represents the various paths we find ourselves walking individually and together, and as Pathways to Promise expands into the practice of companioning people with mental illnesses, each path represents essential principles that guide us as we walk together. The rays of light emanating from the upper half symbolizes the hope that connection to faith has to recovery from mental illnesses.

All strong and effective organizations require a strong web presence and Pathways is embracing that fact fully with the upcoming and ongoing changes to the website www.pathways2promise.org.

The site will make finding information, downloading and purchasing materials, keeping abreast of new initiatives, and easily participating in the webinars, training, and monthly leadership forums. By liking and following our Pathways to Promise Facebook page and reviewing the new email blasts will provide you with timely snapshots of faith filled news and shared practices with easy links to full stories.
STRATEGIC PLAN

Charting a way forward to support the increased demand for effective approaches for faith communities desiring to impact the lives of individuals with mental illnesses and their families required a comprehensive revisit to the strategic plan.

The Board seized the opportunity to envision Pathways to Promise as a mission and as an organization for 2019 and beyond. Robert Skrocki, President of the Board of Directors and Executive Director Jermine Alberty spent months with the Board crafting and honing new active vision and mission statements and three clear goals with recommended infrastructure changes needed to assure that the organization can achieve them.

Mission
Pathways to Promise collaborates with faith and spiritual communities to share resources that assess, educate and effect change to welcome, support, engage and include persons with mental illnesses and those who care for them.

Vision
People living with mental illnesses and those who care for them are welcomed and supported in all faith and spiritual communities.

Goals
1. Partner with faith communities, seminaries, and those impacted by mental illness to share resources, mental health training, and models of outreach and inclusion.

2. Pathways will provide culturally appropriate and interfaith resources that enhances preparation and praxis of faith community partners about improving the quality of life for people impacted by mental illness.

3. Foster collaborations among mental health advocates and faith community partners while strengthening their connections with community, state and national groupings of faith communities.

4. Develop funding models to sustain our work
Pathways to Promise was invited to unveil the collaboration between Pathways to Promise and the Seattle Mental Health Chaplaincy while attending the San Antonio Texas NAMI conference Pathways to Hope. Staff and Board members were enthusiastically welcomed and a high level of interest was expressed in the work of Pathways and the Companionship program.

Board members contributed important presentations, including Executive Director Rev. Jermine Alberty, who led a conversation about “Mental Illness and the Impact on the African American Church” and a presentation with board member, Rev. Kae Eaton, and on “Companionship.” Board member, Rev. Cindy Holtrop, offered “Mental Health and the Practice of Worship” with Rev. Ram Lopez, and board member, Dr. Jim Zahniser, presented “Communities of Wellness: Reimagining the state hospital in San Antonio,” with Dr. Amanda Tinsley-Matthias.

Pathways also recognized Ms. Jennifer Shifrin and Rev. Craig Rennebohm for their extensive contributions to the work and growth of Pathways. The conference was well-attended and Pathways generated lots of excitement and interest.

Many thanks to San Antonio NAMI Board Director and Pathways Board member, Doug Beach, for extending the invitation and hosting Pathways to Promise’s Annual Meeting.
ANNUAL P2P AWARDS

2018 Pioneer Award

The first annual Pioneer Awardee was Ms. Jennifer Shifrin, who in 1988, with support from the Missouri Institute of Mental Health became the first executive director of Pathways to Promise. Jennifer became a national resource, being asked to consult and speak across the United States. In 1994, Jennifer worked with the Missouri Institute of Mental Health and the St. Louis Science Museum to create the floor exhibit, “The Brain Matters”, designed to inform visitors on issues of mental health. Jennifer was integral in the launching of the Pathways to Promise website and, thanks to her leadership and dedication, Pathways has grown and flourished.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The first ever Pathways Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to longtime supporter and mental health innovator, Craig Rennebohm from the Mental Health Chaplaincy in Seattle Washington. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Craig is a noted author and the founder of the Companionship Program. Craig transformed his own early experience with mental health problems into a compassionate movement that reached out to the most isolated people on the streets of Seattle. This life changing program is now available in communities across the country, thanks in part to the collaborative work between the Mental Health Chaplaincy and Pathways to Promise.
COMPANIONSHIP

The Mental Health Chaplaincy of Seattle Washington is the organization started by Craig Rennebohm to address some of the unmet needs of people in homelessness and with mental illnesses. These initial efforts grew over the next 30 years into a large program offering housing supportive services and linkages to medical care. The beautiful practices of Companionship—hospitality, neighboring, sharing the journey side-by-side, listening, and accompaniment—are lived out by companions and all those companions encounter.

Craig retired in 2013 and turned the reins over to Rev. Kae Eaton who had worked with him since 2010. With Kae’s leadership, the program expanded, adding staff and an active board of directors. With the Chaplaincy busy managing direct services in the Pacific Northwest, a long dreamed of expansion across the country would need an organization with national reach and greater experience with training programs.

In 2018, the Mental Health Chaplaincy began building on their 18-year-long relationship with Pathways. Working with Pathways Executive Director Jermine Aliberty, the plan to spread Companionship across the country took shape. Together Pathways and the Mental Health Chaplaincy worked to update and modernize the Companionship training curriculum and materials and to develop a plan to fund the expansion.

Taking Companionship to all faiths, all settings, is a thrilling and humbling task but Pathways is taking the challenge and will hold its first pilot of the new Train-the-Trainer curriculum in the spring.

For more information about bringing Companionship to your organization contact Rev. Aliberty at jaliberty@pathways2promise.org or Rev.Eaton at kae@mentalhealthchaplaincy.org.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tim Darmour-Paul
Kae Eaton

Cindy Holtrop
Carol Josefowski
Tom Lambert
Bean Murray
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Executive Director

Dawn Pennington
Program Associate
Jessica Dexter
Administrative Program Consultant

Rita McElhany
Development Consultant
Elizabeth Freshour
Social Media Consultant

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Education + Resource Development

Committee Leads
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Committee Members
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Bean Murray
Tom Lambert

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Jessica Dexter

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Cindy Holtrop

Committee Support
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Committee Leads
Tim Darmour-Paul, Jim Zahniser

Committee Members
Robert Skrocki
Doug Beach

Committee Support
Rita McElhany

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to multiply the work of Pathways to Promise and assure that we can serve as many individuals as possible as they embark on recovery and spiritual development!

Please make checks payable to Pathways to Promise and mail to: Pathways to Promise
P.O. Box 63273, St. Louis, MO 63163. Or donate online:
http://www.pathways2promise.org/donatetoday