



## For Immediate Release

FROM: Faith Connections on Mental Illness | [faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org](http://faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org)

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### **Focus on Stigma in Mental Illness: FCOMI to hold 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

CHAPEL HILL, NC (January 16, 2017) Registration is open for ***Transforming Lives: Overcoming Stigma in Mental Illness***, a day-long program focused on the stereotypes, bias, stigma and silence faced by those dealing with mental illness.

This conference will be held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Chapel Hill on Friday, March 31 from 9 am to 4:30 pm. This year marks the seventh conference offered by Faith Connections on Mental Illness in conjunction with Wake Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

Professional credits from Wake AHEC are offered for an additional charge. Breakfast and lunch will be included. Register online at [wakeahec.org](http://wakeahec.org) and visit [faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org](http://faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org) for details. Early registration is encouraged as there is typically a wait list each year.

Faith Connections on Mental Illness is a nonprofit organization dedicated to working with all faith communities to welcome, include, support, educate and advocate for individuals and families who are living with mental illness. To learn more about, please visit the website: [faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org](http://faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org). AHEC provides educational programs and services that bridge academic institutions and communities to improve the health of the people of North Carolina. Learn more at [wakeahec.org](http://wakeahec.org). ###



### ***Faith Connections on Mental Illness***

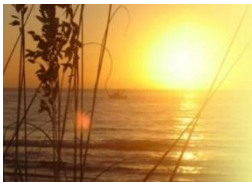
*The mission of Faith Connections on Mental Illness is to work with all faith communities to welcome, include, support, educate, and advocate for individuals and families who are living with mental illness.*

Meeting at St. Thomas More ♦ 940 Carmichael St. ♦ Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Send Mail To: P.O. Box 3502 ♦ Chapel Hill, NC 27515

[info@faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org](mailto:info@faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org) ♦ [faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org](http://faithconnectionsonmentalillness.org)

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## FAITH CONNECTIONS ON MENTAL ILLNESS

Help & Hope

Transforming Lives: Overcoming  
Stigma in Mental Illness | **Fact Sheet**  
St. Thomas More | Chapel Hill, NC  
March 31, 2017

### Everything you need to know about the conference!

**WHO:** Sponsored by Faith Connections on Mental Illness, a group of laypeople and clergy from across North Carolina dedicated to providing resources to those who need information about mental illness and to working with all faith communities to support, educate and advocate for individuals and families who are living with mental illness.

**WHAT:** A day-long conference that features nationally recognized speakers and mental health experts addressing issues associated with faith and mental illness. Breakout sessions will address caregiver burnout; the fight against discrimination, race, culture and mental health disparities; and overcoming mental illness stigma in schools.

- Keynote Speaker: **Patrick Corrigan**, PsyD, Distinguished Professor of Psychology Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago
- Plenary Speaker: **Don Diefenbach**, PhD, Professor and Chair of Mass Communication University of North Carolina – Asheville

**WHEN:** Friday, March 31, 2017; 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Registration starts 7:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** St. Thomas More; 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**COST:** Registration remains open until filled; \$35 Registration fee by March 13, 2016; \$45 after deadline (no credit). Professional Credits offered by Wake AHEC for additional fees

**HOW:** Register online at [wakeahec.org](http://wakeahec.org). Visit [faithconnectionsmentalillness.org](http://faithconnectionsmentalillness.org) for more information or call (919) 350-0464

**WHY:**

- Identify approaches and strategies for combatting stigma.
- Recognize the role that the media plays in promulgating negative stereotypes
- Discuss how local schools deal with mental illness.
- Identify the role of race in perceptions about mental illness disparities.
- Recognize the legal and social barriers facing people living with mental illness.
- Identify factors that lead to compassion fatigue by those responsible for the care of people living with mental illness.

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