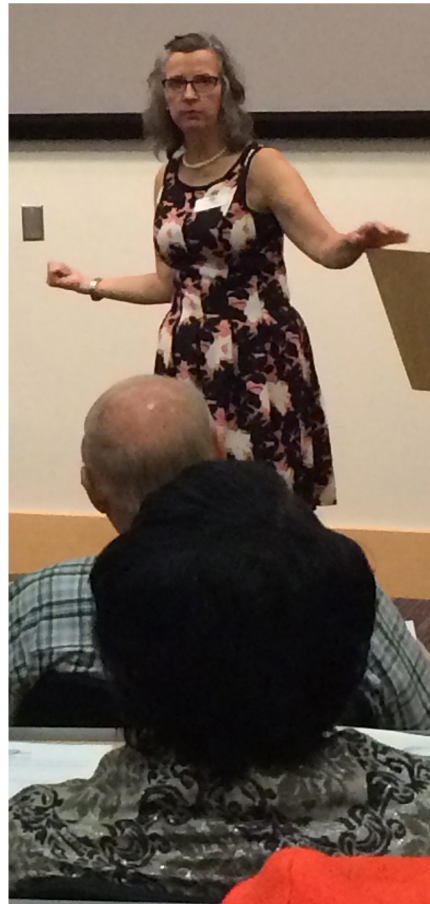


# Central Georgia Cancer Coalition Partners with Local Churches to Start Cancer Ministries

## Faith, Hope & Cancer: A Seminar on the Spiritual Side of Cancer

### Summary

The CGCC, through its partnership with Cancer Companions, has been able to not only engage and educate 26 local area churches but empower them to more aptly meet the needs of cancer survivors and their families through outreach and the formation of cancer ministries.



### CHALLENGE

A 2014 study conducted by the Central Georgia Cancer Coalition indicated that when asked to identify their greatest source of strength, the majority of cancer survivors respond with their faith. The CGCC acknowledges the need for a more educated and equipped faith community throughout the Central Georgia area in regards to cancer and cancer ministry.

### SOLUTION

The Central Georgia Cancer Coalition partnered with Cancer Companions, a non-profit organization that travels the country training churches to start cancer ministries, to host Faith, Hope, & Cancer: A Seminar on the Spiritual Side of Cancer. This seminar served as a formal training for any interested pastors, clergy members and lay people on the basics of cancer and cancer ministry. Additionally, Cancer Companions provides regional representatives to further assist and support new cancer ministries, as well as continuing education through a series of webinars.

“The gift you give that is most important is permission to feel. You are the keeper of their hardships, trials, and pain. They are not there for yours.”  
**-Karen Tripp, LMFT**

## GET INVOLVED

### ***For Churches:***

Contact the Central Georgia Cancer Coalition at 478.254.5225 for more information on how your church can get involved in starting a cancer ministry.

*For more information on the Central Georgia Cancer Coalition and its current efforts, please visit [www.CentralGACancer.org](http://www.CentralGACancer.org)*

## SUSTAINING SUCCESS

The CGCC will follow the creation of local cancer ministries while measuring their impact through quarterly data collection. Additionally, the CGCC will use this data to further support funding and partnership opportunities. These churches will create a network of support and will assist the CGCC in the dissemination of cancer-related information throughout their religious institutions. While the need is obvious to the CGCC funding to continue the initial training, provision of resources, and continuing education will require continued funding.



## RESULTS

This event drew 40 RSVPs from the Central Georgia area with 26 actual attendees. Of the attendees that completed the participant feedback form, 78% indicated that they were dedicated to starting a cancer ministry within their church. One participant stated that six women in her bible study were currently battling cancer which only affirmed the need for such training.

## Contact

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A focused initiative of Community Health Works