Faith & Men's Health

A Call to Action for Prostate Cancer Awareness

June 2026

Dear Faith Leader,

Faith communities play an important role in supporting the health and well-being of individuals and families. Churches and faith-based organizations are often trusted places where people feel comfortable discussing difficult topics and finding support during times of need.

Prostate cancer is one of those topics.

It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men, and it affects not only those diagnosed, but also spouses, partners, and families. While early detection and informed conversations with healthcare providers can make a difference, many men delay talking about prostate health due to fear, stigma, or simply not knowing where to start.

Faith communities can help change that.

We are inviting faith leaders and congregations across Pennsylvania to partner in a statewide effort to raise awareness about prostate cancer and encourage open, informed conversations about men's health. This effort is grounded in respect for faith traditions and the shared belief that caring for physical health is part of caring for the whole person.

As one prostate cancer survivor shared:

"Prostate cancer kills over 34,000 men in the U.S. each year. By comparison, 54,000 American soldiers died in the ten-year Vietnam War. In two years, prostate cancer claims more American lives than Vietnam did in an entire decade. I've lost more associates, friends, and family to prostate cancer than in two combat tours in Vietnam. Thirty-five years ago, my wife Lois saved my life by insisting I see our physician. That visit, prostate cancer screening, further tests, and treatment saved my life. I will celebrate my 90th birthday on August 28, 2026. Early detection made all the difference. Don't wait—schedule your screening now. Don't fear the finger; it could save your life."

- James E. Williams, Jr.
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Chairman, Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition

Healthcare professionals emphasize the importance of community awareness and early conversations:

"As an oncologist, it is deeply troubling that funding for this low-cost, potentially life-saving PSA blood test is still being debated," said Dr. Ed Balaban, DO, FACP, FASCO, the current Vice President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. "No-cost prostate cancer screening for populations at elevated risk should be mandatory and beyond debate. The evidence is clear, and the time for legislative action is now."

Faith leaders also recognize the value of addressing health within congregations:

“Watching my dear friend and brother, Rev. Bradshaw, walk through his battle with prostate cancer had a profound impact on me. Witnessing his journey gave me a unique and deeply personal awareness of just how important it is to get tested. Before this experience, I’m not sure I fully understood the significance of early detection or the reality of how this disease can affect not only the person facing it, but also those who love and care for them. Walking alongside him through this journey opened my eyes in a way I never could have imagined.”

“As faith leaders, we are called to care not only for the soul, but also for the wellbeing of the whole person. Creating space for conversations about men’s health can save lives, strengthen families, and remind our communities that seeking help is not a sign of weakness, but wisdom.”

- Bishop C.L. Hendricks
CEO & Senior Bishop
Chairman, Blackout PCa

Participation can take many forms, depending on what fits your congregation:

- Sharing prostate cancer information with men’s or family ministries
- Hosting a brief educational talk or community health discussion
- Partnering with local organizations on a health event or screening opportunity
- Encouraging supportive conversations for men and families affected

You are not expected to provide medical guidance. Our role and that of our partners is to offer trusted information and resources to support your efforts.

We hope you will consider joining this initiative to support men’s health and prostate cancer awareness in communities across Pennsylvania. If you would like to learn more or explore ways to participate, we would be glad to connect.

Thank you for the care you provide for your congregation and community.

Sincerely,
Men’s Health Work Group, Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition