

Local Church Leader's Guide for Intentional Ministry By, With, and For Older Adults



By
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The ENCORE Ministry Foundation provides consultation, training, resources, networking opportunities, and grant funding to support intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults in local churches and surrounding communities.

The 2026 Local Church Leaders' Resource for Intentional Ministry by, with, and for older adults, will guide you in starting and sustaining exemplary older adult ministry in your church and community.

This resource is most helpful for church leaders when used with a team of older adults to review, plan, and develop intentional ministry.

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Older Adults are Living Longer and Healthier

- Older adults are making meaningful contributions to their communities and organizations
- They are serving as leaders and valuable wisdom-givers to their churches and families
- They are sharing their life experiences and faith journeys with family and friends
- They are providing historical grounding to young people

Aging Reality

While it is an egregious error to assume that all older adults are in a state of poor physical health and mental decline, we cannot pretend that we experience only glorious possibilities as we age. Aging is also about challenges, transitions, and losses. The aging reality means we may face a variety of challenges:

- Loss of physical health and cognitive abilities
- Loss of meaning, purpose, relationships, and income
- Managing our own or a loved one's chronic conditions
- Grief caused by the death of loved ones
- Limitations in mobility and increasing dependency
- Ageism, economic insecurity, social isolation, and loneliness

The church is called to be *intentional* in developing a ministry *by, with, and for* older adults!

The Role of the Church in Older Adult Ministry

Many congregations are reflections of our society having more older adults than young people in church membership. As a result, church leaders are invited to:

- Re-think church vitality when intergenerational ministry is not feasible or possible
- Re-frame aging with a new vision realizing that aging is not a problem to solve but a gift to embrace
- Learn to appreciate the positive aspects and unique challenges of a *graying* congregation
- Help older adults know they are valued, respected, and needed in ministry
- Provide older adults with opportunities for fellowship, enrichment, and service
- Help older adults find meaning and purpose in the later years
- Empower older adults for outreach and being engaged in the community
- Engage older adults in spiritual growth and faith development
- Help older adults engage in “*generativity*” and “*legacy work*” by giving back to succeeding generations
- Develop visitation teams for homebound and long-term care residents
- Offer worship services that provide spiritual nurture and growth
- Provide support for caregivers and older adults experiencing grief and loneliness
- Develop intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults

A Detailed Approach to Intentional Ministry By, With, and For Older Adults

Step 1

Organize an Older Adult Ministry Team

Invite 6 to 10 older adults (from a variety of lifestyles, living arrangements and capabilities) to plan intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults in your congregation.

Step 2

Gather information about older adults in your congregation

Develop a survey questionnaire that obtains information about the needs, talents, and concerns of older adults. Using this form, survey older adults in your congregation and community.

Step 3

Review existing church programs that already involve older adults

Look at all the various ministries and programs of your congregation. Identify those that already have older adult involvement.

Step 4

Survey social service agencies in your community

Contact the office on aging in your community. Often by checking with your Area Agency on Aging, you can obtain a clear picture of programs and activities in your community related to older adults.

Step 5

Develop a shared vision for ministry

After you have surveyed older adults in your church and have a basic understanding of your community programs and activities for older adults, begin creating a vision for intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults in your congregation.

Step 6

Design a program of ministry for your congregation

A suggested model for ministry is the S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Ministry model. Develop various ministry options realizing that one type of ministry or program does not meet all needs.

Step 7

Identify resources and key leadership

Depending upon the specific ministry or program your team develops, identify key resources needed. Identify a *champion* (leader) who will oversee and manage your ministry or program.

Step 8

Involve other congregations and community service agencies

Don't feel that you must go it alone. Involve other congregations and community resources in your planning, promotion, and delivery.

Step 9

Implement your ministry

Develop a process for implementing your ministry, including timelines, check points, and leadership responsibilities

Step 10

Evaluate your ministry

During and following a specific ministry or program event, you will want to evaluate the success and effectiveness of the event. Secure information from both participants and leadership. Use this information in developing new ministry ventures.

Make your church facilities inviting and accessible. Use appropriate and clear signage. Visit www.certainage.org to download "Tips for Improving Communication by Church Leaders with Older Adults"

S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Ministry Model

S: Spirituality - *Provide:* Bible Study Groups, Prayer Groups, Small Group Studies, Christian Education Classes, Retreats, Spiritual Journaling, Healing Services and Special Worship Services

E: Enrichment – *Provide:* Learning Opportunities and Classroom Seminars on topics of interest (e.g., Health Care, Finances, Advance Directives, Elder Law, Technology, Scams, and Life Review, etc.)

N: Nutrition/Health – *Provide:* Congregational Health Care Ministries, Parish Nurse, Low Impact Aerobics and other forms of exercise such as “Body Recall,” and “Cooking for One” Classes

I: Intergenerational – *Provide:* Programs, Events, Retreats, Study Opportunities for all ages. Invite older adults to serve as mentors and tutors and invite children and youth to visit homebound members

O: Outreach – *Provide:* Opportunities for Mission and Evangelism Outreach such as the Volunteers in Mission program, NOMADS, short- or long-term mission experiences (locally, nationally, and globally)

R: Recreation - *Provide:* Games, Fellowship Meals, Travel Events, and Field Trips. Invite participation in various activities, such as: Golf, Board games, Fishing, Tennis, Swimming, Arts and Crafts, and Quilting

S: Service - *Provide:* Transportation, Respite Care, “Stephen Ministries,” Support Groups, Home Chore Service, Home Maintenance and Minor Home Repair Service, Telephone Reassurance, Service Providers Reference and Resource Information

Additional Older Adult Ministry Models

- **Adult Day Model** – e.g., “Sunny Day Club” and other church sponsored programs for persons with early-stage dementia
- **Congregational Care Model** – e.g., Parish nurse; home respite care; visitation of homebound and persons living in nursing homes
- **Relational Model** – e.g., Social gatherings and fellowship; luncheons; and, day trips and travel opportunities
- **Service & Missions Model** – e.g., Community service projects like painting local school classrooms, providing church meals and shelter for homeless, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, VIM
- **Study Model** – e.g., Sunday school classes, Bible study, book club, *Ventures in Learning*
- **Support Group Model** – e.g., Widows and widowers (Wings of Hope), grief, cancer survivor, grandparents raising grandchildren

Phases of Aging and Retirement

- **Active Phase (Go-Goes)**

Older adults pursue a variety of interests such as volunteering, travel, working (full or part-time), study, leisure and physical fitness activities

- **Passive Phase (Slow-Goes)**

Energy and health begin to ebb and extensive travel is replaced with shorter visits to family and friends or slowing down takes place due to caregiving responsibilities

- **Final Phase (No-Goes)**

Health Problems restrict mobility and home health care services may be sought or alternative housing may be secured

S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Ministry Model Assessment

What are the ministries your church provides in each of these areas?

S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Ministry	Active Phase Go – Goes	Passive Phase Slow – Goes	Final Phase No – Goes
Spirituality			
Enrichment			
Nutrition/Health			
Intergenerational			
Outreach			
Recreation			
Service			

Ministry Ideas By, With, and For Older Adults

As you plan for intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults, keep in mind that every older adult is a unique individual and one ministry program does not meet all needs. Some older adults are “*Go-Goes*” (active phase), others might be “*Slow-Goes*” (less active and passive phase), while still others are “*No-Goes*” (inactive and homebound phase). Be sure to identify the needs and abilities of older adults in your congregation, know the resources available, and plan your ministry accordingly.

1. **Adult Day Ministry:** A one-day or several-days a week care ministry for older adults who are experiencing early stages of memory loss. Recreational and social activities for older adults who need daytime supervised care and a benefit of respite for caregivers.
2. **Age-Friendly Congregation Certificate (AFCC):** Participate in becoming a *champion* in your church and leading your congregation in the Age-Friendly Congregation Certificate Program. For more information about AFCC, visit: <https://certainage.org/afcc/>
3. **Brown Bag Lunch:** Facilitate a weekly or monthly lunch-time gathering for older adults in your church, invite guest speakers, and share community resources available for older adults.
4. **Caregivers Support Group:** Start a monthly support group for caregivers and provide learning, information, and sharing opportunities.
5. **Children of Aging Parents:** Provide support, networking opportunities, and resource information for adult children of aging parents.
6. **Church Library with Aging Resources:** Place in your church library reading materials about aging issues and older adult concerns. Include audio and large print books and a computer with internet service.
7. **Companion Services:** Older adults accompany other older adults for visits to the doctor, dentist, pharmacy, grocery store, etc., helping them along the way.
8. **Exercise and Fitness Classes:** Invite older adults to participate in “low impact” aerobics class, Yoga, Zumba, Tai Chi, or some other form of exercise.
9. **Field Trips:** Provide opportunities for older adults to take educational, recreational, and historical religious trips and short-term mission opportunities
10. **First Aid, CPR and AED Training:** Provide First Aid, CPR and AED training opportunities for older adults and leaders of Older Adult Ministry. The American Red Cross offers classes for anyone, including older adults, who has a desire to learn how to help others. Visit: www.redcross.org

- 11. Five Wishes:** Filling out Five Wishes yourself is something you can do for your family and the future you. Providing it as a program event with older adults in your church shows you care about them and their families' well-being. The organization that distributes Five Wishes is Aging with Dignity. For more information, visit <https://www.fivewishes.org/>
- 12. Flowers for Homebound and Nursing Home Residents:** Following worship services, altar flowers are taken to homebound and nursing home residents.
- 13. Fraud and Scam Awareness:** Provide information to older adults about frauds and scams taking place in your community and on the internet.
- 14. Game Day:** Once a week or monthly, hold game day for older adults such as card and board games (include games that involve mental stimulation).
- 15. Grand Pals:** Provide opportunities for older adults to serve as “foster grandparents” and to share their lives with children and youth who have few or no extended family members living in the community.
- 16. Health Care Ministry:** Start a community faith nursing program (parish nurse) for the health and well-being of older adults in your congregation. Take blood pressure check-ups and visit homebound and hospital discharged members.
- 17. Helping Hands:** Invite older adults to manage and supervise church food distribution, meal feeding, and clothing pantry for the needs of the community.
- 18. Homebound Lunch Partners:** Invite older adults to visit persons who are homebound and to share lunch together one-day a week.
- 19. Homebound Sunday School Class:** Facilitate homebound class members to participate in Sunday school with other members virtually by use of a speaker phone in the classroom or by using computer technology and the internet.
- 20. Homebound Worship:** Facilitate homebound members to read scripture, offer prayer, or participate in other liturgy acts during Sunday morning worship services by videoing in advance or virtually by using computer technology and the internet.
- 21. Intergenerational Retreat:** Invite older adults and youth to participate in a retreat together. Plan for games, hikes, meals, Bible study, and sharing.
- 22. “Latch Key Kid” Ministry:** Invite older adults to provide a safe place and an after-school program at the church for children and youth until parents return home after work. Provide for tutoring and mentoring opportunities.
- 23. Life Review Class:** Facilitate opportunity for older adults to participate in life review and reminiscence classes.
- 24. Marriage Enrichment Retreat:** Invite older married couples lead and participate in marriage enrichment programs for couples of all ages and stages of marriage.
- 25. Medical Equipment Loan Ministry:** Gather, clean, and store used medical equipment (walkers, canes, wheelchairs, etc.) for loaning to persons in need.
- 26. Mentoring and Tutoring:** Invite older adults to serve as mentors for children, youth, and adults (e.g., youth during confirmation and for new church members).

- 27.Minor Repair and Home Maintenance:** Invite older adults with expertise to help others with painting, changing light bulbs, mowing lawns, home chores, carpentry.
- 28.Multigenerational Study Groups:** Invite children, youth, and adults to study and learn together. This might include Bible topics and/or current events.
- 29.Nursing Home Worship Services, Sunday School Classes, and VBS:** Invite older adults to participate in a Sunday School class in nursing homes and Assisted Living settings and lead Vacation Bible School for residents.
- 30.Older Adult Choir:** Invite older adults to form a choir. Sing at church, nursing homes, retirement communities, and for homebound. Plan special events such as Christmas caroling throughout the community.
- 31.Older Adult Devotional Booklet:** Invite older adults to compile a devotional book of scripture readings, meditations, and prayers for congregational use to use during the season of Advent or Lent.
- 32.Older Adult Life Guides:** Invite older adults to serve as Older Adult Life Guides, persons who will “walk alongside” other older adults who need a bit of extra care, support, information, resources.
- 33.Older Adult Newsletter:** Create a newsletter especially for the older adults in your congregation. Invite older adults to submit articles and include announcements about meetings and events. This can be done online as an e-newsletter and mailed weekly or monthly.
- 34.Older Adult Recognition Service and Dinner:** During the month of May, Older Americans Month, is a special time to recognize older adults in your church. The 2nd Sunday in September, National Grandparent’s Day, is another good time to recognize older adults. Invite your congregation to plan a dinner, worship service, or other celebration to honor the faith, wisdom, and service of older adults.
- 35.Prayer and Faith Perspective Practices.** Invite older adults to participate in regular group prayer and faith practices. This might include opportunities for sharing “acts of kindness” and “gratitude lists” by the group.
- 36.Retirees Breakfast Fellowship:** Invite older adults to participate in a weekly breakfast fellowship for retirees.
- 37.Ritual for Older Adults Moving from their Homes:** Invite older adults to visit with older adults who are moving from their home to long-term care facilities. Share in prayer, scripture, song, Holy Communion, and words of remembrance and thanksgiving for the years spent in the home. Within six months or so, follow up with a similar service in new home setting.
- 38.S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Ministry:** A comprehensive ministry is the S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Ministry model which provides for intentional ministry in these specific areas: S = spirituality; E = enrichment; N = nutrition/health & well-being; I = intergenerational; O = outreach to the community; R = recreation; and S = Service

- 39. Service Provider “Preferred List”:** Gather information as a *Preferred List* for older adults who need local services such as auto mechanics, plumbers, electricians, and other local services. Service providers are all vetted before being listed by the church.
- 40. Short Term Mission:** Invite older adults to participate in short-term mission opportunities such as Habitat for Humanity, Room in the Inn, and other community projects.
- 41. Social Networking with Older Adults:** Start a blog, Facebook page, or other social networking activity with older adults for the purpose of spiritual well-being.
- 42. Sunday Afternoon Worship for Homebound and Caregivers:** Occasionally, throughout the year, conduct a special Sunday afternoon worship service for homebound members in the church sanctuary. Include the choir to sing, Holy Communion, and a time of fellowship following the service.
- 43. Sunday Morning Respite Care:** Train volunteers to provide respite care on Sunday mornings for homebound or “home-centered” older adults so primary care providers can attend Sunday morning worship services.
- 44. Technology Classes:** Facilitate technology classes for older adults with different skill levels. Invite knowledgeable people of all ages to assist older adults in such areas as making websites, staying safe online, and using social media.
- 45. Telephone Reassurance:** Invite older adults to make daily telephone calls to older adults who are lonely, homebound, or home-centered members.
- 46. Transportation Ministry:** Invite older adults and other church members to provide transportation for older adults to attend worship and church activities.
- 47. Ventures in Learning:** Facilitate classes in your church to include opportunities for creativity and learning new skills. Such classes might include drawing, painting, pottery, writing, literature, science, geography, and history studies.
- 48. Visitation Ministry:** Invite older adults visit other older adults who are homebound, lonely, hospitalized, institutionalized, and dying.
- 49. Walking Group:** Start a walking group: around the block, on trails, or along a lake/shoreline inviting older adults to become absorbed in the scenery and nature.
- 50. Weekday Bible Study:** Invite older adults in your church and from your community to participate in a weekday Bible Study (include refreshments, joys and concerns, singing and prayers).
- 51. Wheelchair Ramp Ministry:** Invite older adults to help build and/or assemble temporary wheelchair ramps needed by persons who are homebound.
- 52. Widows/Widowers Support Group:** Start a widows (and widowers) support group for information sharing, networking, and socialization. For more information about a Widows Support Group, visit *Wings of Hope* at www.wingsofhopewidowsministry.com
- 53. Writing Letters and Sending Cards:** Older adults write personal letters and send birthday, anniversary, and special remembrance cards to others.

Age-Friendly Congregation Certificate Program

Program Overview

Format: 8 modules (1 introductory + 6 core modules + 1 capstone)

Delivery: Online, asynchronous, self-paced with optional in-person sessions

Duration: Flexible completion timeline

Achievement: **For individuals:** Age-Friendly Congregation Program Champion, and **For Congregations:** Age-Friendly Congregation Designation from ENCORE Ministry Foundation and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, College of Nursing

Module 1: Creating Age-Friendly Congregations

This course emphasizes the importance of *Creating Age-Friendly Congregations* that support older adults and caregivers through inclusivity, accessibility, and respect. It provided actionable steps and principles to foster welcoming and supportive faith communities.

Course Objectives

1. Understand the significance of Age-Friendly initiatives
2. Implement accessibility measures
3. Use inclusive language
4. Adapt programs and worship
5. Engage your congregation
6. Support caregivers
7. Reframe aging positively

Module 2: Healthy Aging and Resilience

This course on *Healthy Aging and Transitions* explores how faith communities can support older adults through understanding aging, fostering inclusivity, and addressing their unique needs. It emphasizes

practical strategies to enhance the well-being of seniors and their caregivers.

Course Objectives

1. Understand aging
2. Support aging in place
3. Address loneliness and social isolation
4. Promote healthy habits and resilience
5. Foster inclusiveness through intersectionality
6. Support caregivers and those living with dementia

Module 3: Spirituality and Aging

The course *Spirituality and Aging* delves into the profound impact of faith on the aging process, emphasizing the role of spirituality and community in enhancing the lives of older adults. It provides insights into creating supportive, inclusive environments that foster spiritual growth and address the unique challenges faced by this demographic.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand the role of spirituality
2. Recognize barriers to spiritual growth
3. Foster community connections
4. Honor personal narratives
5. Adapt ministry practices
6. Promote lifelong spiritual development
7. Support end-of-life decisions

Module 4: Supporting Older Adult Well-Being

This course equips faith communities with the tools to support vulnerable older adults and their caregivers by addressing mental health, caregiving challenges, and end-of-life issues. Participants learn to recognize distress, differentiate care types, and foster inclusivity.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand vulnerability and recognize distress
2. Differentiate palliative care and hospice

3. Support advance care planning
4. Provide holistic caregiver support
5. Create dementia- and mental health-friendly environments
6. Reduce stigma through inclusive practices
7. Build partnerships and sustain improvement

Module 5: Social Inclusion and Intergenerational Connection

This *Social Inclusion and Intergenerational Connection* course focuses on fostering intergenerational connections and social inclusion within faith-based communities. Participants explored strategies to address challenges like isolation and ageism while creating a more unified and inclusive church environment.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand the importance of intergenerational engagement
2. Recognize and address isolation and ageism
3. Learn practical strategies for intergenerational programs
4. Equip your congregation with engagement skills
5. Promote collaboration and inclusivity
6. Utilize available resources effectively
7. Reflect and adapt

Module 6: Ministry Models and Program Design

The *Ministry Models and Program Design* course highlights the importance of intentional ministry for older adults, addressing their unique needs and providing strategies for effective engagement. Participants explored practical tools and frameworks to create inclusive and impactful programs within their congregations.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand the significance of older adult ministry
2. Recognize demographic changes
3. Address ageism actively
4. Develop a personalized action plan
5. Foster connection

6. Utilize the S.E.N.I.O.R.S. framework
7. Plan for sustainability

Module 7: Advocacy and Safety

The *Advocacy and Safety* course empowers faith communities to address elder abuse and promote the safety and dignity of older adults. Participants gain practical tools to recognize, prevent, and respond to elder abuse while fostering inclusive and supportive environments.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand elder abuse
2. Promote a safe environment
3. Advocate effectively
4. Engage your community
5. Develop prevention strategies
6. Prepare for emergencies
7. Protect against scams

Module 8: Sustainable Action Planning

The *Sustainable Action Planning* course provides congregations with strategies to support older adults through effective planning and community engagement. Participants learn to assess needs, set goals, and build sustainable ministries.

Course Objectives:

1. Assess community needs
2. Set measurable goals
3. Develop sustainable action plans
4. Recruit and train volunteers
5. Build partnerships strategically
6. Evaluate progress regularly
7. Communicate transparently

For more information, visit <https://certainage.org/AFCC>
To Register for the AFCC Program, visit <https://bit.ly/UTCAFCC>

Characteristics of Intentional Ministry By, With, and For Older Adults in the Local Church

- A shared vision for older adult ministry is developed
- The Older Adult Ministry focuses on the mission of the local church
 - Needs, interests, and abilities of older adults are known
 - Community services and resources for older adults are known
 - Lay leadership is available to *champion* the ministry
 - Training and resources are provided for volunteers
 - The ministry has a budget
 - The ministry reaches out to the community
 - Evaluation is regular and ongoing

Why Older Adult Ministry Sometimes Fails

- Failure to have the “right” people on your team when planning
 - Failure by the team to have a shared vision
- Failure by the lay leadership to *champion* and lead older adult ministry
 - Failure to know the needs, interests, and abilities of older adults
- Failure to know the services and resources available in the community
 - Failure to have official church leadership support

Sample Survey Form for Local Church Use

*(Every church should do a survey of the needs, interests,
and abilities of older adults)*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male Date of Birth: _____

Marital Status: ☐ Married ☐ Single, Never Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed

Do you live alone? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, with whom do you live? _____

In the event of an emergency, if you need help or became ill or disabled, is there
someone to whom you could turn for assistance? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, who? _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Do you experience any problems with where you live? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what are the problems? _____

Please rate your health: ☐ Excellent ☐ Very Good ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Approximately how often do you attend religious services?

☐ Weekly ☐ Twice a month ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Yearly ☐ Never

Would you like to receive any of the following religious services in your home?

☐ Pastoral Visitation, ☐ Lay Visitation, ☐ Devotional materials,
☐ Bible Study materials, ☐ Holy Communion, ☐ Worship Service tapes
☐ Other, please specify: _____

Do You Need?☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No

Transportation

Home Repairs

Housekeeping Chores

Minor Plumbing Repairs

Minor Carpentry Repairs

Legal Counsel

Income Tax Preparation

Financial Counsel

Food Assistance

Medical Assistance

Meal Preparation

Reading Materials

Support Group

Fellowship Group

Bible Study Group

Prayer Group

Caregivers Support Group

Respite Support

Travel Opportunities

Can You Provide?☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Need(s) You Have: _____

Other Ministry You Can Provide or have an Interest in Starting: _____

Please identify or list any programs the church (or seniors' group) should provide

for older persons: _____

Older Adult Ministry Vision Shaping

(After taking a Survey of the needs, interests, and abilities of older adults in your church, the Older Adult Ministry Team should identify a plan for your ministry and the steps needed to realize your goals)

Our vision for Older Adult Ministry at _____ Church is:

In order to achieve our vision for intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults in our church, these steps need to be taken:

Step 1 _____

Step 2 _____

Step 3 _____

Step 4 _____

Step 5 _____

Step 6 _____

Selected Resources for Older Adult Ministry

Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century: An Inquiry Approach by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. (Discipleship Resources). A valuable resource for individual or small group use examining topical issues of aging.

Aging Faithfully: The Holy Invitation of Growing Older by Alice Fryling (NavPress). An inspirational and helpful guide for our walk with God through the uncharted later years of life.

Aging With Wisdom: Reflections, Stories, and Teachings by Olivia Ames Hoblitzelle (Monkfish Publishing). A book that invites inspiring reflections on finding beauty in aging and facing death with dignity.

An Age of Opportunity: Intentional Ministry By, With, and For Older Adults by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. (Discipleship Resources). A valuable resource for organizing intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults.

Celebrating the Graying Church by Richard P Olson (Rowman and Littlefield). Helpful ideas and guidance for a new vision and practice of older adult ministry.

The Gift of Aging: Growing Older with Purpose, Planning, and Positivity by Macy Cottrell Houle and Elizabeth Eckstrom (Cambridge University). Practical advice on living with purpose in the later years.

Our Wisdom Years: Growing Older with Joy, Fulfillment, Resilience, and No Regrets by Charles Garfield (Central Recovery Press). Guided resource to help transform the struggles of aging, bringing joy and hope.

A Vision for the Aging Church by James M. Houston and Michael Parker (IVP Academic). A wealth of insight and wisdom for the future church.

What Does the Bible Say About Old Age? by Ronald D. Witherup (New City Press) A reflection on the ways the Bible affirms positive aging.

For a *free* subscription to ENCORE Ministry Connection, the e-newsletter of the ENCORE Ministry Foundation, contact Cindy Solomon at:
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