



**GUIDELINES**  
for Leading Your Congregation

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# **ADULT MINISTRIES**

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*Ministries that help adults love God  
and neighbor*

*Written by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr  
and Bill Crenshaw  
General Board of Discipleship*

## **ADULT MINISTRIES**

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# Our Identity, Call, and Mission

**A**bout now a small voice in the back of your mind may be whispering, “What am I doing here? To what have I said yes? What is my role?” At the same time you may be aware that your congregation has extended to you a *call—a call to serve*. And you have said *yes—yes to leading in a vital mission*.

***The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*** You have agreed to serve as a leader bringing your unique passions, gifts, and abilities to the church. When the leaders focus on the church’s purpose—*its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ*—and link that purpose to the passions of the people, amazing things can happen.

***The fundamental way we fulfill our mission is to reach out to people in the name of Jesus Christ, to relate people to God, to nurture and strengthen them in their journey of discipleship, and to send them into the world to be the church—inviting and receiving others in the name of Jesus Christ. We call this the primary task of The United Methodist Church.*** Effective leaders keep the whole of the primary task in their sight, working to keep all of its aspects in concert.

***Leaders in the church must be first, and foremost, spiritual leaders*** who model and embrace Christian discipline and teaching. *By practicing the means of grace—prayer, fasting, studying Scripture, corporate worship, celebration of the Lord’s Supper, Christian conversation, and acts of mercy—church leaders stay tuned to the mission of the church and live out the primary task.* Members and would-be members should be able to look to a congregation’s leaders for spiritual example and direction because true leaders are known by their fruits. People’s lives are changed through their influence.

***Leaders use their gifts and talents to enable others to use their gifts and talents to the fullest potential.*** The flow of information, inspiration, guidance, and vision from leaders is an encouragement to others on their spiritual journey. Leaders help others to see new possibilities. When leaders are focused on the mission of the church, community is built and ministry occurs. The church focused on God is alive with creative energy aimed at transformation.

## Four Essential Leadership Functions

***Church leaders support and strengthen the church when they pay attention to these leadership functions: (1) help people discover the current***

*reality in which they live; (2) bring together the congregation's understandings of current reality and desired reality into a shared vision; (3) develop the plans to help the community move from current reality toward the reality of its shared vision; and finally, (4) monitor the whole work of the church as the congregation moves with God's guidance toward its vision.*

### 1. Discovering Current Reality

Accurately describing current reality—the way things are—may be the most important function of leadership. The booklets in this Guideline series offer suggestions for leaders to pay attention to the various committees of the church's ministry. In addition, it is critical for church leaders—lay and clergy—to spend time together discussing the ministry of the whole congregation. The conversation needs to include attentiveness to God's guidance and everything that describes a congregation's "what we are, here and now." Because God is always doing a new thing, this job is continuous. When we pay attention to change, we provide a base of integrity and strength from which to move into the future. Faith in Jesus Christ and a spiritual centering in God offers the strongest foundation to move people fearlessly through the massive changes of the twenty-first century.

### 2. Naming Shared Vision

Ask the question, "What do you want more than anything else in the world?" and most persons will give a response that indicates that they want to live in a world filled with love, faith, security, and meaning. Because persons desire a positive future, they are willing to invest themselves in organizations that are committed to it. By its very nature, the church is devoted to the creation of a better future. When the church promises to move people personally and corporately toward their desired reality, people will invest time, energy, and resources into the church. As people see their own desires linked to the congregational vision and a deeper understanding of God's future, they deepen their commitment and involvement. Building this link is a vital role of leadership.

Naming a shared vision is accomplished by asking people about their lives and their faith, and by listening very carefully. By listening, we mean deep listening—the kind that requires setting aside our own agendas and entering into the worldviews of others, and listening for God through the conversation. It is a significant shift in our understanding of leadership in the church to move from telling people what we think they need to know to listening to people in order to find out who they are and what their desired realities are. Effective spiritual leaders listen to the hearts of people and begin to articulate a shared vision.

### 3. Developing Bridges

To span the gulf between our current reality and the hope expressed in the shared vision, leaders must build a bridge. The third critical function of leadership is to plan actions and develop systems that create the bridge across this gulf. Leaders who are elected to administrative and program committees are responsible for the ongoing work of the church and must pay attention to the present. At the same time, leaders *must* be focused on the future—keeping today and tomorrow in tension—ensuring that the church does not get stuck in the past, present, or future.

Church leaders who are attentive to God’s leading and who can hold the tension between today and tomorrow are *visionary leaders*. Visionary leaders see it all—current reality, desired reality, and the bridges to get from one to the other.

### 4. Monitoring the Journey

Perhaps the most critical task for leaders is keeping an eye on the whole of the faith journey of the congregation. When leaders are constantly caught up in “doing” the administrative and program work of the church, there is not any time left for “being” with God in prayer to discern the leading of the Spirit for the congregation. Leaders must step back from “doing” constant activities in order to pay attention to the total direction of the church’s mission and ministry. All elected and appointed leaders must spend time together listening to God in prayer, Bible study, conversation, and other means of grace in order to lead the entire community in the work of Christ. Anything less is not Christian spiritual leadership.

## Job Description for the Coordinator of Adult Ministries

### The Mission of Adult Ministries

- To work with other leaders in fulfilling the church’s mission of helping persons become disciples of Jesus Christ.
- To address the concerns and conditions of adults in your church and community so that the adults may grow in their understanding of themselves and the Christian faith, and that their quality of life may be improved.

This concern for adults in your community may include any or all of the following: young adults, middle-aged adults, older adults, single adults, and married adults.

### 6 Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation

## Opportunities for Your Congregation

As you begin to think about the focus of your work, reflect for a moment on these questions. Your responses will help you think about the people of your community (including your congregation) and how your congregation's adult ministries might serve them best. You may want to discuss these questions with others in your congregation and community.

- What three concerns and what three hopes do you believe adults have about their community and their faith? How do these relate to living as Christian disciples and good neighbors?
- What three experiences might help adults understand more about how the Bible and the Christian faith can be resources for daily living?
- How could the overall quality of life be improved for at least one specific group of adults in your community?
- What existing or new programs should your congregation sponsor for these adults?

My vision or hope for our congregation's adult ministries:

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During this year I will take the following steps toward making my vision a reality:

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## Responsibilities of the Coordinator

- To become familiar with the overall goals of your congregation and how these goals are achieved through the congregation's ministry with adults.
- To encourage extending the goals of the congregation through adult ministry.
- To help plan and carry out a varied and wide-ranging program with adults, including worship, study, fellowship, and service opportunities.
- To be a liaison with organizations, people, and resources that relate to adults and their concerns for personal growth and service.
- To bring Christian vocation as a calling to ministry in all spheres of life before the congregation.
- To support and guide the work of the adult council (if organized) throughout the year, plan agendas, and preside at meetings.
- To become aware of resources and programs for adults.
- To keep the congregation informed about the hopes and concerns of adults of

all ages and life situations in your community, the goals of adult programs, and the resources available that will help your congregation reach these goals.

- To represent concerns of adult ministries on the church council and charge conference.
- To take part in and be accountable to the charge conference through the church council.

### Training for Your Job

From time to time the church offers workshops and seminars that can help you in your ministry. Laboratory training events provide educational opportunities. Check with your pastor, the committee on nominations and personnel, your district superintendent, and/or conference council staff to find opportunities that match your training needs.

### People and Agencies to Consult for Help

- Your pastor
- Adults in your congregation and community
- Adult coordinators in other congregations
- Your church council
- Your district adult ministries council or district adult ministries coordinator
- Your conference council staff, conference adult coordinator, or conference adult ministries council
- General Board of Discipleship, Office of Adult Ministries, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003; (877) 899-2780 ext. 7177, a toll-free direct telephone service for United Methodists, providing current information about adult ministry resources, programs, and staff services
- InfoServ (800) 251-8140, a toll-free direct telephone service for United Methodists, providing current information about resources, programs, and staff services
- Curric-U-Phone (800) 251-8591, a toll-free service for people who have questions about United Methodist curriculum resources
- Leaders of adult ministries in other churches and denominations

## The Role(s) of Adult Coordinator

The coordinator of adult ministries fulfills a crucial role of leadership in the life of the congregation. Since adults make up the majority of members in most congregations, the work of the coordinator heavily impacts the life of the congregation. Your *role* as leader can involve several *roles*.

If you are the coordinator, then you will want to take seriously the various roles you will be expected to assume. If you are a member of the adult council, education committee, or nurture committee, you will want to be aware of the roles the coordinator is expected to fulfill and how you can assist in carrying out this important job.

**Servant Leader.** First and foremost you are a leader, a servant leader. You were chosen because you have exhibited the qualities needed for such an important position in your congregation.

A leader in the church is expected to be growing in the Christian faith. A servant leader is open to God's will and seeks to be faithful and obedient to God. *Helping adults become disciples of Jesus Christ is an important role for the coordinator of adult ministries.* This role requires such skills as the ability to listen to the needs of others, compassion, discernment, and scriptural understanding. A leader of adults is on a spiritual journey and invites others to join in the pilgrimage.

A leader will have people skills, as well as administrative and planning skills. A leader pays attention to relationships and to the personal contribution and well-being of each member of the group. A leader will balance the concern for achieving a task and tending to the feelings and concerns of members of the group.

A leader in the church will understand and support the mission of the church. Such a person will be informed about church policies and procedures. The leader will accept and help clarify the vision of the church that guides the planning of the church council. One expression of commitment to the church's mission is active participation in all aspects of the church's life and financial support of its mission.

The coordinator of adult ministries as leader sets the pace for the work of the adult council (or committee or task force or team). The coordinator carefully plans the agenda, keeps members informed, involves members in decision making, and seeks at all times to embody what it means to be a Christian disciple.

**Visionary.** An important role for the coordinator will be "to dream dreams" and "see visions." Helping to envision what is possible, what is needed, can be a crucial role to play. The coordinator needs to learn to "think big" but at the same time not lose touch with the limitations of the situation. A vital part of our United Methodist theology is the desire "to go on to perfection." Thus, we are challenged to strive for the best—for God's vision—of how and where we ought to be God's people.

**Evaluator.** A key to good leadership is the ability to evaluate what is happening in the present. The coordinator will seek to understand and properly evaluate present programs. Are they working? Are they meeting needs? Are they focused on missions? Are they helping persons grow in faith? Are they

helping to fulfill the church's ministry of reaching out and receiving persons, enabling them to relate their lives to God, equipping them for ministry, and sending them back into the world as faithful disciples?

**Planner.** The adult council is charged with planning ministries that will involve adults in learning, sharing, and serving. The coordinator will need to help the council evaluate present programs, define the role of the council in the context of the church's mission, plan for meaningful programs, enlist leaders, and implement whatever is planned. The ability to lead the council in planning may be one of the most important roles the coordinator will fulfill.

**Advocate.** The coordinator will serve as an advocate for adults in the various groups that plan and administer the church's ministry. In the church council, the coordinator will not only report on what the adult council is doing in ministry with adults, but will advocate for those adults who are left out or whose needs are being overlooked in church programming. Advocacy may take many forms, all the way from seeking more financial support for adult ministries, to planning retreats for single parents, to providing caring outreach to older adults in long-term care facilities.

### Identifying and Inviting Leaders for Adult Ministry

This role is difficult to put into one word! However, it is a critical role for the coordinator. You will want to be constantly striving to identify potential leaders for various aspects of adult ministry. In addition, you need to be involved in inviting them for specific responsibilities of leadership. *Who in your congregation would be good teachers? Who would be good leaders for task forces set up to carry out specific projects? Who has gifts and talents that could be used in working with older adults? Who would be able to provide leadership for a singles ministry program? Who could work with and help young adults grow in their faith?*

If you have questions about your role, consult with your pastor or chair of the church council. In addition to the guidelines set forth in this document, consult *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* and other resources available through your church office or library.

## Handbook for Adult Ministries

### Getting Started in Adult Ministry

How might a local church develop a deliberate ministry among adults? The following ten steps will help you and your congregation design a ministry with, by, and for adults.

## 1. Organize a Council

Find one other person who shares your vision for adult ministry in your church. Begin looking for others who are especially interested in sharing your vision. Review the names of persons with your pastor and committee on nominations and personnel. Organize an adult council (or committee or task force or team) of six to fifteen members depending upon the age demographics and membership size of your local church. In order to have a cross section of all adults, the council should be composed of the following members: women and men; persons who are single, married, divorced, and widowed; persons representing a variety of ages and stages; persons with handicapping conditions; and persons representing multiracial and multicultural diversity. After the adult council is approved by the charge conference, the council may be administratively related to the church council and/or the council on ministries, administrative council, committee on education, or other related committee.

## 2. Gather Information About Adults

Develop a survey instrument for gathering information about the adults in your local church and/or community. Invite and train members of the adult council to visit in the homes of adults. If more persons are needed for completing the survey, invite and train other church members to help with the personal interviews.

In developing a survey form, ask questions related to the following:

- Name, address, phone number, and other information-type questions
- Information about their needs as adults
- Information about ways they, as adults, can be in service to others

It is important to identify your audience by collecting as much information as possible.

For large membership churches, you may wish to develop “focus groups” instead of door-to-door surveys. Focus groups represent a sampling or cross section of all adults in the church and/or community. You will want to ask specific questions concerning needs and interests of adults in the focus group setting.

## 3. Identify Existing Church Programs

Review church programs and activities for the previous year or two. Identify all the programs and activities that involved adults. Evaluate the effectiveness of the program and determine whether or not the activity is an ongoing event.

#### 4. Identify Existing Community Programs

Identify community programs, organizations, and activities that involve adults from your local church. Take a survey of their programs and services. If a community organization is providing a program that is successful, don't try to compete. Identify ways adults can be involved in community service.

#### 5. Design a Program of Ministry for Your Church

After you have interviewed the adults in your church (and community when feasible), evaluated existing church programs, and identified community organizations and programs, you are now ready to develop programs by, with, and for adults in your church and community. If your adult council discovers several programs that need to be developed and implemented, select the programs or activities your church will be able to do and prioritize the list.

#### 6. Identify Resources and Key Persons

Secure the necessary financial and/or material resources needed to reach your goal. Invite and train selected persons to serve as key resource personnel.

#### 7. Identify Other Churches and Agencies

Working with other churches and/or agencies often is an excellent way to get a program started. By combining forces with others, you may actually save time, money, and resources.

#### 8. Set Goals and Objectives

Goals will identify what program you want to have, who will lead, who will participate, and when it is to be done. Objectives will identify how you plan to accomplish your goals.

#### 9. Implement the Program

After establishing a time line for implementing the program and the various process steps along the way, put the plan for ministry into action.

#### 10. Evaluate

Your goals and objectives should be evaluated periodically to determine the effectiveness of the program. If feedback warrants it, continue the program. If it does not, begin the process over again.

### Stages of Adult Development

"Growing up" is a lifelong process. In order to work effectively with adults in ministry, you need to know something about the adult life cycle and the kinds of needs, interests, and concerns adults experience at various stages of adulthood.

It is clear that adults go through many changes in a normal life span of seventy to eighty years or more. We generally think of at least three stages of adulthood: young, middle, and older. These categories are not very precise or helpful unless we explore in more depth the kinds of needs, issues, and concerns faced during these broad periods of adulthood.

Development implies change. The change may be good or bad. You can help adults of all ages grow toward spiritual maturity by providing a caring and challenging environment for study, reflection, and action. As a leader in adult ministry, you will want to help develop a comprehensive ministry that will enable persons to grow in faith and faithfulness as Christian disciples.

Development is also cumulative. Adults who participate actively in the full range of worship, learning, and service opportunities through the church will grow in their faith and faithfulness as they grow older.

Rather than look at a particular theory of adult development, let us take a practical look at some life concerns adults encounter at various stages. First, we will look at some of the issues and concerns adults face. Second, we will provide case studies in order to look at a “real person” rather than generalize about adults as a group.

#### Young Adulthood (Ages 18-20 to 35-40)

This broad definition includes at least two stages of transition. The period from about age eighteen to twenty until age twenty-three to twenty-five is a time of transition from youth to adulthood. During this stage young adults are completing their first phase of formal education and getting set to assume adult responsibilities.

A second stage of transition happens around age thirty-five to forty and is the transition from young adulthood to middle adulthood. Getting ready to become “middle-aged” is not always an easy transition. It is a time of taking on added responsibilities in one’s work, family, and community. Often, the church becomes one of many institutions laying a claim upon these “busy” persons. It is good to be aware of the various pressures adults are experiencing during this period of transition from young to middle adulthood.

Some concerns, needs, and issues faced by young adults include: building relationships, beginning a job or professional career, getting married or staying single, beginning a family or choosing not to have children, finding one’s place in the adult world, and assuming responsibility for making decisions as an adult.

## CASE STUDY

Andrew and Anna are twenty-six years of age. They have been dating for two years and are seriously contemplating marriage. Neither has ever been connected to a church. They recently started attending a Sunday school class for young adults at your church. They have decided that they want to be more involved in the life of the church. What opportunities will you provide for Andrew and Anna to assist them in their growth as disciples and in their desire to enter into a marriage relationship?

### Middle Adulthood (Ages 35-40 to 65-70)

These are the years when the whole world seems to come down on our shoulders. People in the middle years usually have major responsibilities for their own children and for aging parents. It is also the time when job, church, and community responsibilities bear down upon adults.

Some concerns, needs, and issues facing the middle years would include: dealing with major family and work responsibilities; either making it or not making it in a job or profession; taking on major roles in community leadership; making the world better for the next generation; getting ready for retirement (both psychologically and financially); and beginning to face mortality.

## CASE STUDY

John and Marge are forty-seven years of age. Both work in demanding jobs. Their parents are in their eighties and are beginning to face declining health. Their teenage son is going through some difficult times, and their daughter, graduating from college and unable to find a job, is moving back home. They attend worship services but are not involved in other learning and service activities in the church. They say they are “too busy” to take on any major church obligations. What kind of study, fellowship, or service opportunities might appeal to John and Marge that would nurture their faith?

### Older Adulthood (Age 65-70+)

Older adulthood can be a time of creative growth and development, or it can become a time of stagnation and despair. At this stage of life, adults are dealing with issues such as: finding worth in one’s being, not through having or doing; claiming one’s life journey and faith story; confronting losses

and acknowledging gains; defining areas of dealing with independence and dependence; experiencing a new (or renewed) relationship with God through Jesus Christ; and serving the needs of others.

### CASE STUDY

Catherine is eighty-three years old. Last year her husband died. They had been married for sixty-two years. Since then, she has had difficulty adjusting to life alone. She is in reasonably good health, but she has withdrawn from many of the church and social activities she formerly enjoyed. She is having difficulty deciding about her living arrangements. She has no family members who live near her. What can you do through the older adult ministry of your congregation to make sure Catherine is nurtured and able to maintain her independence and, at the same time, is challenged to keep on growing and serving?

## Common Life Experiences of Adults

It can be helpful to look at adult stages of development in the categories listed above. However, there are threads of common experiences faced by adults of all ages. You will want to keep these common experiences in mind as you plan your adult ministry program.

### Relationships

A basic need of all human beings is to be related to other persons in meaningful ways. When these relationships are strained or broken, adults face the need for support and healing. Among the most painful experiences are death, divorce, and serious illness. Contrary to our stereotypes, death or serious illness can occur at any age. Even divorce occurs across the spectrum from young to older adults. In these times of crisis, the church can play an important role in caring, supporting, and healing.

The loss of a job is an experience that has become commonplace for young and middle adults. Many experts believe that the idea of having the same job for more than five years is a thing of the past. Losing one's job can be a very stressful time for an individual or family. How can your adult council help people cope when changes in the workplace threaten the economic well-being of your members?

Other changes in relationships (somewhat more age related) may include the birth of a child or grandchild; children starting school, going away to college, or getting married; changing jobs and thus having to learn to relate to

a whole new network of colleagues; or moving to a new home and community and having to establish new friendships.

### Personal Changes

Adults of all ages may experience physical, psychological, or spiritual changes that can cause great anxiety. Physical or mental illness can strike at any age and bring about drastic changes in personal and family life patterns. Heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and other health problems change thousands of lives each day. Experiences of spiritual awakening, or even loss of faith, can also occur at any time. You will want to be sensitive to all the kinds of personal changes going on in the lives of adults in your congregation. Think of ways of ministering to them as they work through these difficult times.

Pay attention to ways you can provide ministry with persons who are experiencing the death of a spouse or other loved one, going through a divorce, losing or changing jobs, or facing a life-threatening disease. In a notebook, list your responses to the following.

*What are some ways the adult ministry of your congregation could support persons going through these and other crisis experiences?*

*What programs do you now have to deal directly with some of these common experiences that cut across age lines?*

*What additional programs could you have beyond those presently being offered?*

*Seek to identify some other common experiences faced by ten or more adults in your congregation.*

## National Study Findings

A major study of effective Christian education in six major Protestant denominations revealed some interesting findings. This study, by the Search Institute of Minneapolis, included findings about some of the needs and interests of adults in The United Methodist Church.

United Methodist adults expressed interest, or strong interest, in the following topics:

- The Bible
- Developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Improving their skills in showing love and concern
- Learning how to be a good spouse or parent

- Applying their faith to daily life
- Making more friends at church
- Learning how Christians make moral decisions
- Getting help with their spiritual journey
- Experiencing a greater sense of community at church
- Helping members who are experiencing hardship

*(Effective Christian Education: A National Study of Protestant Denominations, A Report to The United Methodist Church [Minneapolis: Search Institute, 1990], p. 40.)*

Other findings from this study confirmed what most adult educators already believed: *adults who participate actively in the total life of the church, including Sunday school and other study opportunities, tend to mature in faith as they grow in years.* The opposite is also true: *those who do not participate actively in learning opportunities do not experience the same faith maturity. Faith development is cumulative.* Therefore, our planning for adult ministry needs to cover the adult life span, from beginning to end (Cf. op. cit.).

## Assessing Your Adult Ministry

Your role as “evaluator” is an important one. You will need to regularly ask the question “How well are we doing?” This section is designed to assist you in assessing your present ministry with adults. You may wish to use the suggestions here or develop your own approach to evaluating your present ministry with adults.

### I. Reaching the Unchurched

An essential aspect of our ministry involves “reaching out and receiving persons.” How well are you doing in reaching those who have been “outsiders” and those members who are only marginally involved?

- How many adult members and constituents (eighteen years and older) are in your congregation? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many adults are presently involved in one or more aspects of your adult ministry (including Sunday school, *Disciple Bible Study*, adult study groups, men’s and women’s groups, or other groups)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Identify some persons or groups of persons who are not involved in adult ministry activities (such as young married couples, divorced persons, adults with handicapping conditions, persons who work on Sundays, the homebound).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- What programs or strategies do you now have in place to reach these persons or groups?

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E. What are some ways your adult council could begin addressing its concern for reaching the unchurched?

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II. How Well Are You Doing in Young Adult Ministry?

A. What programs or activities designed primarily to provide ministry by, with, and for young adults do you now have in place?

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B. Looking at specific young adult constituents, what kinds of programs do you have for reaching and involving the following:

1. Young married couples?

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2. Young singles?

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3. College age?

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4. Parents of young children?

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5. Young working professionals?

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C. What are some additional programs or activities that might be needed to more adequately minister to and with your young adult constituents?

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III. How Well Are You Doing in Middle Adult Ministry?

A. What programs or activities do you now have in place that are designed specifically for middle adults?

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B. Look at some specific constituencies among the middle adults in your congregation and evaluate how well you are doing in ministry by, with, and for these constituencies:

1. Parents of teenagers?

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2. Divorced persons?

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3. Widowed persons?

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4. Adults caring for aging parents?

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5. Adults facing midlife crises (for example, loss of job, “empty nest,” illness, physical or emotional changes)?

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C. What are some additional programs and activities that might be needed to enhance your ministry with middle adults?

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#### IV. How Well Are You Doing in Older Adult Ministry?

A. What programs and activities do you now have in place for older adults?

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B. How well are you doing in providing a comprehensive ministry by, with, and for older adults:

1. Older couples (still active)?

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2. Widowed persons?

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3. Persons in nursing homes/long-term care facilities?

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4. Persons who are homebound?

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5. Persons in retirement communities?

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C. What are some other programs and activities that might be needed to enhance and provide a more comprehensive ministry by, with, and for older adults?

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*As adult coordinator, assist your congregation in living out its primary task of reaching out and receiving all persons into the faith community, helping them*

*relate their lives to God through Jesus Christ, nurturing them in the Christian faith, and equipping, sending, and supporting them as faithful disciples.*

Key words to keep in mind as you evaluate your adult ministry are these:

Reaching	Relating	Teaching
Nurturing	Guiding	Equipping
Sending	Supporting	Facilitating

## Program Settings for Adult Ministry

It is important that adults be given choices in the types of programs/ministry opportunities offered in and through their local congregation. These options may need to include a variety of **study settings**. Christian education is an essential ministry of the local church and should be high in your priorities for adult ministry. Christian education may include Sunday school classes/groups, weekday Bible study (such as *Disciple*), short-term classes on specific topics of current interest, workshops, and leader training. Learning is central to discipleship formation and growth. To be a disciple is to be a “learner.” Therefore, any adequate program for adults will include a variety of opportunities for adults to learn and grow.

**Fellowship settings** are equally important for a well-rounded program in adult ministry. Many adults come to church primarily for fellowship. The church offers a special kind of fellowship that cannot be found in just any group or organization. As the “Body of Christ,” we are concerned about one another so that “when one member suffers, we all suffer, and when one member is honored, we all rejoice” (1 Corinthians 12:26 RSV). *Adults need to feel cared for, and they need to care for others.* This dual need can be partly met by fellowship groups and activities in the church.

Fellowship opportunities may be especially significant for single adults of all ages, adults who live alone, families with young children, and older adults who may be cut off from other family members and former work colleagues.

Adult Sunday school classes are often excellent settings for fellowship, not only on Sunday mornings, but also through a variety of other activities and events. Many adult classes have regular fellowship suppers and other social affairs that meet at other times besides Sunday mornings.

**Healing and restoration settings** provide growth opportunities in safe, nurturing environments where adults share, encourage, and support each other around challenges of daily living. *Spiritually inspired leaders and supportive parish - ioners move adult fellowship to deeper, meaningful ministry levels in settings*

where adults share experiences with relationships, health issues, career/professional choices, vocational transitions, and life-stage transitions. These gatherings can be significant times for personal fueling and refueling. Activities may range from informal discussion groups to structured methodical gatherings with specialized tutelage. Regularly scheduled gatherings, consistent attendance, and active participation are crucial. Such ministry efforts advance the task of the congregation to meet the needs of adults.

**Leader training settings** are essential to a well-balanced ministry with adults. Those who are asked to assume certain responsibilities in the church need to be offered training and orientation for their jobs. This function may be assigned to a special “leader training” council or committee. *No matter how training programs are planned and administered, they need to be identified as part of the adult ministry of the church.* Equipping persons for leadership in the church, and for leadership in the community, is an essential part of adult ministry.

**Mission and service** opportunities round out the cycle for sending adults back into the community and world to live out their Christian discipleship. Some avenues of service may include outreach ministries such as Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, feeding the hungry, visiting the homebound and those in nursing home/long-term care facilities, tutoring children and youth, and a variety of outreach ministries that may be particular to your own congregation and community.

Such settings for mission and service will need to be coordinated with your mission/outreach council or chair. This coordination is usually achieved in the church council.

#### Checklist on Adult Ministry Settings

1. Does your church provide a wide range of study/learning opportunities for adults of all ages? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If the answer is no, you may want to look carefully at ways you can improve this vital aspect of your ministry. (See “Starting New Classes and Groups, page 24.”)
2. Does your church provide a wide range of fellowship opportunities for adults of all ages? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If the answer is no, look at ways you can add new settings for fellowship.
3. Does your church offer leader training settings for all who are asked to serve in leadership roles in the congregation? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If the answer is no, check with the church council to see what can be done to improve this aspect of ministry.

4. Does your church offer a variety of opportunities for ministry/service in the community? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If the answer is no, you may need to consider ways to get more adults involved in outreach/service projects in the community.

### Identifying and Filling the Gaps in Programming

The size of your congregation and the extent of its budget and program will affect your planning for adult ministries. Faced by such limitations, you will still want to develop a varied and comprehensive ministry by, with, and for adults.

Refer back to the section “Assessing Your Adult Ministry on page 17.” *If you have gone through some type of assessment or evaluation, you should be ready to take the next step of identifying the gaps in your program.*

*What did you discover as you took a hard look at present programs? Were there obvious gaps that need to be filled? For instance, did you discover that the majority of your adult members do not attend any type of ongoing study groups? If so, you may need to provide more options and work at reaching out and inviting persons to participate.*

Here are some additional questions to consider as you seek to “fill the gaps. Jot down your responses in your notebook or on newsprint with your adult council.

1. ***Who are left out of present programs?*** Take a careful look at the results of your assessment and describe in some detail those who are not participating in any aspect of adult ministry. Be specific.
2. ***What areas need expanding?*** Does the outreach ministry need more volunteers? Do you need more weekday opportunities? Are you actively involving single adults in your ministry? Does your older adult program offer enough variety to appeal to your members and meet their needs? Be specific in listing areas of ministry that need expanding.
3. ***What are you doing to incorporate new members and guide them in their growth as disciples?*** This part of your ministry will need to be coordinated with the areas of evangelism and/or nurture. List ways new members are being incorporated into your church.
4. What else needs to be done?

*(Add your own questions)*

### Toward a Comprehensive Adult Ministry

*Developing a comprehensive ministry is doing what needs to be done in your congregation to ensure that you are reaching out to all persons, helping them to relate their lives to God through Jesus Christ, helping them to grow in Christian faith, and sending them back into the community to do God’s work in the world.*

1. ***Are you reaching out and receiving all persons?*** Our concern for adults must express itself in our evangelistic mission of witnessing to our faith and inviting others to become a part of our faith fellowship. All persons are the object of God's love and concern. We do not make a distinction in our reaching out; however, we do identify and address distinctive needs (for example, divorce adjustment, widowhood, nursing home living). Invite your adult council to respond to the following, jotting down responses on newsprint.

List ways you are now "reaching out."

What are some additional ways you could reach out?

2. ***How are you seeking to help persons relate to God?*** Once persons are received, how do you go about ensuring they are supported in their search for a growing relationship with God? What types of groups/activities would be especially helpful in providing this kind of support?

List some ways you are helping persons in their search for a closer relationship with God through the church.

What are some additional ways you could help these persons in their spiritual journey?

3. ***How are you "equipping" persons for their Christian discipleship?*** The author of Ephesians talks about "equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12 RSV). "New" Christians need special attention. You may have adults coming into your church who have little experience of "church" and who have practically no background in Bible study or Christian education. Even lifelong members of the congregation need to continue to grow in faith.

What programs/activities does your church offer to "equip" persons for ministry?

What additional programs/ministries might be needed to help persons grow in the faith and in their skills for Christian living?

4. ***Sending.*** The strength of the church is not measured in terms of the numbers of persons who come to the church, but by ***what happens in the world as a result of their having come.*** It is easy for a church to become ingrown, to be focused on what is going on "inside" the church building. The ultimate test of effective discipleship in and through a congregation or an individual Christian is to be found in the family, the workplace, the political arena, and in relationships with neighbors.?

What kinds of “sending” ministries do you have?

What additional ways could your adult council provide avenues/opportunities for adults to be in ministry?

What are some ministries that can be done collaboratively with other congregations?

## Starting New Classes and Groups

This section will aid you in getting down to some practical steps for starting new study classes and other types of groups for adults.

***Program settings for adults include at least the following: study, fellow - ship, leader training, and mission/service ministries.***

### Starting New Study Classes/Groups

How will you know when you need to start new study classes/groups?

Following are some clues to help you determine when the time is right:

1. *Do you have at least six to eight persons who might be interested in looking at a particular topic or issue?*
2. *Do you have at least six to eight persons in the same age group who are not presently attending any type of study class or group?*
3. *Do you have fewer than fifty percent of your adult members attending Sunday school?*
4. *Do you have six to eight new members of the congregation who have not been incorporated into existing classes/groups?*
5. *Do you have at least six to eight persons who would be interested in a study of Scripture?*

If you answered yes to any of the preceding questions, the time is probably right to start a new class.

What steps will be needed to start and sustain a new class/group? Consider the following:

1. Identify the potential members for such a class.
2. Survey the potential members to determine areas of interest, concerns, or issues that may help identify class needs.
3. Make tentative plans for the type of class/group needed so you will have something concrete to offer.
4. Find someone who is willing to lead in starting the new group and who will give leadership for a few weeks/months.
5. Write a letter to those who might be interested, giving them basic infor-

mation about the proposed class. Invite potential members to respond to choices concerning the meeting time, day, and place.

6. Follow with personal contacts inviting prospective members to a meeting to discuss the new class. You may want this to be simply an informal discussion, or you may determine that the first meeting needs to be an organizational meeting.
7. If there is sufficient interest to start (at least six to eight persons), then set a date, arrange for a place to meet, and designate a leader(s).
8. Publicize the new class/group. Be sure to announce when the class will start, where it will be held, and something about its purpose. By publicizing the new class, you might spark the interest of some persons still “sitting on the fence” or you might attract persons you have previously overlooked.
9. Provide ongoing support during the early stages of the life of the group. The pastor, Christian educator or program director, and you can make certain that the group has the support of the church staff and the adult council.

### Starting New Fellowship Groups

Most of the same principles and steps outlined above would apply to starting new fellowship groups.

Two groups in the church that are more likely to need additional fellowship groups would be single adults and older adults. If you discovered other “gaps” in your fellowship opportunities, then consider taking action.

1. **Singles.** Today’s young adults are getting married later. Many are choosing to remain single. Many adults must confront the pain of divorce or the death of a spouse. What can your congregation do to provide a ministry of Christian fellowship for persons who are single?

The most successful singles groups seem to be those that are ecumenical and offer a wide range of fellowship opportunities. Leaders will need to be chosen to help start such a group. Questions you will need to answer include: Will your leaders be single or married? Will they be young, middle adults, or older? Does it make a difference?

Call together several singles in your congregation, and request them to invite single friends from other churches or the community at large. You will want to invite singles who are not active in the church. Sometimes persons outside the church can help us identify issues and concerns we might normally overlook. If the program is successful, you will soon be reaching many singles who are not related to any church.

Decide on the time and place. Plan some type of kickoff program, perhaps a dinner. Publicize the event. Give support to the group as needed. Leaders

will likely emerge from the group; however, sometimes they need to be identified and encouraged.

**2. Older Adults.** Many older adults enjoy being together in fellowship groups. Any adequate ministry with older adults will include some type of fellowship opportunities.

These older adult fellowships take many forms and go by many names. Groups may vary in their focus on fellowship and food, travel, learning new skills, and/or service projects.

As few as ten to twelve older adults who like to be together and have fun can become the nucleus of a meaningful fellowship. Invite the older persons in your congregation to become involved in thinking and talking about the kind of fellowship opportunities they desire. Remember in your planning to include those outside your congregation. *Like singles groups, some of the most successful older adult groups are ecumenical and offer a wide range of fellowship opportunities.*

### Starting New Leader Training/Development Groups

This area of adult ministry may be assigned to a leader development committee or to the education or nurture committee. Check with these groups in the church council, and be prepared to assist in the coordination of leader training and development. This needs to be a churchwide enterprise.

### Starting New Mission/Service Groups

This area of adult ministry will likely be assigned to the committee on mission/outreach. However, like leader training, you need to be involved through the church council to make sure this area of ministry is coordinated. For instance, adult Sunday school classes, women's or men's groups, single adult groups, and older adult groups may have mission or service projects. How are these projects coordinated among each other and with the total outreach ministry of the congregation?

You will want to help adults become involved in various outreach ministries of the church. You can play a key role by ensuring that the adult council keeps such concerns on the agenda. Be an *advocate* for outreach ministry with and by adults.

## Editor's Postscript

Your job as Coordinator of Adult Ministries is indeed an important one; it can make a difference in many lives. If you start to feel overwhelmed,

remember that when God calls us to a challenging task, God also offers us the strength and guidance to perform the task. Remember also that you are part of a connectional church; there are persons you can contact and a variety of resources to support you in a vital adult ministry.

## RESOURCES

### Addresses and Phone Numbers

For further assistance contact:

- Office of Adult Ministries, General Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Phone (877) 899-2780 ext. 7177, fax 615/340-7071, e-mail: bcrenschaw@gbod.org or rgentzler@gbod.org.
- Discipleship Resources Distribution Center, P.O. Box 6996, Alpharetta, GA 30239-6996. Phone (800) 685-4370.
- Upper Room Books, 1908 Grand Avenue, P.O. Box 340004, Nashville, TN 37203-0004. Phone (800) 972-0433.
- General Board of Global Ministries, Service Center, 7820 Reading Road, Caller No. 1800, Cincinnati, OH 45222-1800. Phone (513) 761-2100.
- Cokesbury Service Center. Phone (800) 672-1789.
- United Methodist Communications, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202. Phone (615) 742-5400.
- Curric-U-Phone, (800) 251-8591, can assist in selecting curriculum resources for a variety of adult classes and groups.
- EcuFilm, (800) 251-4091, is an ecumenical film/video distribution service for a variety of adult classes and groups.
- InfoServ, (800) 251-8140, can provide general church information.

### General Church Print Resources

- *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2000* (United Methodist Publishing House, available from Cokesbury.)
- *The Book of Resolutions, 2000* (United Methodist Publishing House, available from Cokesbury).
- *Interpreter*. (The official program journal for United Methodist leaders, available from United Methodist Communications.)
- *Forecast*. (An annual catalog of United Methodist curriculum resources. Free; mailed annually to each local church. Additional copies available from Cokesbury.)
- *Leader*. (A quarterly publication for local church leaders, available from Cokesbury.)

## Adult Ministries Resources

### Bible Study/Christian Education with Adults

- *Disciple: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study*. Additional studies build on this one. A 34-week Bible study. For information write to: Disciple Bible Study, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202-0801, or phone (800) 672-1789.
- *FaithLink*. A weekly resource helping adults connect faith and life as United Methodists. This resource will be faxed to your designated fax machine each week. To subscribe call (800) 672-1789.
- *Foundations: Shaping the Ministry of Christian Education in Your Congregation*. A valuable resource tool for planning, supporting, and nurturing effective ministries in Christian education. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Foundations: Training Guides*. Designed to familiarize teachers and leaders with the basic *Foundations* text. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Keeping in Touch: Christian Formation and Teaching*, by Carol Krau. A valuable resource for helping leaders develop environments for nurturing persons toward Christian discipleship. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Leading Adult Learners*, by Delia Halverson. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Starting Small Groups—and Keeping Them Going* (Small Group Ministries Series). Published by Augsburg Fortress, 1995. An excellent start-up guide for small group ministry in congregations. This resource contains effective tips for developing leaders of small groups and is filled with reproducible sheets for ministry efforts. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Teaching for Faith: A Guide for Teachers of Adult Classes*, by Richard Osmer. Published by Westminster/John Knox Press. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Teaching the Bible to Adults and Youth* (revised edition), by Dick Murray. This resource suggests strategies for more effective teaching and leading Bible study. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.

### Marital Enrichment/Divorce Recovery

- *Caring Couples Network Handbook (CCN)*. A resource program for church leaders and couples who want to become more intentional in their ministry of caring. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Couples Who Care*, by Jane P. Ives. True stories dramatically illustrating how married couples can help other couples. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Growing in Faith, United in Love*, by Barb Nardi Kurtz. A valuable

resource for helping married couples seeking to enhance their marriage. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.

- *Growing Love in Christian Marriage*. This resource includes pastor's manual and couple's workbook. Especially designed for premarital counseling. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Marriage: Claiming God's Promises*, by Nan Zoller and Jack Gilbert. A marriage enrichment manual suitable for a retreat or seminar. Published by Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Marriage Encounter: United Methodist*. A helpful program using a couple's sharing format for marital enrichment. For more information, contact (800) 795-5683.
- *Preparing to Marry Again*, by Dick Dunn. A valuable resource for couples, group study, or premarital counseling sessions for persons planning to marry again. Published by Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.

#### Middle Adult Ministries

- *Baby Boomer Spirituality*, by Craig Kennet Miller. This resource helps church leaders understand issues and concerns of the "Boomer" generation. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Forty Sixty: A Study Guide for Mid-Life Adults Who Want to Make a Difference*, by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., and Craig Kenneth Miller. A practical resource for leaders and middle-aged adults who want to wrestle with issues and concerns facing this important stage in life. Available spring 2001 from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *How to Reach Baby Boomers*, by William M. Easum. This resource offers appropriate leadership styles, programs, and preaching that will appeal to "Boomers." Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.

#### Older Adult Ministries

- *Aging: God's Challenge to Church and Synagogue*, by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., and Donald F. Clingan. A helpful resource for church leaders in understanding issues and concerns related to aging and older adult ministry. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *And Not One Bird Stopped Singing: Coping with Transition and Loss in Aging*, by Doris Moreland Jones. Available from Upper Room, (800) 972-0433.
- *Designing an Older Adult Ministry*, by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. A valuable resource for local congregations in starting intentional older adult ministries. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *I Never Found That Rocking Chair: God's Call at Retirement*, by Richard L. Morgan. Available from Upper Room, (800) 972-0433.
- *Mature Years*. Published quarterly, this resource is written specifically with older adult concerns in mind. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging*, by Kathleen Fischer. A useful

resource drawing extensively on the life stories and reflections of older adults. Available from Upper Room, (800) 972-0433.

- *With Faces to the Evening Sun: Faith Stories from the Nursing Home*, by Richard L. Morgan. Available from Upper Room, (800) 972-0433.

### Single Adult Ministries

- *Designing a Singles Ministry*, by William Cox. A helpful resource for local congregations in starting intentional single adult ministries. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Developing a Divorce Recovery Ministry*, by Bill Flanagan. This “how-to” manual gives practical advice on developing a divorce recovery ministry in the local church. For more information, contact Singles Ministry Resources, P.O. Box 36670, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.
- *The Fresh Start Single Parenting Workbook*, by Thomas Whiteman with Randy Petersen. Full of helpful ideas for single-parent families, this resource lets the reader apply the material to his or her own situation. For more information, contact Singles Ministry Resources, P.O. Box 36670, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.
- *Starting a Single Adult Ministry*, by Sue Nilson and Andy Morgan. A valuable resource for helping leaders begin a single adult ministry in the local church. For more information, contact Singles Ministry Resources, P.O. Box 36670, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.
- *Starting Again: A Divorce Recovery Program*, by Sandra Scott. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.

### Young Adult Ministries

- *Developing Faith in Young Adults*, by Robert Gribbon. A guide to ministry with young adults. For more information, contact Alban Institute, 4125 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016.
- *Faith Matters for Young Adults* and *More Faith Matters for Young Adults*. Two 26-session resource materials geared specifically for today’s young adults. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Handbook of Young Adult Religious Education*. A useful guide for educating young adults for deeper religious living. For more information, contact Religious Education Press, 5316 Meadow Brook Road, Birmingham, AL 35242.
- *13th GEN: Abort, Retry, Ignore, Fail?* by Neil Howe and Bill Strauss. An informative and insightful guide to understanding the issues and concerns of young adults. Published by Vintage Books, New York, 1993. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Culture Shifts—A Group Bible Study for Postmodern Times*, by Craig Kennet Miller and Lia Icaza-Willetts. Participants will examine nine culture shifts that affect their lives personally and as a church; study with a group; develop a daily devotional life; and hold each other accountable for

discipleship. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.

- *Postmoderns—The Beliefs, Hopes, & Fears of Young Americans (1965-81)*, by Craig Kennet Miller. This resource offers a fresh outlook on the Generation Xers. To understand this generation you must take seriously their specific challenges. Available from Discipleship Resources, (800) 685-4370.
- *Young Adult Ministry*, by Terry Hershey. A definitive resource on young adult ministry, this resource provides practical, step-by-step guides to ministry. The insights and program ideas are both helpful and valuable. Published by Group Publishing, 1986. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X*, by Tom Beaudoin. Beaudoin takes an honest look at his generation and the pronounced effects of pop culture in shaping this audience's spiritual outlook and theology. The book is a *must read* for leaders seeking to reach believers beyond the threshold of the church door. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.

### Intergenerational Ministries

- *Intergenerational Religious Education*, by James W. White. This guide contains models of intergenerational religious education, relevant theories, curriculum and evaluation strategies, and a vision for the future. Religious Education Press, 5316 Meadow Brook Road, Birmingham, AL 35242.
- *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*, by Dorothy Bass. Published by Jossey-Bass, 1997. The author is joined by twelve contributors in this multid denominational collection, illustrating how the stuff of everyday, ordinary life, placed in biblical and historical contexts, affords us the opportunity to realize God's active presence in our lives. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.
- *Visiting in an Age of Mission: A Handbook for Person-to-Person Ministry*, by Kennon L. Callhan, Ph.D. A practical guide to the crucial role of visiting in the life of the church—a critical role for young adults who may choose to enter into meaningful evangelical relationships with the growing number of elder citizens in mainline churches. Available from Cokesbury, (800) 672-1789.

### Young Adult Video Resources

Each of the following video resources is ideal for Sunday school and small group settings. Each series is available with study guides. Vendor Resources: EcuFilm (Nashville, TN) (800)251-4091 or on-line: [www.ecufilm.org](http://www.ecufilm.org).

- *Discovering Everyday Spirituality* (Odyssey Productions), with Thomas Moore, author of the popular *Soul Mates*. This 8-part video series (with com-

prehensive program guide) profiles people who have experienced satisfaction and profound meaning in their human experience. Their examples point the way to others in search of an intelligent, spiritual, everyday experience.

- *Hashing It Out!* with Tony Compolo and Steve Browne. Two of a six-part series of contemporary topics—discussed in a diner setting. This lively table debate on Hot Topics by Compolo and Browne will energize your group as these two disagree on anything and everything! The series is divided into Hot Topics I and Hot Topics II.
- *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Zondervan Publishing House), with Philip Yancey. Fourteen sessions of compelling presentations using video clips from well-known movies to portray a range of views of Jesus of Nazareth. The video set contains a 130-minute video, one participant's guide, one leader's guide, and one copy of the book *The Jesus I Never Knew*.
- *Spiritual Home Page* (Odyssey Productions). This program uses an innovative approach to unlocking answers to spiritual questions and spiritual matters. The program progresses from introducing a topic by an expert to a user of the program whose life has been changed. Also included are a movie review and revealing research from the Gallup Organization on the subject topic. Stand-alone videos prompt stimulating and energized exchanges for ministry groups.

#### Older Adult Video Resources

Each of the following video resources is valuable for use in congregational settings.

- *The Age Wave . . . Wake Up Call* (13 minutes). An informative video that encourages local churches to begin a ministry with older adults. Order from LIFE International, 1857 Highland Oaks Dr., Arcadia, CA 91006. Telephone: (818)355-2470.
- *Even to Your Old Age* (13 minutes). Produced by the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging (NICA), this useful video takes a look at various faith communities and denominations as they engage in intentional ministry with older adults. Order from National Council on the Aging (NCOA), 409 Third St. SW, Washington, DC 20024. Telephone: (800)867-2755.
- *Even These May Forget* (18 minutes). Using a United Methodist church setting, this video helps congregations think through the issues related to Alzheimer's disease in a local church. Order from Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center, P.O. Box 8250, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Telephone: (800)438-4380.
- *Aging Parents: The Family Survival Guide* (2 videos). An informative video series for group study in the local church around the issues of adult children caring for aging parents. Order from Lifetapes Communications Inc., 3001 E. Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo, CA 93012-8753. Telephone: (805)383-3200.