

Older Adults Covenanted Ministry Report

Purpose of Ministry—To provide support, guidance and direction for the activities of Missouri Mid-South Conference in enhancing involvement and resources for older adult church members and their community as they age.

“Ministry with older adults recognizes and celebrates the vital contribution older adults make to the lives of our congregations and broader settings of the church. Age brings with it qualities of perspective, persistence and prudence. Age also brings with it awareness of limits, vulnerabilities, and loss. The United Church of Christ celebrates these gifts, shares these losses and encourages faithful living across the age span”—UCC web page.

Keeping this in mind as well as the results of the 2017 survey sent to churches, we established the following priorities:

- Recognition of the value of older adults and the work they are doing for their church and community
- Education about enlivening the congregation with older adults, seeing the possibilities and positiveness of older adults
- Sharing of ways to support caregivers
- Creating an awareness of resources available

An emphasis has been put on our landing page on the Conference web page that has many resources that have been provided by the Older Adults Covenanted Ministry and individuals from local congregations.

This past year a new CHHSM publication, “Age-Friendly Congregations” was published. This new curriculum is a wonderful resource for churches to use as they intentionally explore and examine how to minister to and value the contributions older adults make in your congregation and community.

Several presentations have been made by members in a variety of settings- local churches, clusters and Associations.

As we continue to learn and work together, we hope you will find value in the work of this ministry. Come join us!

Respectfully submitted

Joyce Bathke, Chair