

Local Church Ministries Report to the Conference for CAG 2018

There a couple of concerns I have heard voiced over years of ministry I have experienced in the Missouri Mid-South Conference. One such concern was raised as a question at a clergy gathering: "Why doesn't the conference offer more activity for older adults?" My initial thought was, " If this is a concern, why not take the leadership in establishing programs that offer that for which you yearn?"

An oft-repeated concern/ position that is expressed is "I'm spiritual but not religious." I hear a hunger for experiences that are meaningful and spiritually filling.

The Missouri Mid-South Conference has moved in the direction of Covenanted and Standing Committees. Through the work of those ministries and committees under the umbrella of Local Church Ministries, those questions and many more are being addressed.

The women and men of the Conference have experienced their annual conference-wide retreats that feed the spirit and build community. Participants are finding new nurturing for their souls and establishing new relationships along the way.

Youth are having new shared experiences as well. Cindy Birkner is on board to help resource local churches in their engaging of the youth in the local settings of the church and beyond.

The Older Adults Ministry is asserting progress in creating website resources that assist local churches in addressing concerns of our senior members experiencing the issues associated with aging. There is a lot of energy among this group and members of the Conference can expect to hear more from this ministry.

Your participation at CAG will give you several opportunities to connect with the members and work of these ministries. Each group has a story to tell, an invitation to connect and the desire to partner with you in the ministry of your local congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

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Conference Council Liaison for Local Church Ministries