

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, for MMS congregations

The Older Adults Covenanted Ministry was approved by the Conference Council in the fall of 2016 with our first meeting convening October 27.

Our first few meetings were primarily getting know each other and the gifts we each bring. We spent two meetings brainstorming what we need to do to fulfill the above purpose. After much discussion and sharing we agreed on the following priorities:

- Churches need to recognize the value of older adults, and the work they are doing for the church and community through service
- Congregations can learn about enlivening the congregation with older adults, seeing the possibilities and their positive-ness.
- Information about what CHHSM is and all it can provide members and congregations should be shared.
- Establish an Older Adult Ministry landing page on the MMS website

Our team determined that the best place to begin is to ask our congregations what they are currently doing and what would be helpful to have in order to best support, utilize and celebrate their older adults. With that in mind a survey was created and sent to churches both electronically and by snail mail. It has also been shared at the Association meetings. The results of this survey will be shared at the CAG Covenanted Ministry Fair and other venues throughout the Conference

We have met with Nia Chandler, the Conference Communications Consultant, and are developing a landing page on the Conference webpage. It is our hope to share:

- Resources about life stages, change, loss, etc.
- Exploration of existing models of older adult ministries i.e. SAGE
- List of programs CHHSM organizations offer to this age group
- Biblical and spiritual perspectives on aging program possibilities
- Housing and health care options
- Ways older adults contribute to life in community

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