



A Publication of
**Presbyterian Church
 (U.S.A.)**
Older Adult Ministries

Editor
 Vickie Kintzel

Publisher
 Office of
 Older Adult Ministries
 Phone Toll Free:
 888-728-7228 Ext. 5472

IN THIS ISSUE

Financial Future of POAMN	1-2
From the Editor	1-2
Miriam Dunson Honored	3
New Prescription Drug Benefits of the Medicare Modernization Act	3-4
Book Reviews	4
President's Corner	5
POAMN Annual Conference	6-7
Extra Commitment Opportunities	8
Resources	9
Certification for Older Adult Ministry	10-11
POAMN Membership Application	12

AGEnda

Number 106

July/August 2004

Financial Future of POAMN

By Greg Cohen

In Margaret Suttle's letter to her colleagues in Older Adult Ministries (included in this edition of AGenda) she emphasizes the importance of being an active member of the Presbyterian Older Adults Ministry Network (POAMN). Through our personal involvement in the network we all support one another in our various ministry endeavors, feel a keen sense of ownership in the network, want to see it continue and realize personal and spiritual benefits from our participation. Margaret's goal in 2004 is to double the membership in the network.



POAMN is supported financially through its membership dues and financial contributions from individuals and congregations. Because you are reading this article in AGenda, I welcome you as a reader who is hopefully a member of the POAMN network, maybe a financial contributor to the organization (hopefully both), or you are interested in learning more about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s older adult ministries. Whatever your connection, we want to encourage your continued inclusion in our older adult ministry network, and ask that if you or the organization you represent are not already a dues-paying active member that you would consider that opportunity prayerfully.

Continued Page 2

From the Editor, Vickie Kintzel



Evangelism and family relationships may not, at first glance, appear to have much in common. But I encourage you to think about the role grandparents play (or can play) in the spiritual nurture of the younger generations.

For instance, I learned early from my grandparents (all active in the United Methodist Church) that pain and loss are part of life, and are survivable. The table grace and bedtime prayers that we practiced in my parent's home were similar, but not identical, to those at the grandparent homes. Attending worship was a joy, not an option and not subject to negotiation, even in the teen years, even in the busy planting and harvesting seasons of farm life.

Even if your grandchild(ren)'s family is not active in a faith community, you can still pray for them -- and tell them you do so! You can take the children to worship when they visit your home, and perhaps arrange that visit to include the week of summer Vacation Bible School. Short of conflict with parents, you can actively witness by the way you live your life -- the children ARE watching!

Never underestimate the value of your witness to your children and grandchildren - whether the relationship is one of blood or of proximity. Paul's praise of Timothy's mother and

Continued Page 2

Continued: Financial Future of POAMN

Speaking to the need for financially supporting the good works of the POAMN network, it is important that we foster connections with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ, our congregations, presbyteries and synods, our Presbyterian retirement communities and the many Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) related ministries throughout our denomination who are actively involved in serving older adults in the name of the PC (USA).

We need to be open to new connections with other Christian denominations, strengthen our ties to such organizations as the National Coalition on Aging (especially their National Interfaith Christian Association), the American Association on Aging, the President's Conference on Aging, and seek friends and partners in furthering our service and ministry to older adults.

The giving culture of today is not just about writing checks but about being involved and active in ministry - a true sense of personal connection and ownership that Margaret Suttle refers to in her article. Developing, nurturing, expanding and being open to new and fresh ideas of what it means to be partners in ministry and serving the church will make it possible for our POAMN network to flourish and grow.

So, as a network member what can I do?

- If you are not a member of the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network, please fill out the membership form and send in your annual dues payment.

- If you are already a member check to see if your congregation, presbytery, synod, or organization is a member of the network and if they are not, ask if they would join the network and fill out a membership form and send in their annual dues payment.

- If you are a member, and your organization is already a member of POAMN consider making an annual pledge or gift to the POAMN network - you can make quarterly payments by just sending in your payments with the enclosed quarterly membership forms inside each quarterly edition of POAMN. Gifts from your organization are encouraged!

- And, last but certainly not least, tell a friend, colleague or associate about POAMN and the difference it is making in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s commitment to serving older adults. Ask them to become a member!

If all of us take these simple steps, we will double our membership and begin to secure the long-term sustainability of our Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network!

Greg Cohen is the Associate for Older Adult Ministries Mission Program and Funding, PCUSA. You can reach Greg by emailing him at: gcohen@ctr.pcusa.org or by telephone at 1-888-728-7228 x5487.

Continued: From the Editor

grandmother is but one biblical example of the power of family witness. I'd love to hear from you, both about what you learned from elders in your life, and the lessons you have passed on to the younger generations.

Finally, an apology and a plea: I recently had two retinal detachments, with major surgery each time. My congregation and POAMN colleagues have all been wonderful, but this has been a major factor in this issue being just a bit late in coming out. My grandparents also taught me to do my best at all times, and to complete tasks before they were due. I have been unable to do that this time, but a full recovery is expected soon. Your prayers are appreciated in the meantime!

Vickie Kintzel

*Vickie can be reached at her **new** email address pastorvickiek@yahoo.com, by telephone at 309-452-4459, x 202 or 309-827-3502, or by mail at 2000 East College Avenue, Normal, IL 61761.*

*"Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, O God,
Till I declare your power to the next generation
Your might to all who are to come."
(Psalm 71:18 NIV)*

Miriam Dunson Honored



Rev. Dr. Sara Miriam Dunson has been an enthusiastic, inspiring, outstanding visionary in the area of older adult ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA) from 1990-2003.

During those 13 years, she also actively participated as a member of the Delegate Council of NICA, representing the Presbyterian Church (USA), sharing her considerable wisdom, knowledge, experience and resources with zest for ministry by, with, for and to older adults.

Earlier, as a missionary in Korea for 18 years, (1955-73), Miriam played a significant role in the foundation of Taejon Presbyterian College, teaching Bible, English, business, and women's physical education. The college began in 1956 with 49 students and now has about 10,000. In 1970, she escorted eight Korean babies to the United States for adoption, and subsequently, in 1973, accompanied 20 more Korean infants for adoption in the New York City area. Truly, her organizational and leadership skill began in these years of considerable responsibility and faithful service to the Church - here and abroad.

As chaplain to residents at Wesley Woods, an Atlanta Methodist retirement community (1983-84) and to students at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia (1985-90), she touched many lives with her ability to communicate, teach, preach and provide spiritual and pastoral care. In brief, Miriam's years of service to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) have been productive, challenging, evolving and dynamic, often in the face of down-sizing and dwindling resources. Never has she lost her vision for the present and future of older adult ministry - ever has she been its champion and guide.

In addition to her book *A Very Present Help: Psalm Studies for Older Adults* (1999), Miriam has released two videos and a wide variety of publications on issues of aging and the church, resources to be used through out the denomination. As a preacher, workshop leader and keynoter, she has advocated tirelessly for older adult ministry

throughout the United States. Not only has she nurtured the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (a large network of volunteers trained in older adult ministry) and the Association of Ministers, Spouses, and Survivors, Miriam also has acted as liaison to annual conferences for older adults and the aging network at national and regional Presbyterian Conference Centers.

Miriam Dunson has exemplified what she teaches and preaches. She even provided long-term and long-distance care for her elderly mother while dealing with serious health challenges of her own. In essence, as a steadfast trailblazer of older adult ministry, she is a blessing to all who know her.

Rev. Dr. Sara Miriam Dunson recently retired as Associate of Older Adult Ministries, PCUSA. Miriam was recognized by NICA at their annual meeting in April.

New Prescription Drug Benefits of the Medicare Modernization Act May 3, 2004

The sometimes contentious reaction to the new prescription drug benefit should not obscure the fact that, for the first time, more than seven million low-income seniors and younger people with disabilities are now eligible for much-needed assistance.

What is crystal clear amid all the rhetoric is that low-income Medicare beneficiaries should absolutely apply for a new Medicare-approved discount card and its \$600 annual transition assistance benefit.

For many low-income beneficiaries the annual savings will be much more than \$600 per year in 2004 and 2005 because of free or low-cost medications that many pharmaceutical companies are offering as "wrap-arounds" once the \$600 credit is used up. There are also many valuable state and company programs available to help low-income seniors, even if they don't qualify for the new federal benefit.

Low-income beneficiaries and their caregivers need to take time to collect information and consider their options regarding the Medicare card as

Continued Page 4

Continued: Medicare Modernization Act

well as other public and private benefits. Then, they need to enroll. For the more than 14 million with low to modest incomes who have no prescription drug coverage, enrolling in a combination of public and private programs will help them afford the prescription drugs they need.

Founded in 1950, The National Council on the Aging is a national voluntary network of organizations and individuals dedicated to improving the health and independence of older persons; increasing their continuing contributions to communities, society, and future generations; and to building caring communities. NCOA is a national voice and powerful advocate for public policies, societal attitudes, and business practices that promote vital aging. NCOA is an innovator, developing new knowledge, testing creative ideas, and translating research into effective programs and services that help community service organizations serve seniors in hundreds of communities. And, NCOA is an activator, turning creative ideas into programs and services that help community services organizations serve seniors in hundreds of communities. For more information on NCOA, visit www.ncoa.org.



Book Reviews
by **Marvin Simmers**

Autumn Wisdom: A Book of Readings. Richard L. Morgan. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1995.

Autumn Wisdom is a wonderful devotional book for persons of any age. The eighty-one meditations each suggest a passage of scripture, a brief reflection, a meditation, and a prayer. The book is divided into seven aptly titled sections: A New Age Dawning; Spiritual Elders: Through Aging Eyes; Grace for Creaky Days; When Your Best Is Good Enough; Where Time Stands Still; Harvested Wisdom; and The Final Wisdom: Learning from Death.

With Faces to the Evening Sun: Faith Stories from the Nursing Home. Richard L. Morgan. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1998.

Dick Morgan has creatively and insightfully reflected the struggles of aging as lived in the never failing presence of God. The reader is provided an image of the human spirit strengthened by God to give life perspective and purpose, even when the body becomes more frail. The scripture readings, devotions, and prayers will resonate with each caregiver, care receiver, and family member as they face together the adventures and challenges of a rich new phase of life. (Excerpt from the book jacket.) One of the great benefits of this volume is its large print format.

Fire in the Soul: A Prayer Book for the Later Years. Richard L. Morgan. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2000.

Fire in the Soul is a sourcebook of prayers and reflection for a variety of occasions and for many different kinds of users: older adults themselves, those ministering to older adults, and those just beginning to grapple with the reality of aging—all of us who desire to become emblazoned with the fire of God's blessing of one hundred twenty years...each prayer corresponds to a real-life spiritual need. There is no white-washing of the challenging nature of spiritual tasks in this work; Richard Morgan "tells it as it is" through his honesty with God in the prayers. (Excerpts from the Foreword.)

With God's Oldest Friends: Pastoral Visiting in the Nursing Home. Henry C. Simmons and Mark A. Peters. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2003.

Thanks to Wipf and Stock, this excellent resource is now back in print! Whether clergy, family member, or a visitor to friends in a nursing home, *With God's Oldest Friends* is one of the most helpful books that can be found about visiting in nursing homes. The titles of the seven chapters give a helpful glimpse into the scope of this volume: The Nursing Home; Planning, Preparing, Responding; The Basics of Nursing Home Visiting; Visiting in an Alzheimer's Unit; Special Cases; Sacraments and Rituals; and Leaving Home, Entering the Nursing Home. *With God's Oldest Friends* would be an excellent short-term study for adults, especially persons who call on nursing home residents. It is also a good resource to put into the hands of families faced with nursing home care for a relative.

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Margaret Suttle

Dear Colleagues in Older Adult Ministry,

My morning commute from home to the church where I serve takes anywhere from thirty to forty-five minutes. During the drive I turn on the radio, mentally go through the activities of the day and ask God to keep me focused. This morning was no exception. I did those three things, but instead of the usual broadcast of public radio news and classical music I found myself listening to the station's Spring membership drive and fund raising spiel. The announcer was promoting a very well thought out plan to raise operating expenses for the two public radio stations in this area. Goals to raise specific amounts were set for each hour. As news was read or music played, listeners were reminded of the purpose of the station, the quality of the programming and the cost for producing something consistent with the purpose and of high quality. Finally, the announcer explained levels of giving and the bonus received with each level. I thought: *Maybe that scheme is worth borrowing.*

POAMN is much like the public radio stations around the country. Their work is supported by membership dues and other contributions, but people do not have to become members or make contributions to reap benefits. I contribute to public radio because I enjoy the programming, want to see it continue and because that contribution makes me feel a sense of ownership in the station. Likewise, I am a member of POAMN because I benefit from the ministry, want to see it continue and because that contribution/membership gives me ownership in the network.

In part our by-laws say: *The Network shall have as its purpose to equip and assist the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to develop older adult ministries. We are to develop leadership through training and resource development and to provide for mutual support among its members.* The Network makes every effort to fulfill the purpose statement by providing training at the annual conference, serving as resource people to middle governing bodies and

congregations and by helping its members connect with one another. POAMN has been a great influence in my life. Conferences have offered qualified, articulate speakers and I have met people from across the denomination that share their enthusiasm and expertise in older adult ministry. God used the Network and the mentoring friendship of Dr. Miriam Dunson, former Associate for Older Adult Ministries to lead me into ordained ministry. I have definitely been equipped and assisted! I believe in POAMN.

Program ministries of the PC(USA) have been subject to deep budget cuts over the last few years, resulting in fewer staff people in Louisville to resource the church at large and in the need for organizations such as POAMN to be really serious about fund raising. Just this month two of the staff positions supporting Older Adult Ministry were eliminated, those of Carl Horton and Polly Marcum. POAMN is grateful for the leadership, enthusiasm, vision and dedication Carl exhibited in his role as Associate for Leadership Development. Polly has served tirelessly as the Administrative Assistant in the GA office, working for both POAMN and the Association of Retired Ministers, Spouses and Survivors (ARMSS). "Thank you" seems inadequate when we consider all she has done on our behalf. Ministry costs money and in the coming months our network, along with the Office of Older Adult Ministries and ARMSS is launching an all out campaign to raise enough money to keep these vital ministries going.

Many people who reap the benefits of POAMN, who are equipped, resourced and assisted, do not contribute monetarily just as many listeners to public radio do not contribute to the stations. Both

Continued Page 9

See
AGenda
On-Line

www.pcusa.org/olderadults



PATHWAYS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH: THRIVING AFTER 55

Register on-line at:
www.pcusa.org/olderadults/poamn.htm

POAMN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 27-30, 2004

EL CARIBE RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

1-800-445-9889
www.elcaribe.com



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. HENRY SIMMONS**

Professor of Religion and Aging, and Director,
Center on Aging, Union-PSCE, Richmond, VA



**WORSHIP LEADER
REV. JON BROWN**

Congregational Ministries Publishing
Senior Editor/Coordinator, Mission Education and
Promotion, PCUSA, Louisville, KY

WORKSHOPS:

GETTING A LIFE IN ORDER
Vandadean "Vann" Rogers

PATHWAYS\$ TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH:
THRIVING AFTER \$\$
Carol Taylor

MISSION ENGAGEMENT AS A SPIRITUAL
PRACTICE
Jon Brown

WHAT I DO IS NOT WHO I AM
Helen McDonald & Henry Simmons

END OF LIFE ISSUES
Susie Johnson

COMPASSIONING, THE CHURCHES CALL
TO CARE IN THE 21st CENTURY
Donna Coffman

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND EVANGELISM IN
LATER YEARS
Miriam Dunson

WISDOM, ROCKING CHAIRS AND WRIN-
KLES: Images of Older Adults in Literature
Vickie Kintzel

A CHANGING PRAYER LIFE
Margaret Suttle

HEALTH MINISTRIES
Patricia Gleich

CONDUCTING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Margaret Suttle

SPIRITUALITY: Is it Needed in Today's World?
Deborah Henson-Governor

STARTING AND MAINTAINING OLDER
ADULT MINISTRIES
Miriam Dunson

A PRELUDE TO SOMETHING NEW
Jane Jones-Norris

WHAT IN LIFE IS FREE? WHAT IS FREE IN
LIFE?
Vann Rogers & Miriam Dunson

**Participants will have an opportunity to share
their own models of Older Adult Ministry.**



Look for complete registration booklet in your mailbox soon!
For more information call 1-888-728-7228, Ext. 5472
or Email Ginny Nyhuis at gnyhuis@ctr.pcusa.org



EXTRA COMMITMENT OPPORTUNITIES



TO HELP ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF THE VITAL SERVICES provided by Older Adult Ministries in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

\$ _____ Office of Older Adult Ministries #E048103

The Office of Older Adult Ministries is committed to equip and assist the whole church in developing older adult ministries. With its covenant partners, the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network and the Association of Retired Ministers, their Spouses or Survivors, the office will help congregations address new challenges and ever changing needs, collaborate with other religious and secular ministries, and advocate on behalf of society's older adults. The office publishes an annual Older Adult Planning Guide and AGenda, a quarterly newsletter, containing news of successful older adult ministry programs, educational articles, liturgical materials, books reviews and upcoming educational offerings.

\$ _____ Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors #E048098

This association nurtures and advocates for its retired members in recognition and celebration of their contributions to the church. ARMSS assists those able and willing to find meaningful service and connection to the church during retirement, promotes the use of retired clergy as Parish Associates, supports presbyteries and synods in their ministry to and with retired clergy, spouses, and survivors and hosts a national convention. ARMSS Quarterly Newsletter is published as a resource to its members featuring articles of interest to retired persons, the sharing of ideas in presbyteries and retirement communities and information concerning regional and national conferences.

\$ _____ Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) #E048101

This church-wide network includes pastors, Christian educators, and many others who work with older adults within congregations and retirement communities. POAMN provides opportunities to network with colleagues who are serving in this particular ministry through national and regional trainings and conferences. The network partners with presbyteries to recruit representatives who promote the advancement of older adult ministries within our congregations.

\$ _____ Total Gift Amount Send gifts to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 or www.pcusa.org/give, indicate the ECO project # and electronically process your gift.

In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Older Adult Ministries, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202
For more information, call Toll Free 1-888-728-7228 x5487 or x5472 or visit www.pcusa.org/olderadults

Continued: President's Corner


groups receive a quality product and both groups are necessary for survival. Presently, there are three levels of membership in POAMN: full member - \$30; affiliate member - \$20; and organizations \$100. The number of full members hovers between 100 and 200 each year, depending on how many people attend the conference. (Full members get a discounted conference rate.)

Our goal for membership in 2004 is to increase it 100%. We pledge to continue to equip leaders in older adult ministry and to assist them in their particular ministries using the annual conference as a major part of leadership development. As part of our commitment we have invited Dr. Henry Simmons to be the keynote speaker at the 2004 conference at Daytona Beach. Please consider becoming an active member of POAMN. We need your support. You will reap the benefits.

Faithfully,

Margaret Suttle

Send memberships to:
Susie Johnson, POAMN Treasurer
9800 Preston Road
Dallas, Texas 75230




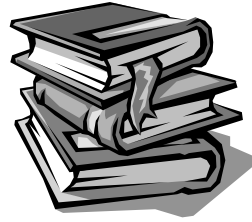
'Encore Enrichment'
At beautiful Lake Tahoe
September 12-17, 2004

- **Seeing ourselves in Faulkner's Novels**
 - *The wild humorist, 'Mark Twain'*
- **Discovering God in physics, astronomy, and biology**
 - *Lake Tahoe: past and present*
- **Relax, explore, sightsee, and enjoy**

Presented by
Zephyr Point
Presbyterian Conference Center

Call (775) 588-6759 for details and application,
or go to www.zephyrpoint.org



Resources

The following Resources are Produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Older Adult Ministries Office

visit our new website at:

www.pcusa.org/olderadults

2004 Older Adult Planning Guide. Order from the Presbyterian Distribution Service, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396, order # 70250-04-717 FREE s/h.

Published each year as a guide to congregations. Includes worship materials and other resources for planning older adult programming in congregations.

Older Adult Ministry: A Resource for Program Development. Order from the Presbyterian Distribution Service, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396, #21785429, Price \$5.95 (Phone: 1-800-524-2612).

Published in 1987, this helpful manual provides strategies, program plans and theological reflections for churches seeking resources for older adult ministry.

Older Adult Ministry: A Guide for the Presbytery Committee, revised by Miriam Dunson, 2003. Order from the Presbyterian Distribution Service, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396, #090300 Price \$9.95 (Phone: 1-800-524-2612).

This manual is designed to help presbyteries and Presbyterian Representatives for Older Adult Ministries (PROAM) initiate ministries with older adults in congregations. It outlines ways in which the church can translate concern into action

Older Adult Ministry: A Guide for the Session and Congregation, compiled by Jim Simpson, edited by Kim Richter, Revised in 1999 by Miriam Dunson. Order from the Presbyterian Distribution Service, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396, #18090301 Price \$5.95 (Phone: 1-800-524-2612).

CERTIFICATION FOR OLDER ADULT MINISTRY (OAM)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) HOW DID THE PROCESS BEGIN?

The Executive Committee of POAMN is working on a process for a national certification in Older Adult Ministry, along with General Assembly staff, and faculty from several seminaries. This is in response to requests from the POAMN membership and seeks to recognize the knowledge and expertise of POAMN members.

2) WHAT IS CERTIFICATION FOR OLDER ADULT MINISTRY?

On August 2, 2003, a group (Miriam Dunson, Pat Baker, Vann Rogers, Vickie Kintzel, Marvin Simmers, Henry Simmons) met in Richmond, VA to explore certifying persons in older adult ministry. Our discussion led us to make two proposals to the Executive Committee of POAMN:

1. That POAMN undertake the task of certifying people for older adult ministry.
2. That certification be at two levels.

These proposals presume that there is a critical need for highly competent older adult ministries, that these ministries address aging from midlife through dying, and that there is an existing body of knowledge and skills that can be drawn on.

3) DO OTHER DENOMINATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CERTIFICATION?

We are consulting with several groups to learn what has worked for them and what mistakes we might avoid. We have contacted representatives from the United Methodist Church, the Center Sage, the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry, the United Theological Seminary, the Cincinnati Bible College, the Spiritual Eldering Institute, the Union Theological Seminary & Presbyterian School of Christian Education, and Austin Seminary.

4) HOW DO I GET CREDIT FOR WHAT I KNOW?

We expect that the process will be based on a portfolio of prior learning. The process begins with a

course on the development of your portfolio.

5) WHAT IS A PORTFOLIO?

A portfolio is a written description of the experience and learning that have taken place in your life. It also includes documentation (proof) that this learning took place - in the form of letters, certificates, work samples, etc. The portfolio demonstrates your equivalency to standard course work.

6) WHAT KIND OF LEARNING CAN BE USED?

Learning from work, volunteer jobs, independent research, seminars, and community service, seminary courses, other sessions (Presbyterian Women, Health Ministries, NCOA, Youth Trienniums, APCE etc) can be included. At least one of five units/competency must be obtained during POAMN conference sessions.

7) HOW/WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS?

The portfolio process will be available in a pre-conference course at the 2005 POAMN Conference. An alternative would be via an online course through Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. www.sinclair.edu

8) WHO DECIDES WHAT CREDIT MY LEARNING IS WORTH AND HOW WILL I GET CREDIT FOR THIS LEARNING?

Portfolios of learning will be evaluated by individuals, i.e., faculty, clergy, POAMN Ex Comm, etc. to determine credits/units toward completion of certification. This aspect is under continuing development at this time, and will be explained further at the October 2004 conference.

9) WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS POST CERTIFICATION?

Commit 2 years to OAM.
Maintain POAMN membership.

10) WHAT ARE THE ARENAS OF COMPETENCY?

There are three arenas of competency which must be demonstrated. The arenas, with possible areas

Continued: Certification

of focus listed for each, are listed below. Some areas of focus apply to more than one arena of competency, allowing you to create portfolios that reflect your experience and interest.

The spirituality of aging: aging as a spiritual journey, theology, the Bible

- Ageism and denial
- Spiritual growth
- Affairs in order
- Start/maintain intentional OAM
- Theological and Biblical
- Death and dying

The social sciences: psychology, sociology, biology-physiological

- Ageism and denial
- Care for the caregiver
- Health issues
- Elder abuse
- Affairs in order
- Societal issues
- Intergenerational
- Alzheimers and dementia
- Housing/living arrangements

Resources/skills/programs: programmatic resources and skills

- Care for the caregiver
- Ageism & denial
- Health issues
- Elder abuse
- Housing
- Community resources
- Affairs in order
- Death & dying
- Intentional OAM
- Intergenerational
- Spiritual growth

11) WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS FOR COURSE PURPOSE AND DEPTH?

Each portfolio must address at least these five components:

- Theology
- Theory
- Skills
- Teaching strategies
- Local resources

12) WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF AND THE FOCUS OF CERTIFICATION?

The supporting cohorts developed over time through networking and through the use of e-mail, can be a valuable resource in identifying, supporting, mentoring, and training Presbyterian leaders in older adult ministry. It is believed that, similar to the certification of educators in the PC(USA), this certification will lead to increased recognition, respect and collaboration with those whose skill in Older Adult Ministries has been demonstrated through this process.

13) WHAT ABOUT COMMISSIONING?

Participants who complete the certification process will be recognized at POAMN. POAMN will develop a form and send a letter to the synod, presbytery and congregation for commissioning. This will be an endorsement by PC(USA) to assist OAM as well as a commitment to lifelong learning.

14) WHAT ARE THE TWO LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION?

Certified Older Adult Ministers (COAM). Initially these will primarily be clergy, chaplains, and other professionals in the field of OAM. Certified Associates for Older Adult Ministry (CAOAM). It is anticipated that these individuals may work toward and attain certification as COAMs in subsequent years.

15) WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS CERTIFICATION?

Serve the Lord.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

CERTIFICATION FOR OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

I WILL COMMIT _____

I MIGHT COMMIT _____

I WILL NOT COMMIT _____



PRESBYTERIAN OLDER ADULT MINISTRY NETWORK

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

E-MAIL (Preferred) _____

Synod _____ Presbytery _____

Other (Organization) _____

- Please Find \$30 Full Membership New Renewal
 \$20 Affiliate Member
 \$100 Organizational Member

Make Checks Payable to:

POAMN Treasurer
c/o Susie Johnson
9800 Preston Road
Dallas, Texas 75230

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Louisville KY
Permit No. 1215

Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Room 1617
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville KY 40202-1396

