

***Northern Illinois Conference
Safe Sanctuary Training Event
First United Methodist Church
Elgin, Illinois
September 17, 2011***

***Older/Vulnerable Adults
Presenter: Rita L. Smith
Older Adult Council
Chairperson***

Matthew 9:36-37

- When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.”

Mission Statement

Our mission is to ensure the quality of life for older adults through ministries in the NIC local churches.

- Our Goals
- To equip local churches ministries with training
- Provide information, education, leadership support and motivation
- Present opportunities for life enrichment and spiritual growth

What ministries can we provide?

- 1. Spiritual Growth
- 2. Enrichment Learning
- 3. Nutrition
- 4. Fitness
- 5. Intergenerational Interaction
- 6. Outreach
- 7. Recreation
- 8. Service

Screening and Recruitment for Staffing Older/Vulnerable Adults

- Same as for other ministries:
- Written Application
- References
- Interview
- Criminal Background Check

- Advice: “Six Month Hospitality Rule”

Training Volunteers and Employees

- 1. Abuse Reporting
- 2. First Aid
- 3. CPR Training
- 4. Appropriate Interpersonal Boundaries
- 5. Timely

Where does abuse come from for senior and vulnerable adults?

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Financial

According to demographic information in The Graying of the Church by Richard N. Gentzler Jr.

- The U.S. population of older adults is growing faster than the population of those under 18
- By 2010 – 13% will be older than 65
- By 2030 – 20% will be older than 65
- 78 Million Baby Boomers will have reached retirement age

- When we look at the church today (according to Gentzler), we find:
- 1 Staff person per adult
- 46 Staff persons per youth

Suggestions

- Have two adults in every ministry as leaders
- Open doors during Sunday School or Bible Study
- Have unobstructed windows
- Council in confidentiality in an office or classroom where doors are closed but windows are uncovered
- When traveling, don't forget accommodations and meals

Other Groups of Vulnerable Adults

- Developmentally Disabled
- Hospice Care
- Prison Inmates
- Probated Offenders
- Homeless

Resources

- www.gbod.org
- www.discipleshipresources.org
- www.aarp.org
- Conference agencies affiliated and related programs: Bethany Methodist Corporation, Covenant Methodist Senior Services, Rainbow Ridge (Kreider Service) and Wesley Willows Corporation