

Nursing Home Ministry Survey Results

A survey was taken of IDW pastors. The subject was nursing home ministry. Forty one were received at the September 22, 23, 2008 IDW Pastors' Conference. Three more completed survey forms were received in the weeks that followed.

Most of the questions dealt with pastoral nursing home ministry. Some biographical questions were also asked. The answers to those questions aren't included here. These are the answers to the questions about pastoral nursing home ministry. Where the questions in this survey were identical or very nearly identical to a previous survey, the answers to the previous survey are given in parentheses.

	1. Disagree	2.	3.	4.	5. Agree
1. The pastor(s) visit all parishioners who are in senior living communities at least once per month.	1	2	2	12	27
2. I feel comfortable visiting members who are residents in senior living communities.	1	0	0	9	33
3. I need additional resources/information for the ministry I carry out in senior living communities.	3 (2)	15 (9)	15 (4)	9 (8)	2 (4)
4. I need additional resources/information for my ministry with senior living community residents who are afflicted with dementia.	1 (1)	7 (4)	8 (4)	18 (14)	10 (7)
5. Ministering to resident's families is a primary concern for me.	1	8	12	18	5
6. I need resources to equip me in ministry to families who are wondering about a care facility placement.	1	9	13	20	1
7. The Christian mission and programming (devotions, worship, etc.) are evident each time I visit the care center.	0	12	8	18	5
8. It is difficult for me to come in close contact with resident's personal care needs (dressing, toileting, odor etc.)	4 (5)	24 (8)	7 (3)	8 (9)	1 (1)
9. Senior living community staff is helpful to/supportive of my ministry.	1	1	5	24	13
10. I am uncertain about possible legalities connected with providing transportation for residents of senior living communities.	2	4	10	19	8

1. Disagree 2. 3. 4. 5. Agree

11. The chaplain(s) on staff at my local senior living communities are supportive of my ministry. 0 4 22 8 4

Yes No

12. My church has a formal lay visitation program which includes senior living communities. 10 (9) 33 (17)

13. I use lamplighter devotions in my senior living community ministry. 6 38

14. Our congregation routinely picks up parishioners who are senior living community residents and brings them to worship services on Sunday. 11 (6) 33 (20)

15. For those parishioners who can not leave the senior living community, we tape (audio/video) our services for them or find other ways to connect them to the worship life of our congregation. 36 (15) 7 (11)

16. If you are interested in serving as a full or part time chaplain in a nursing home, please indicate here the degree of your interest (1 being low and 5 being high) and print your name.

(The number circled by the pastors comes after the dash) 1 – 10 2 – 2 3 – 4 4 – 6 5 – 3

An Interpretation of the Older Adult Ministry Nursing Home Ministry Survey

Below is my interpretation of the results of the nursing home ministry survey taken at the September 22-23, 2008 IDW Pastors' Conference. The survey was not a scientific survey. A total of 44 pastors filled out the survey. The Older Adult Ministry Committee of Iowa District West thanks the pastors who filled out the survey and commends the survey and this interpretation of it to the congregations of the District in the hope that it will aid the congregations in their nursing home ministries. The books that are given have been reviewed by the Committee and are offered as resources.

Dennis Angland, pastoral advisor IDW Older Adult Ministry Committee

(As you might expect, the numbers below correspond to the survey question numbers.)

1. Our pastors visit their members in the nursing home once a month.
2. Our pastors feel comfortable visiting their members who live in care facilities.
3. There is not a call for additional resources/information for ministry in senior living communities.
4. There is a need for additional resources/information for ministry to those with dementia.
 - *Caring For Your Parents, The Complete Family Guide*, AARP Sterling, 2005, Chapter 6 the Brain
 - *How to Minister Among Older Adults*, Charles T. Knippel, CPH, 2005, pp 118,119
5. Pastors are concerned about ministering to families of those living in care facilities.
6. It would be helpful to provide information to those considering entering a care facility.
 - *The Complete Elder Care Planner, Second Edition*, by Joy Loverde, Three Rivers Press, 2000
 - *The Parental Care Conversation*, Dan Taylor, Penguin books, 2006
 - *Settling In*, Richard L. Morgan Upper Room Books, 2006
7. Pastors are ambivalent about the Christian mission present in care facilities.
8. Pastors don't have a hard time with close contact with residents' personal care needs.
9. Staff is helpful.
10. There is some concern about legalities in transporting residents.
11. Pastors are ambivalent regarding whether or not they receive support from local senior living community chaplains.
12. Only larger churches have very much formal lay visitation and there the split is 4 yes and 6 no.
 - Books on organizing a congregational Older Adult Ministry Program: *Older Adult Ministry*, reprinted 2000, and *the Graying of the Church*, 2004, by Richard H. Gentzler, *Senior Adult Ministry in the 21st Century*, Dr. David P Gallagher, *Ministering to Older Adults, the Building Blocks*, Donald r. Koepke Editor, 2005
 - *Understanding the Senior Adult, A Tool for Wholistic Ministry*, Lois D. Knutson, The Alban Institute, 1999 (This book has an "assessment tool" that laity could use in a formal visitation program.)
 - *Remembering Your Story*, Richard L. Morgan, Upper Room Books, 3rd Printing 2001 (This book offers different ways to invite older adults to tell their stories.)
13. Lamplighter devotions are not being used.
14. Only large congregations provide transportation to Sunday worship and the divide there is split, 5 to 5.
15. Most congregations provide their members with some form of the Sunday service.
16. Interest in full time chaplaincy was greater by pastors in the ministry between 10 to 30 years, less by pastors of large congregations, and less by younger pastors.