

# Older Adult Ministry

## Iowa District West

March 2010

In our Iowa West District congregations we are privileged to have many individuals who are lovingly referred to as "Seniors" or "Older Adults." In my sharing with you today, I would like for you to give some thought to those individuals.

What percentage of your congregation is made up of "Older Adults?" What percentage of your community? If your congregation and community are typical of Iowa District West, the percentage is probably quite high.

That being the case, there are two issues that I would like to address. First of all, is your congregation effectively involving "Older Adults" in ministry and in service to others? The reality is, many older adults have the time, energy, ability and resources to be of great service to others. In addition, I strongly believe that most older adults desire to be involved in meaningful service. Is your congregation effectively tapping in to that resource?

In what kind of ministry and service can older adults be involved? The reality is, the possibilities are limitless. Over the years I have discovered that some of the best teachers are more advanced in years. Committees and boards benefit from the experience and wisdom that seniors can provide. Sharing the Gospel with others can take on new meaning when the remaining years on earth are expected to be limited. Many seniors enjoy calling on the sick, the shut-ins, the inactive members, and the prospective members.

The reality is, however, to get older adults involved, they may have to be asked. Ask them to use their God given gifts and abilities and they will more likely respond.

The other issue that I would bring to your attention is service to older adults in your congregation and community. Quite understandably, older adults often have unique needs and concerns. Many are lonely. Some are struggling financially. Some are dealing with losses in their lives. Some are confined to their place of residence, whether it be in their own home, in an assisted living facility, or in a nursing home.

Are you and the members of your congregation reaching out to such needs and concerns? Be on the alert to them and then respond with meaningful service.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Rev. Curtis L. Foreman  
Chairman of IDW Older Adult Ministry Committee

PS: The annual "Saints Alive" Retreat has been scheduled for August 20-22 at Camp Okoboji. The theme will be "An Unchanging God in a Changing World." Please place the date of the retreat on your schedule and encourage the older adults in your congregation to do so as well.