

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries



NETWORK

**A Publication of
Presbyterian Older
Adult Ministries
Network (POAMN)**

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AGEnda

Issue Number 112

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The Network is Behind You!

In one of those television commercials that is cute for a while but gets old fast, the punch line is “the network is behind you”. In your life and in your ministry, the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) is behind you! Based on our history, the shape and location of that support seems likely to continue to grow, to change, and to thrive in the midst of change and transitions.

As you may know, the national offices will undergo another restructuring in the weeks ahead. Please hold those individuals in prayer, and especially the General Assembly Council and staff as they make difficult decisions on our behalf. It seems likely that POAMN, as other “covenant groups” of the denomination, will need to stand more on our own feet with less staff support from Louisville in the days and years to come.

The Executive Committee of POAMN will meet in October to make decisions about ways we can do this in the most positive and cost-effective manner. That group is likely to become the contact point for referrals between members, and for distribution of materials. They are capable and available (as other aspects of their lives allow) for telephone or e-mail consultation; see www.pcusa.org/olderadults/poamn or the last issue of AGEnda for contact information..

Certification Course Two will be “piloted” in October, and introduced to the membership at the April 2007 Conference at Lake Tahoe, NV. Individuals in the process are developing workshops related to the spiritual life of Older Adults, and those will be available to the membership sometime next year.).

This issue contains some hints and glimpses of the many and varied ministries in which Presbyterians are engaged. We would like to include “best practices” in each issue, and rely on you, the reader, to send in program ideas (both what has worked and what did not) as well as your questions and requests for assistance from others.

The list of those receiving this publication electronically continues to grow, if slowly. If you can join that group and save the postage and printing cost, please contact the AGEnda editor (see column to the left). The look of the newsletter is also in transition; more art is expected to return in future issues. What isn’t here that you would like to see? Please contact the editor!

News You Can Use

From the Presbytery of the James: a generous gift was recently received for Older Adult Ministry from the Rev. Norman and Corrine Nettleton. Norman is our presbytery representative to the Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors (ARMSS), of which he has been a very dedicated representative. He and Corrine are also very involved in the life of this presbytery and their home congregation, Westminster Presbyterian in Charlottesville, VA. Earlier this year Norman and Corrine presented us with a gift of \$20,000 (through the Presbyterian Foundation), with its annual interest earnings to be used in the following ways:

- 1) to contribute to the expenses of our presbytery's representative to the annual meetings of the ARMSS, and
- 2) to help in expenses of the semi-annual meetings/events of our presbytery's own Retired Church Professionals and Their Spouses/Survivors group.

Perhaps in letting others know of this gracious and benevolent action on the part of the Nettleton's others will be inspired to contribute in similar ways. The Nettleton's can be reached at corinorm@cstone.net.

(Submitted by Timothy J. Hoyt Duncan, Associate for Leader Development, Presbytery of the James, 1251 Presbytery Court, Glen Allen, VA 23059, Ph: 804-262-2074; Fax: 804-262-2264)

Presbytery Representatives for Older Adult Ministries (PROAMs)

PROAMs are the individuals in each Presbytery who have volunteered (or been nominated) to be the voice, ears, and arms for Older Adult Ministries in their area. A packet of helpful information is available for each PROAM, and each Presbytery may have two PROAMs. The latest list of PROAMs will be included in the December issue of AGenda. The Executive Committee contact for PROAMs is Susie Johnson. She may be contacted by e-mail at either auntsmj1@aol.com or sjohnson@faithhospice.org or by phone at 214-240-0110.

Links of Interest

www.pcusa.org/olderadults has back issues of the annual planning guides, AGendas, etc. available for free download.

(no endorsement by POAMN or the PC(USA) is implied for the following websites)
Healthy Aging Update newsletter at www.healthology.com

(recommended by Donna Bowman, a certification participant)

WWW.SPIRITUALITYANDAGING.ORG

(recommended by Pat Baker, POAMN Vice President)

(To suggest a link for information you have found helpful, contact the editor.)

Save the Date!
POAMN Announces Its Annual Conference:
April 16-19, 2007 at Zephyr Point Conference Center on Beautiful Lake Tahoe

~Boomers and Beyond~
Reaching the Generations in the Church & Community

The first wave of Baby Boomers is turning 60, and as with everything else Boomers have challenged, they're challenging their aging in society. How can the church respond to this generation without alienating the generations both before and after the Boomers? Explore a variety of topics that will help your church minister to and with Baby Boomers and Beyond!

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lyle Hillegas, *Founder of Presbyterian Front PORCH (Presbyterians of Reasoned Hope) Ministries* in Santa Barbara Presbytery; former *President of Westmont College and parish pastor*

As Reformed Christians, we believe that God is the God of all time and space, all generations and approaches to worship and evangelism. Dr. Hillegas will speak about the "Character of God" providing a biblical and theological basis for the conference

Plenary Speaker: Dr. Charles Arn, *President, Church Growth, Inc., Monrovia, CA*
"Evangelizing the Baby Boomer Generation."

Enjoy a rich time of worship, fellowship, learning and laughter as together we pray, plan and pursue ministry to, with, and by Older Adults in our congregations! In addition to the Keynote & Plenary addresses, you'll choose from variety of seminars covering topics such as Caregiving, Parish Nursing, Health Ministries, and more!

Mark your calendars now and save the date! Registration packets will be coming soon. For more information, please contact Cindy Wright at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church (858) 509-2580 x 1400 or wright@solanapres.org.

Choose from a variety of workshop topics to include:

- ◇ Middle Adults (55-69) ~ Seniors-NOT! - Charles Arn
- ◇ Older Adult Ministry 101 - Susie Johnson & Ginger Broussard
- ◇ Walking Does Wonders – Pat Baker
- ◇ EFC: Especially For Chaplains
- ◇ Caregiving & Spirituality
- ◇ Parish Nursing ~ Yes!
- ◇ Living, Learning and Leading in Later Years
- ◇ Connecting the Generations
- ◇ Pastors Out To Pasture? What to do in Retirement?
- ◇ Advantages of Retirement Community Living - Doug Kurtz
- ◇ Are Your Affairs in Order? – Beth Ann Force

YES, VIRGINIA, SENIORS CAN PLANT A CHURCH!

It may not be exactly what Brian MacLaren had in mind when he wrote The Church On The Other Side, but yes, Virginia, senior adults can plant a church. What's more, they've already done it in Springfield, VA.

About six years ago, a group of enterprising older adults at Greenspring Retirement Community decided to plant a multi-denominational Protestant church with seed money from the Erickson Corporation, which built the community. Five years ago, I was called to pastor The Village Church, which National Capital Presbytery approved as a specialized ministry. The core group of about 25 people were Lutheran, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist and Disciples of Christ. Could such a thing be done by people in their 70s and 80s? Would such a diverse theological group get along? What would worship look like? What governing body should we have? These and many other questions occurred to us as we began,

At first, some came out of curiosity-what sort of gathering was this? But little by little, as we claimed and emphasized our common ground in Christ, as we continued to worship and pray together, we began to flourish. We quickly learned to set aside denominational differences, and focus on teachings and beliefs that we held in common. Best of all, we often avoided the trap of saying that "we've always done it this way," because we were doing something brand new. To be able to create and try things was very freeing, and gave a strong sense of being creative partners with God in an exciting endeavor.

One of the biggest challenges that we faced was convincing people that God could be worshiped anywhere: a classroom with no altar or cross, a café with no organ or choir, a theater with no paraments or banners. Would God show up somewhere OTHER than a "church"? God could and did. Did God care if a service was held at 5 p.m. rather than 11 a.m.? No. Could a sense of God be evoked in an unfamiliar setting, simply furnished? Yes!

The past couple of years have been truly momentous for our church. We moved into a new chapel, built by Erickson, about two years ago. We now have about 150 members and associate members. We celebrated two baptisms and a wedding. Much excitement and joy were generated by these milestones. It's a myth that all of the unchurched are under 40. I meet many older adults who are also unchurched, yet I seldom hear about this issue elsewhere.

The Village Church has grown in members, in financial stewardship, and established a mission presence in and beyond the community. We've sponsored interfaith discussion forums, and held services with Greenspring's Jewish and Catholic communities. Many here say that this is the first time that they've had the opportunity to share fellowship with those from other faith communities. And contrary to what you may have heard, many seniors do welcome new opportunities to learn! So it's our prayer that the PCUSA will be inspired to learn more about the innovative new church that faithful, dedicated seniors planted at Greenspring.

(This article by Hilaire Henthorne, a PC(USA) OAM certification participant, has been edited for length. She can be contacted at hhenthorne@cox.net.)

Where (how) are they now?

This new column will bring you information on those who are now serving God in Older Adult Ministries, or have in the past. If you have information to share, please contact the AGenda editor.

Margaret Suttle is the current President of POAMN. She is in treatment for a recurrence of cancer, and continues to pray for and shepherd the Executive Committee as her health and energy allow. Please hold her, and husband Tom, in prayer.

Pat Baker is the current Vice-President of POAMN. Pat was involved in a serious auto accident in mid-July suffering multiple bone fractures and a broken leg and clavicle. She has shown remarkable recovery and started physical therapy the beginning of September. She attributes her speedy recovery to the power of prayer and the wonderful care by family, friends and her church family.

Ginny Nyhuis was our “right arm woman” at the Presbyterian Center until the downsizing on May 1 of this year. Ginny recently accepted a part-time position as the State Coordinator with Interfaith Caregiving Network in Waukesha, Wisconsin (about 20 miles west of Milwaukee). She can be reached at gnyhuis@juno.com, or Ginny Nyhuis, N2230 Foster Rd. South, Oostburg, WI 53070.

Greg Cohen was our Associate in the Presbyterian Center, working on raising funds for the endowment for Older Adult Ministries. Under the endowment terms, since the closing of the national Office the returns from this fund are to be split between POAMN and ARMSS. Greg recently accepted a position in Funds Development for the Friends of Forman College (Pakistani, related to the PCUSA). His work will mostly be stateside.

Jan McGilliard served on the POAMN Executive Committee and on the staff at the Synod of Mid-Atlantic. “Congregational care (including health ministries) and later life planning are now the foci of my work in older adult ministries, which I do through consulting, teaching, and speaking at all levels of the PC(USA) and through NICA (National Interfaith Coalition on Aging). I'm an active lay preacher, student and teacher of Celtic Spirituality, and an avid participant (running marathons, doing triathlons, and biking century rides), spokesperson, and fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.” She can be reached at ElderConnections, 305 Country Club Dr. SE, Blacksburg, VA 24060, by phone at 540/953-1366 or on-line at <http://civic.bev.net/elderconnections/>

Looking for a Pastor with Skills in Older Adult Ministry? Looking for a church or community to serve?

As of September 3, there are 70 churches in our denomination who have listed “older adult ministry” as one of the top 10 skills desired in a pastor or staff member. While most of those positions are solo pastorates in churches under 250 in membership, they include Christian educators, interim and designated pastors, a chaplain, and associate pastors, and churches of all sizes from smallest to largest membership.

If your church were seeking a pastor, would the Pastor Nominating Committee include this skill in their list? Watch this space in coming issues for a new service listing positions sought and available (small fee per listing; contact Pat Baker for details at pcbaker22@comcast.net or 678-580-3527).

Certification Process and Progress

There are many people working in the churches and in the field, doing good ministry, who have learned on the job, by trial and error or by taking secular classes and making the translation to working from a faith base. The certification process in our denomination provides a uniform baseline of factual background and practice in skills for older adult ministry. We expect that this process will strengthen Older Adult Ministries (OAM) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and beyond, and that it will assure local churches and residents of living community that those who have completed the process have a background and skills applicable to their ministry. It includes:

1. A spiritual base for the participants' work and ministry, including an understanding of the lifelong aspects of growing in God (Core Course One).
2. Baseline knowledge of the Bible and practice in teaching adults, including differences in style and methods appropriate at differing generations (Core Course Two).
3. Reflection on reformed theology and biblical responses to questions of aging adults (Core Course Three). **(Your help is needed; please see below.)**
4. Practical understanding and skills for OAM, including the science of aging and coalition group building specific to the participant's setting (Core Course Four).
5. An elective of the participant's choice, with conversation and challenge from the participant's classmates from earlier courses and
6. A summary project or writing, showing a broad understanding of OAM and ability to share what one has learned.

The participants' work products from these six steps (workshop designs, in most cases) will be available to be shared with members of POAMN, thus building up a library of resources that can be used in the local church and other settings.

Course One was introduced at the 2006 POAMN conference, and will be available connected with the 2007 conference. It will then be offered in alternate "odd" years (that is, in 2009, 2011, etc.). The course was developed and is led by Dr. Barbara Anne Keely.

Course Two will be piloted this October by a small group who have completed Course One. The course will be developed and led by Joyce MacKichan Walker of New Jersey. It will then be offered as a post-conference course in 2007 (April 19-21), again in 2008, and then in alternate "even" years (that is, in 2010, 2012, etc.).

Course Three will be piloted in fall 2007 by some of those who have completed the first two Courses, and offered with the 2008 POAMN conference. Leadership is being sought for this course; if you have suggestions, please contact the Certification Coordinator. **You can help! What are the faith questions from your people? What are the challenges to peace of heart, mind and soul that confront you in your life and ministry, the things you would like a faith answer to? Please submit questions to the Certification Coordinator for possible inclusion in this course.**

The other courses will follow in sequence. Preliminary plans are in the works for offering courses in other settings as well as at the POAMN conferences. For information on registration, costs, etc., or to make leadership recommendations, please contact Vickie Kintzel as Certification Coordinator at pastorvickiek@yahoo.com, 970-215-4256 or 1229 Snowbank Court, Longmont CO 80501.

Corrections:

In the February 2006 issue of AGenda, contact information for David Solie, author of the article *The Geriatric Gap: Getting the Right Information About Aging*, was overlooked. Mr. Solie can be contacted (and you can sign up for his on-line newsletter) at www.dsolie.com, or reach him by phone at 800-225-9844 x132.

In the July 2006 issue, there is a misprint in the poem "His Cross-Our Crosses" by Elise Merriam. The corrected poem is reprinted in this issue.

Also in that issue, the contact information for Susie Johnson (PROAM support) was incorrect. The phone number to reach Susie is 214-340-0110, and her town is "Irving" Texas.

Autumn Wisdom

His Cross – Our Crosses

We try to make it beautiful
By casting it in gold;
The cross, an instrument of death
For one whose life was sold.

His cross was heavy timber
Stained red with precious blood;
He hung upon it for our sin,
His life misunderstood.

Our crosses have been painted
Or polished to a shine;
We dodge the gory image
And substitute divine.

Eternal life is a gift of God
Intended for those who believe;
His cross must be our cross, if we
Expect His gift to receive.

Elise Merriam
Westminster Tower
Orlando, Florida

*Autumn Wisdom is a place for sharing
articles and poetry written and submitted
by some of "God's oldest friends".
Submissions are always welcome, and will
be used as space and theme allow.*

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

On-going needs in response to recent hurricanes
(information from the Health Ministries e-mail)

FIRST AID KITS: South Mississippi needs
First aid kits or items to replenish them. For
volunteers as well as residents, there is an
on-going need especially for bandages.

BLANKETS are also needed, either new or
nearly new and clean. Contact George or
Linda Bates, the Disaster Recovery
Coordinators for the Presbytery of Mississippi
at 228.604.2424 or by e-mail at
presbyteryrecovery@bellsouth.net to find
out what will be most helpful.

Planned Themes for AGenda issues:

December 2006: Generations

February 2007: Caregiving

May 2007: Single Eldering

September 2007: Grandparenting

Articles by readers are invited, as are leads
for information from other sources that might
be reprinted with permission.

MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE

New Program for Older Drivers

CarFit, an educational program developed by the American Society on Aging in partnership with AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association. CarFit brings the car club together with occupational therapists to conduct a quick but comprehensive check of how safely older adults and their cars work together. In CarFit, older drivers bring their automobiles to designated sites, where a trained staff member or volunteer asks each driver a series of simple questions and completes a 12-point checklist checking the driver and the vehicle. The entire process takes about 15 minutes. The driver leaves with recommended car adjustments and adaptations, a list of resources such as local occupational therapy and driver-safety courses, and greater peace of mind.

After a year of pilot-testing the program, which involved more than 300 older adults in 12 cities, program designers found that the majority of drivers needed to make at least one change to their vehicle. The most typical adjustment was to position the mirrors correctly. When given a follow-up survey, the vast majority of participants reported making one or more changes to their vehicle, using safety devices (such as safety belts) in the car more frequently, or having a conversation about their driving with family or friends.

In January 2006, AAA held its first CarFit train-the-trainer session, and several months later, AAA clubs nationwide began working with local aging-services organizations and occupational therapists to conduct CarFit checkups in their communities.

ASA launched a new website (www.asaging.org/carfit) on July 1 to provide information on the program and upcoming CarFit events. For more information on older-driver wellness and safety issues, visit "Road Map to Driving Wellness" on ASA's Live Well, Live Long website at www.asaging.org/cdc. To find additional online resources on older drivers, visit <http://www.asaging.org/drivewell>.

(The above is from a recent PC(USA) Health Ministries e-list health update. If you wish to be added to the e-list and receive periodic health updates, go to the following form and complete it: <http://www.pcusa.org/form2mail/form2mail.jsp?f2name=Health+Ministries&subject=Join+elist>

Their website is at <http://www.pcusa.org/health/usa> or contact them at 1.888.728.7228.)

SUPERLATIVE SENIORS: Presbyterians Today Article this Fall!

Futurists may lament the fact that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a graying denomination. But many of our graying church members are busy witnessing and serving with the energy of those half their age. Superlative Seniors, the cover article in the October issue of Presbyterians Today, introduces some of these amazing people, 75 and older, who keep the church's wheels of ministry turning. A complete list of the more than 130 people nominated for this feature is posted at www.pcusa.org/today.

Conference 2006 wrap-up

Selected facts and figures from the presentation by Dr. Stephen Sapp at the 2006 POAMN Conference at Stony Point Presbyterian Conference Center in New York. Clearly Older Adult Ministry is and needs to be done, as the POAMN statement puts it: “by, with and for older adults”!

- In 1900, 4% (1 out of 25) or 3 million Americans were 65 or older.
- In 2000, 13% (1 out of 8) or 37 million Americans were 65 or older. (These Americans, 65+, number more than the total population of Canada.)
- If you are 65 today, you can expect to live another 20 years or ¼ of your lifespan.
- The graying of the church extends from the pulpit to the pew:
67% of PCUSA is over 45, 57% is over 50, 35% is over 65
Median age of PCUSA is 54; median age in USA is 36
- The sheer number of Baby Boomers, the decrease in birth rate, and the increase in longevity all combine for crisis.
- 80% of elder care is provided by family members. Only 1 in 20 goes to a nursing home for permanent care.
- Currently, those 65+ have the highest divorce rate. The highest rate of suicides is now among those 65+, replacing teenagers.

A Personal Response to the Closing of the Older Adult Office

Even though apparently unavoidable from a financial perspective, the closing of the Older Adult Ministries office at General Assembly Headquarters in Louisville, will be felt most acutely by small rural churches with limited access to information impacting the older members of our congregations. In some ways, the Presbytery Resource Centers can fill the information gap, yet the practical application piece that was supplied by the Older Adult Office will be harder to find (see page 1).

Sharing experiences, information and commitment to maintaining a vital spiritual connection with older adults, even those who are "shut-ins", are part of the mission of OAM. The Certification Program is a way to give those lay persons and pastors with a passion and commitment to our older members the knowledge and expertise to do this in effective and perhaps even exciting and joyful ways.

In a sense, we are breaking new ground here: never in history have so many people lived so long - what do you do between retirement and debilitating illness? Who cares for and about you between debilitating illness and death? Older Adult Ministries also is a reminder to each of us that we don't retire from being a disciple of Jesus Christ - we just change our ministry field.

The under-discussion cooperation between the three Presbyterian groups most concerned with Older Adults (Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries (POAMN), the Association of Retired Ministers and their Spouses or Survivors (ARMSS) and the Presbyterian Association of Housing Services for Aging Adults (PAHSA) is an encouraging sign. We are following the biblical precedent of the remnant remaining faithful, and God honoring our efforts. There is an exciting future ahead of us; we just don't yet know what it will look like. We can be grateful that our God knows, and cares for, people of all ages, and will lead us toward the future.

Submitted by Joyce Ludwig, a certification participant serving in Broken Bow, Oklahoma

Mo-Ranch (Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, a camp and conference center affiliated with the Synod of the Sun in Texas) Older Adult Conference, “Celebrating God’s Gift of Life” will be October 2 - 5, 2006. Cost is \$297.00 per person double occupancy. See the web site at www.moranch.com for registration information. Dr. Isabel Rogers, retired professor of Applied Theology at Union-PCE, is the keynote speaker. Rev. Dr. Miriam Dunson is the Bible Study leader. Through inspirational speakers, workshops, singing, fellowship and free time for reflection, participants will find ways to celebrate the upside and downside of aging as we find anew our faith and life in Christ.

Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center in Allentown, CO, offers “God is God for all Times and Places”, an adult retreat, October 24 – 26. Contact www.highlandscamp.org or 303-747-2888. Workshops and practical suggestions will be provided. A retreat is also planned for May 6-8, 2007.

The **Baptist General Conference** will hold an OAM training similar to our conference next June. See www.chonline.org/bgc for information on their “2nd ½ for Him” program and resources.

(submitted by Leona D. Bergstrom, Co-Director, 2nd 1/2 for Him, BGC, 425-774-8652)

The Office of Adult Ministries and the Aging Initiative at **Princeton Theological Seminary**, is planning a March 2007 *Consultation on Older Adult Ministries* on the Princeton Theological Seminary campus to partner with and equip pastors and seminaries to create effective ministries to, with and from the older adult population. **It would be most helpful to know what various presbyteries are currently doing in the realm of Older Adult Ministries.** You are invited to contact Lori A. Neff, Research Assistant to Dr. Abigail Rian Evans, Charlotte W. Newcombe Professor of Practical Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, at lori.neff@ptsem.edu with recommendations.

Ghost Ranch (New Mexico) Announces Encore Vocations, A New Programmatic Thrust. Many people in mid-life are ready for change, but few have the tools to create and act on a next chapter, an encore vocation, or meaningful life options. Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu and in Santa Fe joins with national authorities in aging, career coaching and life transitions to explore the six principles of growth and renewal after 40. The Ranch is the perfect setting to explore changes and we hope to help people smile in the Next Chapter. An initial programmatic week will be instituted at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu the week of July 2-8, 2007. The website is ghostranch.org.

Older adults all over the country set aside time in the fall to enjoy the crisp weather and beautiful foliage at **Montreat Conference Center**, during the ever-popular Fall Older Adult Conference. There are still openings for this year’s event, “Telling the Story,” October 9-13. We also have scholarship money still available. For details and to register for Fall Older Adult as well as many other fall programs at Montreat, visit www.montreat.org or call 800.572.2257, ext. 339.

Is there an upcoming Older Adult event that you or your presbytery, camp or conference center would like to share? Submit information to the AGenda editor by November 15, February 15, April 15 or July 15 for possible inclusion (as space allows) in this column. Please submit your information as far in advance as possible, to allow time for publication and for participants to make travel plans as needed. In the future, there may be a small charge for such advertisements.

Book Review

Becoming a Healthier Pastor: Family Systems Theory and the Pastor's Own Family, Ronald W. Richardson, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2005, 150 pages.

This book is not your typical book on Older Adult Ministry, in fact upon first read one may not think it has a thing to do with Older Adult Ministry. Richardson's book is part of the Creative Pastoral Care and Counseling Series published by Fortress Press.

The main premise of this book is that the pastor has to have his or her own family issues in perspective in order to effectively deal with providing pastoral care and counseling to the congregation they serve. Utilizing the work of renowned family systems therapist, Murray Bowen, Richardson provides a quick and dirty review of family systems theory, its strengths and how family issues in the pastor's life can contribute to providing quality pastoral care in the parish. Richardson also provides some helpful suggestions on how to use family systems theory to look at the life of a parish and work with individual members of congregation.

For persons already grounded in an understanding of family systems theory this book is an excellent review. For the newcomer it is a good introduction. The chapter on triangulation is most helpful and the concept of coaching members to work through their family issues rather than counseling them is most helpful, especially when working with Older Adult congregational members who have picked up a 'the need for counseling is bad' message from society.

The premise of Family Systems theory and Richardson's book is that there is much we can learn about our selves and our lives of faith from our family of origin. Suggestions on how to run a family of origin group in the church is provided in the last chapter. This is the 'gold mine' for those in Older Adult Ministry for two reasons. The wealth and richness of lived faith that will come from the process of helping our Older Adult members work with each other in their family of faith to resolve issues that may not have been resolved in order to help them grow to their full potential. Richardson's main caveat is that the pastor or person doing this kind of work and facilitating such a group must first have a good handle on their own family of origin issues.

I would recommend this book on a number of levels, first to those who want a basic understanding of family systems theory and how it can be used in the congregational setting. I would also recommend this book to those working with Older Adults as a way to help the eldest of God's Children become more whole.

(Review submitted by Carla Libby Gentry, a participant in the POAMN Certification Process and an Interim Pastor in Heartland Presbytery. She can be contacted: clgentry@kc.rr.com.)

*Next month, watch for a review of **Blessed Are the Caregivers** by Knight, Bethany. Albuquerque, NM: Hartman Publishing, Inc., 2001. 430 p. reviewed by Hilaire Henthorne. (Reprinted with permission from NICA Interfaith Voice)*

Membership Application

Your membership makes you part of a network of resources and partners in Older Adult Ministries, and includes a subscription to AGenda and discounts for the annual conference.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

E-MAIL (preferred) _____

Synod _____ Presbytery _____

Church or Organization _____

____ New member

____ Renewal

Please Enclose Membership Fee with this Form and return it with your Check Payable to

POAMN % Linda Kelly, Treasurer, 2212 Beacon Ridge Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134

Individuals:

- \$30 Full Membership
- \$20 Affiliate Member (student or retiree)
- \$100 Institutional Members
(PAHSA, PCUSA college, etc.)

Governing Bodies:

- \$ 50 Small church (under 150)
- \$100 Medium church (151-499)
- \$200 Large Church (500+)
- \$250 Small Presbytery (under 10,000)
- \$500 Medium Presbytery (10,001 – 19,999)
- \$1000 Large Presbytery (20,000 +) or Synod

Additional gifts are also welcome, including those in honor or memory of an older adult.

____ Gift of \$ _____ enclosed in honor / memory of _____.

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