

Every 30 Seconds Someone Turns 65. Is Your Church Older Adult Friendly?

Services

- ☐ Do ushers offer to help the elderly to their seats, communion, coffee hour, etc
- ☐ Is the communion table accessible from the floor of the nave? If not, is there a side rail?
- ☐ Is there a good sound system? Are ministers "attuned" to speaking to aging ears?
- ☐ Are hearing devices provided? How do congregants know of their availability?
- ☐ Is the church well lit for both reading purposes and for preventing accidents?
- ☐ Do you include congregants of all ages in the service? As readers, ushers?
- ☐ Could an older congregant do their scripture reading from their seat with a hand held mike?
- ☐ When the congregation is asked to stand or kneel are the words "as you are able" included?

Communications

- ☐ Are there large print prayer books, Bibles, bulletins, signage, etc?
- ☐ If name tags are used are names bolded and in large face type?
- ☐ Is a large font size used on a church website?
- ☐ Is there a special complete services bulletin complete with all hymns, etc?

Property

- ☐ Do you have open ended pews to accommodate wheel chairs? Are pews at various locations?
- ☐ Do you have chairs in addition to the pews for easier seating?
- ☐ Do you have wheelchair and easily accessible bathroom facilities on the main floor?
- ☐ Do you have a ramp for wheelchairs and for those who cannot climb steps?
- ☐ Are church doors equipped with long handled door knobs?
- ☐ Are sidewalks and steps free of ice, snow and wet leaves?
- ☐ Is there a paper cup dispenser near the water fountain?

Transportation

- ☐ Do you provide transportation to church for those who need it? An escort type program? Is that transportation available for those with scooters?
- ☐ Do you have accessible parking spaces for the elderly with appropriate signage?

Activities

- ☐ Do you have age diversity on the Vestry?
- ☐ Are committees inter-generational? Or developed by age segment?
- ☐ Do you reach out and ask individuals to be on committees to show you "value" their skills?
- ☐ How do you encourage lay leaders to reach out to engage older members in activities?
- ☐ Do you offer programs that help children help their aging parents?
- ☐ Do you have a support group for caregivers?
- ☐ Do you provide information on end of life issues, estate planning, funerals, and mourning?
- ☐ Do your parish nurses play an active role in your congregation?
- ☐ Does the Church have a defibrillator? Who knows how to use it?
- ☐ Do you know who has recently transitioned from their jobs and are depressed or disengaged?

Outreach

- ☐ Do you have a relationship with a senior center? Retirement community? Local non-profits?
- ☐ Could the church become a hub for seniors looking for new volunteer activities beyond church?