



## Ministry Module

Ministry Modules are intended for use with the Leader's Guide. Appendices and Resources referenced in modules can be found within the Guide.

# Education



This Mission Module is provided through a Partnership with Aging with Significance, of the Women's' Missionary Union of Virginia and the Virginia Baptist Union Board; and Caregiving Ministries, a division of FamilyCare America, Inc.



# Ministry Module Education

## Purpose

The mission of the Education Ministry Team is to provide guidance as churches develop their own education ministries to mature adults.

## Goals

- To establish educational opportunities/ learning initiatives for mature adults. Education ministries can include the following subject areas:

- Addressing Life Challenges
- Studies for Faith Development
- Studies for Biblical Understanding and Application
- Enrichment Learning
- Intergenerational Education Planning for the Future

## Objectives

- To determine the level of previous education and interests of persons who will be ministry recipients
- To assess the ways those surveyed enjoy learning (i.e., hands-on visual, reading/ self-guided study, listening)
- To incorporate all mature members into the education activities of the church family learning opportunities



## Parameters and Limitations

The Education Ministry team does **not**:

- intend to create an additional Christian education "program"
- propose to duplicate existing learning opportunities

This ministry **does** rely on the following existing church organizations to administer educational ministries:

- Sunday School/ Homebound Ministries
- Discipleship Training Ministries
- WMU Leadership Team
- Senior Adult Ministry Council or Team
- Church Council, which should include Senior Adult representation
- Senior Adult Coordinator (staff or volunteer)
- Church Missions Committee

## SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR THIS MINISTRY

1. Assess the needs of the target group (see Assessment at end of this section).
2. Survey the church for people who are able and willing to work with this ministry. (See Appendix A.)
3. Educate the church family as to what can and cannot be expected from this ministry.
4. Provide training to volunteers.
5. Compile a list of the educational opportunities already provided by the church and include ways mature persons can participate.



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6. Research the community to discover learning opportunities where mature members could participate (i.e., local Baptist association ministries, Public Adult Education offerings, newspaper listings of weekly events YMCA/ YWCA, Christian counseling services, local centers on aging, other churches/organizations in the area).
7. Coordinate with the Transportation Ministry Team to enable those needing transportation to get to activities.
8. Provide mature members and their families with the information of available opportunities and determine the points of their interest and any problems in getting to those activities.
9. Schedule regular meetings for volunteers to increase their knowledge of aging issues and disease processes through in-service training and to discuss and solve problems with the Education Ministry Team. General areas of concern may include:
  - Understanding the aging process
  - Understanding of different learning styles
  - Age group characteristics
  - Community demographics
  - Community resources
  - Particular skills orientation including description of responsibilities and expectations
  - Group dynamics
  - Teaching skills
  - Church philosophy and policies
  - Church mission statement
10. Periodically evaluate the ministry. (See Evaluation tool, Administrative Guide.)



## RESOURCES

Cook, Melva. Coping with Crises in the Senior Years. Southern Baptist Convention Press, 1992.

Curb, Dickerson, Spears and Trotter. Growing Older, Growing Wiser: A Guide to Healthier Senior Years. Nashville: Family Touch Press, 1992.

Dychtwald, Ken. The Age Wave: How the Most Important Trend of Our Time Can Change Your Future. New York: Bantam, 1990.

Gerber, Jerry; Wolff, Janet; Klores, Walter; Brown, Gene. Lifetrends: The Future of Baby Boomers and Other Aging Americans. New York: Macmillan, 1990.

Hanks, Louis. Vision, Variety, & Vitality: Teaching Today's Adult Generations. Southern Baptist Convention Press, 1996.

Johnston, Jay. Forward Together, A New Vision for Senior Adult Ministry. Nashville: Lifeway, 1998.



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## EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

### Basic Information

1. Name:

Phone:

2. Address:

3. Directions to home:

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## Background and Interests

4. Level of education:

High School \_\_\_

College \_\_\_

Graduate Work \_\_\_

5. Do you enjoy:

Reading \_\_\_

Watching Videos \_\_\_

Listening to Lectures \_\_\_

Hands-on Activities/Experiential Learning \_\_\_

6. What do you consider to be your greatest challenge during the coming year?

7. What educational opportunities have you taken advantage of in your church or community within the last two years?

8. Are you currently a member of:

a Sunday School class \_\_\_

WMU Group \_\_\_

Bible Study/ Discipleship group

9. Are you or have you been a member of a club, community or professional group, or church ministry group?

10. Is there a particular area in which you would like to improve your personal growth?

11. Would you be willing to serve as a volunteer in one of your areas of interest, if you were offered extra training tools?