



## 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.

# *Spiritual Ministry*



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 Spiritual Ministry

## Purpose

The mission of the Spiritual Care Ministry Team is to include mature adults in the spiritual nurture and ministry of the church by offering congregation-based spiritual growth resources as well as ministry opportunities for its members.

## Goals

- To engage the congregation in ministry to and with its members.
- To enhance spiritual development of its members.
- To involve members in ministry and missions.

## Objectives

- Develop an organized plan of mobilizing congregational care, education, and ministry groups in a faith development process for its members.
- Organize a ministry of matching individual gifts of church members with discovered needs.
- Find appropriate ways to involve members in a ministry or mission.

## Parameters and Limitations

The Spiritual Care module is **not**:

- a standardized program of spiritual development.
- a substitute for church or duplication of religious sources.

The Spiritual Care module **is**:

- a ministry that seeks to meet people where they are in their own pilgrimage.
- an extension of church community and ministry.
- a partnership between church and members.
- a flexible and individualized ministry that is contingent upon needs and resources.



# Ministry Module Spiritual Ministry

## SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR THIS MINISTRY

1. Identify the spiritual needs of members such as:
  - worship
  - the need for in-home observance of the Lord's Supper
  - spiritual growth
  - counseling
  - prayer
  - the need to be a part of the church in a ministering role.
2. Educate the church family as to what can and cannot be expected from this ministry.
3. Survey the church for people who are able and willing to work with this ministry (see Appendix A).
4. Prepare a list of individuals and groups willing to carry out the tasks of the Faith Ministry.
5. Provide training to volunteers.
6. Assess unmet needs for members regarding spiritual growth and ministry involvement. (See Assessment at end of this section.)
7. Consider the following ways of meeting worship needs:
  - intergenerational worship in retirement centers or homes
  - communion led by individuals or team
  - devotionals led by individuals or team
  - tapes of worship services
  - broadcasts of worship and Bible study on local cable channels
  - internet chat room for videoed worship service
  - recorded phone prayers and devotional thoughts
8. Consider the following suggestions for involving members in ministry:
  - home visits from Sunday School classes and church staff
  - one-on-one spiritual partnering for Bible readings, discussion, prayer, etc.
  - distribution of spiritual materials
  - internet chat rooms to watch and interact with the Sunday School class
  - match special needs with spiritual gifts of a team member
  - develop phone contact teams
  - share information through literature, tapes, internet, phone recordings, etc.
  - participating in prayer chains



# Ministry Module Spiritual Ministry

- networking by phone with other members
  - making a recorded testimony to be shared at church
9. Address special needs of members by matching a volunteer's gifts with the needs. If the member has need for in-depth counseling for issues requiring a professional, have a process in place for informing church staff.
  10. Schedule regular meetings for volunteers to increase knowledge of aging issues and disease processes through in-service training and to discuss and solve problems with the Spiritual Care Ministry Team.
  11. Periodically evaluate the ministry. (See Evaluation Tool, p. 19, Administrative Guide.)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Wimberly, Edward P. Recalling Our Own Stories: Spiritual Renewal for Religious Caregivers. San Francisco: Jesse-Bass, 1997.
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## SPIRITUAL CARE ASSESSMENT

### Basic Information

1. Name:

Phone:

2. Address:

3. Directions to home:

### Spiritual Needs and Ministering Opportunities

Please check all that apply:

#### I Would Enjoy

##### Receiving

- Worship/ Bible study in my residence \_\_\_\_\_
- Communion in my residence \_\_\_\_\_
- Home visits from my Sunday School class \_\_\_\_\_
- Home visits from church staff \_\_\_\_\_
- Home visits from church ministry teams \_\_\_\_\_
- Prayer chain calls \_\_\_\_\_
- Reminder phone calls \_\_\_\_\_
- Audio tapes of worship services \_\_\_\_\_
- Video tapes of worship services \_\_\_\_\_
- Access to Dial-a-Devotional \_\_\_\_\_
- Spiritual resources on church Web page \_\_\_\_\_

#### I Would Enjoy

##### Providing

- \_\_\_\_\_
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