

**VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

BOARD/AGENCY INFORMATION FORM

2016-2017

Board/Agency/Commission Older Adult Council

Description of the Work of the Board The Older Adult Council has offered training for clergy and laity in ministry to, for, by and with senior adults. We recognize the needs to educate and empower local churches to serve seniors within their own congregations, but also in the greater community. Currently there is an increasing recognition by clergy and laity of the need for resources and training across the Conference. We offere district training and are currently responding to requests to provide resources and speakers for local churches and district UMW. Effective programs include Spiritual Legacy, Sacred Dance, Older Time Revival and Experiencing God for Older Adults. There has been a request from the Delaware Washington Conference to partner with them in district training in the Salisbury, Md. area. We are in the process of planning an event, which we will cosponser with Lynchburg College's Gerontology Center to reach out to congregations in Virginia. Each year we provide resources for worship planning for Older Adult Sunday.

Specific Expertise Needed appreciation of the ministry to, for, by and with senior adults

Number of Meetings per year 6

Date/ Location of Meetings second thursdays of January, March, May, June, Sept, November generally by conference call, but at Conference Center as needed

How Does Board Meet? (check all that apply)

In person

Conference Call

Online meetings (Zoom, WebEx, etc.)

Additional Information for prospective members: **With the average age of United Methodist congregations in the U.S. trending upwards and currently reported at over 60, the needs for training in older adult ministries is increasing rapidly. We recognize the ever increasing need to serve frail elderly, those with physical disabilities and dementia as well as their care givers, who are often overwhelmed and experiencing depression. We recognize the Baby Boom generation is quickly adding to the number of older adults within our congregations and in the community at large. Many seniors have never heard or if heard never understood the Good News. Our goal is to**

both make and grow disciples of all ages, understanding equipping our seniors to disciples those, who come behind is an important part of growing the older adult's own relationship with Jesus. Our culture, even within our churches is often encourages ageism and it is our goal to educate clergy and laity on the dangers of failing to recognize the value of every individual regardless of age or abilities. We hear the words, "Why spend resources on old people when the future of the church is in the children and youth?" This reflects a sad lack of understanding of God's love for each of his children whatever their age or condition and the great resource sitting in our pews each Sunday.