

Older Adult Ministries

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Welcome to Silver Chalice!

Your handbook for a ministry celebrating, supporting, and
utilizing the gifts of older adults

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Supporting Resources

Look for these and many more Older Adult Ministries resources here:

www.NBACares.org/OAM-Resources

Church Building and Program Accessibility Resource

Looking for God Over Your Shoulder Meditations

Fruits of the Spirit Meditations

Starting a Caregiver Support Group

Good News Crew Luncheon Program Checklist

Bringing Generations Together

Aging with Grace Course Outline

Biblical and Spiritual Perspectives on Aging Bible Study

A Toolkit for Creating Older Adult Ministries

Websites and Books about Dementia-Friendly Faith Communities

Watch the many webinars offered by Older Adult Ministries here:

<https://www.youtube.com/NBACares>

Silver Chalice Overview

What is Silver Chalice?

The purpose of the Silver Chalice Program is to encourage, support, and celebrate congregations, DOC offices, assemblies and organizations who have a strong desire to live out their Christian faith by caring for, assisting, and utilizing the gifts and wisdom of older adults.

The Silver Chalice Program seeks congregations/organization to commit to offer and enhance support to and for our aging members. Achieving a Silver Chalice designation means the congregation/organization has reached certain goals regarding programming and services that focus on adding meaning and value to the life of the older adult as well as the life of the larger church.

Why Silver Chalice? (a more detailed look)

Why is there a Silver Chalice Program? And why should my congregation/organization be part of it?

The mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is “to be and to share the good news of Jesus Christ witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.” This mission is to all people...not just those who are young and able-bodied.

Older adults (referring loosely to those 65 and older) continue to have much to contribute to the life of the church. Not only do many hold the historical knowledge and experience of being the Church, but they have talents and gifts that may mistakenly be overlooked or minimized due to their age. This can cause emotional and spiritual harm to our older adults and can diminish the overall impact and effectiveness of our ministries. Not all older adults want everything to be done “the way it used to be” or are resistant to change. Older adults want to contribute, find meaning in what they do, and to see the church/organization relevant and thriving. They also want to continue to grow in their faith!

The Silver Chalice Program takes your ministry’s mission to the next level as you identify unmet needs of older adults within the church/organization as well as the community at large and to offer resources to help meet those needs.

Here are some questions for reflection:

- Are you wondering how to better engage the older adults in your community?
- Are you wanting to help older adults grow in their faith?
- Have you ever wanted to start intergenerational programs where children and teens interact with older adults in meaningful and joy-filled ways?
- Have you wondered how to best serve those in your congregation and community living with dementia?
- Would you like to have more resources for caregivers? Have you thought of starting a support group?

Taking the Next Steps

The Silver Chalice Program offers two levels to indicate your commitment. Included is a detailed list of ways you can increase your ministry with and for older adults. You will have access to a person designated as your Silver Chalice Guide (SCG) to walk with you through the process, encourage you to brainstorm, implement what would work best for your setting, and connect you to available resources.

With so much life all around the Church, let's include the incredible resource of our older adults in witnessing, loving, and serving our communities as we continue to find ways to bring hope to this fragmented world.

This is your handbook created especially for churches wishing to emphasize and expand their ministry of appreciation and care with older adults.

Becoming a Silver Chalice Ministry

The purpose of the Silver Chalice Program is to encourage, support, and celebrate congregations, DOC offices, assemblies, and organizations who have a strong desire to live out their Christian faith by caring for, assisting, and utilizing the gifts and wisdom of older adults. This program recognizes the value and contributions of older adults across the life of the church and seeks to provide opportunities for sharing ideas and resources.

A congregation/organization who seeks to acknowledge and grow its commitment to older adults may apply for a Silver Chalice designation.

The designation is granted for **one year** and is **renewable** annually. There are two levels.

Level One – Becoming a Silver Chalice Ministry

Step One: Form a Silver Chalice Team.

Step Two: Sign and Submit the Silver Chalice Covenant.

Step Three: Consider and document what you currently do to support and celebrate older adults and then commit to make at least 3 changes/enhancements in how you care for older adults.

Step Four: Initiate one new program for older adults (internally or in the community).

Step Five: Document and communicate your successes to your congregation/organization and to your Silver Chalice Guide.

Congratulations: You are a Silver Chalice Ministry!

Level Two – Becoming a CERTIFIED Silver Chalice Ministry

To become a Certified Silver Chalice Ministry, you will complete steps One through Five above AND the following:

- Notify the Silver Chalice Guide of your commitment and your intention to begin work toward CERTIFICATION.
- Initiate 3-5 NEW programs to your existing ministry.
- One of the 3 new programs or enhancements will go beyond the walls of the church into the community.
- Renew your commitment annually.

The Nitty Gritty – Step-by-Step

LEVEL ONE – BECOMING A SILVER CHALICE MINISTRY

STEP ONE: FORM A SILVER CHALICE TEAM

The first step is simple! It requires someone to gather individuals (to include at least 2 older adults) from a congregation or organization who are passionate about working with and supporting the ministry with and for the older adults in your congregation or organization. Those who gather for this important ministry should be committed to regular meetings to examine the ministry's practices, to consider what will enhance existing programs, and to facilitate change.

STEP TWO: SIGN THE SILVER CHALICE COVENANT

The second step asks that your Silver Chalice Team reads and signs the Silver Chalice Covenant demonstrating your commitment to the Silver Chalice Program. If you have any questions about the Covenant, just ask your Silver Chalice Guide (SCG).

STEP THREE: MAKE THREE CHANGES

The third step puts your commitment into action. Make three changes that will move your congregation toward stronger support of older adults. You have already done work involving older adults. This step invites you to look more closely at what you currently do and take that existing program or service to a deeper level. (See attached for examples.) (If your ministry doesn't currently have three programs or aspects of programs focused on older adults, simply talk with your SCG about making fewer changes to existing programs and adding to the new program/component explained in Step Four.

STEP FOUR: CREATE AND IMPLEMENT ONE NEW PROGRAM/ASPECT

The fourth step is to develop/create one additional component of your ministry with and for older adults. (See attached.)

STEP FIVE: DOCUMENT YOUR SUCCESSS

Document the existing programs your church/organization provides for older adults and submit this to the Silver Chalice Program through your Silver Chalice Guide. You will also want this documentation to appear in your building, on your web site, and on social media (if applicable).

CONGRATULATIONS: YOU ARE A SILVER CHALICE MINISTRY!

Email information about your Step Three to Silver Chalice (c/o Silver Chalice Guide) and receive your certificate of recognition. Don't stop here, there is more work to be done!

LEVEL TWO – BECOMING A CERTIFIED SILVER CHALICE MINISTRY

BECOMING A CERTIFIED SILVER CHALICE CONGREGATION/ORGANIZATION

(Items with an asterisk* indicate an additional step to the Silver Chalice Ministry designation that qualifies a ministry for the additional designation of being CERTIFIED.)

STEP ONE: FORM A SILVER CHALICE TEAM

The first step is simple! It requires someone to gather individuals (to include at least 2 older adults) from a congregation or organization who are passionate about working with and supporting the ministry with and for the older adults in your congregation or organization. Those who gather for this important ministry should be committed to regular meetings to examine the ministry's practices, to consider what will enhance existing programs, and to facilitate change.

STEP TWO: SIGN THE SILVER CHALICE COVENANT

The second step asks that your Silver Chalice Team reads and signs the Silver Chalice Covenant demonstrating your commitment to the Silver Chalice. If you have any questions about the Covenant, just as your Silver Chalice Guide (SCG). Notify the Silver Chalice Guide (SCG) of your commitment and your intention to begin work toward CERTIFICATION.

STEP THREE: MAKE THREE CHANGES

The third step puts your commitment into action. Make three changes that will move your congregation toward stronger support of older adults. You have already done work involving older adults. This step invites you to look more closely at what you currently do and take that existing program or service to a deeper level. (See attached for examples.)

STEP FOUR: CREATE AND IMPLEMENT ONE NEW PROGRAM/ASPECT

The fourth step is to develop/create 3-5 additional programs/components of your ministry with and for older adults. (See attached.) In addition, at least one of the new programs or enhancements will go beyond the walls of the church into the community.

STEP FIVE: DOCUMENT YOUR SUCCESSS

Document the programs your ministry now provides for older adults and submit this to the Silver Chalice Program through the Silver Chalice Guide. You will also want this documentation to appear in your building, on your web site, and on social media (if applicable).

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT ANNUALLY.

Ideas for Improving or Starting Programs for Older Adults

Please feel free to add to the ideas listed below:

Some examples of **Step Three**

Communication through the following:

- Web page
- Social media (i.e. Facebook, Instagram)
- Signage outside the building
- Written material available to visitors
- Signage inside the building

Some examples of **Step Four**

Starting/enhancing an internal program:

1. Make large-print Bibles, bulletins, and copies of hymns/songs available
2. Utilize a screen projection
3. Provide a way for those with diminished hearing to hear what is being said during worship,
4. Visit the homebound to include Communion
5. Provide virtual worship*
6. Provide virtual small groups and classes*
7. Offer contemplative prayer and/or meditation (i.e. utilize the book "Looking for God Over Your Shoulder) *
8. Offer seasonal and regular program materials in large print
9. Start a small group study addressing the concerns of older adults*
10. Spend time celebrating the longevity of members in the congregation or organization
11. Provide a grief support group for those who have losses*
12. Provide a support group for care givers*
13. Ensure those with walkers, wheelchairs, canes can still serve as deacons and elders by having access to the Communion table and to serving Communion

14. Provide transportation to worship, classes, etc.*
15. Celebrate birthdays and anniversaries
16. Sign up for the Oldtimers' Grapevine Newsletter and Ministry here:
<https://oldtimersgrapevine.org>
17. Have a Disciple Men's group and Women's group
18. Host a retiree group such as a weekly coffee or monthly lunch*
19. Start a knitting or craft group*
20. Host events or groups to bring the generations together such as a game time, tea time, dance class, music time, storytelling, etc.*
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____

* Indicates items that could apply to the large community in addition to the local church/organization.

Starting/enhancing a program for the larger community:

1. Start a food pantry and arrange for older adults to serve and/or receive
2. Include older adults in other ministries to the community
3. Offer a worship service in a care facility
4. Offer a small group, prayer time, class in a care facility
5. Provide a meal for the community where older adults serve and/or receive
6. Offer a support group (grief or caregiving or other) that invites those outside the church's/organization's doors
7. Become pen pals with a local elementary school
8. Host a community dance
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Silver Chalice Covenant
Commitment of the Church/Organization

(Church/Organization Name Printed)

This church/organization commits to prioritizing older adults as a valued ministry of the community by...

...assessing needs and priorities of older adults through conversations (oral and written) with older adults within the church/organization and beyond the church doors,

...dedicating resources (time and space commitment),

...developing and implementing new programs (1 for Level One, at least 3 for Level Two)

...enhancing existing programs (minimum of 3)

...offering at least one program to the larger community (Level Two only)

This church/organization commits to communicating its dedication to and for the well-being of older adults in at least two of the following ways:

- Web page
- Social media (i.e. Facebook, Instagram)
- Signage outside the building
- Written material available to visitors
- Signage inside the building

This church/organization agrees to communicate with a Silver Chalice Guide connected with the Silver Chalice Program of the General Church about new and ongoing programs/resources being utilized and to annually renew the church's/organization's covenant demonstrating their continued commitment to their ministry with older adults.

Signature of Church/Organization Representative

Date

Printed Name of Representative

Commitment of the Silver Chalice Program

The Silver Chalice Program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) enters this covenant with the church/organization listed above joining together to elevate the importance of providing care and support to older adults in our churches/organizations and communities.

The Silver Chalice Program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will designate a Silver Chalice Guide (SCG) to each church/organization interested in committing to this process.

The Silver Chalice Guide will be a contact and resource for each church's/organization's ongoing commitment to prioritize ministry with and for older adults.

The Silver Chalice Program will contact the designated Silver Chalice representative for each congregation/organization who has signed this covenant on a *quarterly basis to offer support and annually to renew this covenant.*

The General Church will communicate your church's/organization's designation as a "Silver Chalice Ministry" of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the General Church web page (disciples.org) and the National Benevolent Association web page (nbacares.org). This list will be updated annually.

Silver Chalice Guide's Signature

Date

Silver Chalice Guide's Name Printed

Our Silver Chalice Team

Team Leader: _____

Name	Phone	Email

Regional Silver Chalice Guide

Name	Phone	Email

Current Programs

Name of Program	Date and Time	Goals of Program	Notes
i.e. Sunday School	Sunday morning 10am	Connection, learning, spiritual growth	In person, but some join via Zoom

Hopes and Dreams

Internal

Program Idea	Goal(s) of Program	Potential Timeline/Next Steps

Other Notes: _____

Hopes and Dreams

Including the larger community

Program Idea	Goal(s) of Program	Potential Timeline/Next Steps

Other Notes: _____

Team Meeting Log

Date	Items Discussed/Goals	Notes	Timeline

Contact Log with Regional Guide

Regional Guide Name: _____

Date of Contact	Items Discussed	Goals	Timeline