

Silver Chalice Ministry

The purpose of the Silver Chalice Ministry is to encourage and assist congregations, DOC offices, assemblies, Regions, and facilities who wish to live out their faith by caring for and encouraging the older adult population in the church. We are aware that many of our congregations are growing older. The opportunities for networking, assisting, and supporting congregations and organizations are growing as we commit to valuing and serving older populations.

The purpose of the Silver Chalice Ministry is to invite congregations and organizations to step forward to support our aging populations. We will do this by developing a process for a congregation or organization to become a designated Silver Chalice Ministry.

The program will have two levels. The first level is to become a Silver Chalice Ministry. The second level is to become a CERTIFIED Silver Chalice Ministry.

Level One – Becoming a Silver Chalice Ministry

- Step One: Form a Silver Chalice Team.
- Step Two: Document and communicate your successes.
- Step Three: Commit to make at least 3 changes/enhancements in how you care for older adults.
- Step Four: Initiate one new program for older adults (internal or external).
- Step Five: Sign and submit the Silver Chalice Covenant.

Congratulations: You are a Silver Chalice Ministry! and

Level Two – Become a CERTIFIED Silver Chalice Ministry

To become a Certified Silver Chalice Ministry, you must meet all the qualifications to become a Silver Chalice Ministry AND do 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 and celebrate your commitment annually.

Email the Silver Chalice Guide with questions and for suggestions and support.

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 institution who are passionate about working with and supporting the ministry to, for and with the older adults in your congregation or institution. Those who gather for this important ministry should be committed to regular meetings to examine the church's or institution's practices, to consider what will enhance existing programs, and facilitate change.

STEP TWO: DOCUMENT YOUR SUCCESSS

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

STEP THREE: MAKE THREE CHANGES

The third step puts your commitment into action. Make three changes that will move your congregation toward better caring for God's people. (See attached for examples.)

STEP FOUR: CREATE AND IMPLEMENT ONE NEW PROGRAM/ASPECT

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

STEP FIVE: SIGN THE SILVER CHALICE COVENANT

The fifth step requires that your Silver Chalice Team reads and signs the Silver Chalice Covenant as a sign of your commitment to the Silver Chalice.

CONGRATULATIONS: YOU ARE A SILVER CHALICE MINISTRY!

Email information about your step three to Silver Chalice Guide and receive your certificate and recognition. Don't stop here, there is more work to be done.

LEVEL TWO – BECOMING A CERTIFIED SILVER CHALICE CONGREGATION/INSTITUTION

Before becoming a Certified Silver Chalice Ministry, you must be a Silver Chalice Ministry (completing STEPS ONE – FIVE) and complete the following:

In STEP TWO:

Also notify the Silver Chalice Co-Minister of your commitment and your intention to begin work toward CERTIFICATION.

In STEP FOUR:

Initiate 3-5 new programs/components to your ministry with older adults.

In addition, at least one of the 3 new programs or enhancements will go beyond the walls of the church into the community.

Renew your commitment annually.

Email the Silver Chalice Co-Minister with questions and for suggestions and support.

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING OR STARTING PROGRAMS FOR OLDER ADULTS

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
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1. Make large print Bibles, bulletins, and hymnals available
 2. Provide a way for those with diminished hearing to hear what is being said during worship
 3. Start a Bible study addressing the concerns of older adults
 4. Spend time celebrating the longevity of members to the congregation or institution
 5. Provide a support group for those who have recently faced loss
 6. Provide a support group for caregivers
 7. Provide meditations, prayers and devotions geared for older adults

For information contact the Silver Chalice Guide: Rev. Lina Eddy at lina_eddy06@yahoo.com.