

## Commission on Older Adult Ministry

The Commission on Older Adult Ministry was formed and had its first meeting in October 2009. The goals of the Commission on OAM are to:

1. Raise awareness of issues relating to the aging of our population and ways it impacts congregations
2. Determine programs currently being offered by congregations and establish a method of sharing this information
3. Help congregations initiate programs by, with, and for older adults to help meet the spiritual, psychological, medical and/or social needs and interests of older parishioners and their families
4. Help congregations who already have programs to expand ministries by, with and for older adults and explore how members of congregations might connect with one another in intergenerational opportunities
5. Provide access to resources and offer educational and training opportunities on a variety of topics related to aging

The commission is headed by Dr. Gary Stewart, Licensed Psychologist and Founder of Faith in Action Elder Outreach, Christ Church Cathedral. Serving on the Commission are the Rev. Canon Audrey Miskelley, Assistant at Christ Church Cathedral; Canon Sam McDonald, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Lexington; the Very Rev. Dr. Ron Summers, retired priest of the Diocese; the Rev. Jeffrey Howe, Deacon, serving with the Small Church Ministry Consortium; the Rev. Diane Zwick, Deacon, serving with the Small Church Ministry Consortium; the Rev. Lois Howard, Deacon, Church of the Resurrection, Jessamine County; Dr. Pam Teaster, Director of Center of Gerontology at the University of Kentucky, Church of the Resurrection, and Dr. Sharon Stewart, Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences, University of Kentucky, Christ Church Cathedral.

The Commission hopes to create and establish resources for a ministry by, with, and for older adults that will have long-range effects. The following projects and programs are planned and underway for 2010

- A multi-generational pilot project targeted for spring. Introducing Older Adult Ministry to Congregations
- A survey to discover who is currently involved in Older Adult Ministry and what they are doing (published in the January 2010 Advocate) and sharing information with congregations about best practices in older adult ministry
- Informing congregations already involved in Older Adult Ministry about available resources to enhance, develop and sustain OAM
- Presenting an Easter season series of Aging which is open to the Diocese at Christ Church Cathedral and offering ongoing seminars on topics related to OAM
- Making Older Adult Ministry relevant and embraced by all generations by using aging/longevity as the motivation for taking action at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Stewart, Ph.D., Chairperson