

Ministry on Aging Work Group
Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly Report
June 5-7, 2009

The Ministry on Aging work group seeks to serve in response to God's love in Christ Jesus, acting as a bridge to the congregations of this Synod in advocating dignity and justice for senior adults.

The Ministry on Aging Work Group continues to grow in its outreach and ministry. During the past year, we added a web site to our resources for congregations and individuals. The link to the site can be accessed through the Wartburg College website (<http://www.wartburg.edu/socwork/aging.html>) and offers FAQs, faith stories, newsletters and a Power Point presentation that can be downloaded and used to aid in planning ministry with and for senior adults.

We continue to have an insert in the STAR twice a year. These inserts offer information on resources for senior adults, faith stories, poetry and other information that may be helpful to individuals and congregations.

We have a display and workshop planned for the Synod Assembly. Our presenter for the workshop is Pastor Lois Knutson, who will be offering a presentation for caregivers, and who has written a book, Compassionate Caregiving, Practical Help and Spiritual Encouragement.

We are also working on several educational components for congregations. In conjunction with Wartburg College, we are working on the development of educational modules on the topics of Alzheimer's Disease, Care for Caregivers, and information on resources for senior adults. If all goes according to plan, the modules will be available to congregations free of charge. More information will be available this fall. In addition, we are developing a Power Point presentation for senior adults and their families on the topic of end of life considerations. In relation to that, we will have some copies of the "Five Wishes" booklet available at our display table and information for ordering "Five Wishes" resources.

Many thanks to the members of this work group who are the ones who make it work: Pastor Harriet Danielson, Pastor Lois Knutson, Prof. Lynn Peters, AIM Sonnee Steveson, Judy Stone, Pastor Bill Straka, AIM Peg Torrin, and Dorothy Juhl Zelle.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wills

Pastor Barbara Wills
Chair, Ministry on Aging Work Group