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# CD 552 Adult Education Seminar

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## **ADULT EDUCATION SEMINAR**

### **Ageing & Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with Dr. Richard Gentzler**

CD552A (1 hour credit) – Spring 2008

Dr. Beverly Johnson-Miller

Asbury Theological Seminary

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Office Hours: By appointment

\*\*\* This syllabus is still subject to minor changes as I await final approval from Dr. Gentzler. The required texts listed will **not** change.

This seminar class course will meet Friday, Feb 22, 2008 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Feb 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dr. Gentzler will be teaching the class sessions, and I will be collecting and grading all assignments.

Title of Seminar Class: **Ageing & Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

#### Seminar Teacher:

The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. (Rick) is director of the center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries for the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. His ministry involves providing resources and training support for leaders of midlife and older adult ministries. His work encompasses a large number of constituents since nearly half of the approximately 8 million members of The United Methodist Church are 60 years of age and older.

Dr. Gentzler is a much sought after speaker and seminar leader. He is nationally recognized as a teacher, writer, and leader in the field of aging and older adult ministries. He is the 2003 recipient of the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging (NICA) "Spirituality and Aging" Award presented at the annual meeting of the National Council on Aging (NCOA). Also in 2003, Dr. Gentzler successfully completed training to earn the Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) designation and is a member of the Society of Certified Senior Advisors.

Dr. Gentzler is author of numerous books on adult and older adult ministry. His latest book is *The Graying of the Church: A Leader's Guide for Older Adult Ministry in The United Methodist Church*. In addition, he has written several other books including: *Designing an Older Adult Ministry*; *Aging: God's Challenge to the Church and Synagogue*; *Adult Ministries (Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation series)*; 1999 *International Year of Older Persons: Resource Materials for Congregational Ministry with Older Adults*; *The Pulse of United Methodist Baby Boomers*; and, *Forty-Sixty: A Guide for Midlife Adults Who Want to Make a Difference and Rock of Ages* (a large print worship and song book). He is editor of the Center Sage newsletter and recently produced an award winning video on aging titled, *New Beginnings: The Gifts of Aging*.

### Seminar Objectives:

The general aim of the course is to foster competencies necessary for effective ministry with older adults. At the completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss basic concepts in gerontology
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the myths and realities of aging
3. Recognize the variety of changes that take place in people as they age
4. Articulate the basic faith needs of older adults
5. Show proficiency in planning a comprehensive ministry with older adults
6. Identify a variety of models of church ministries with older adults

### Seminar Schedule and Agenda

#### **Day 1**

1:00 PM      **Session I - Myths and Realities of Aging**

- Images of Aging
- Our Culture and Aging
- Kinds of Older Adults
- Generational Anchor Points

5:00 PM      **Session II - Spirituality and Aging**

- Well Being of Older Adults
- Faith Needs of Older Adults
- Later Life Spiritual Issues
- Reasons for Outreach
- Religious Involvement and Aging

#### **Day 2**

9:00 AM      **Session III - Designing an Older Adult Ministry**

- What Do Seniors Want?
- Why Older Adult Ministries?
- Designing an Older Adult Ministry
- Older Adult Survey

11:00 AM      **Session VI - Intentional Ministry with Older Adults**

- S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Ministry
- Ministry Models
- Intentional Ministry
- Visioning Ministry

1:00 PM      **Seminar Concludes**

REQUIREMENTS (All assignments should be completed by March 15<sup>th</sup>):

- I. Attendance at all meetings of the seminar, Friday and Saturday.
- II. Read all **required texts**:

*Designing an Older Adult Ministry* by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 1999)

*The Graying of the Church: A Leader's Guide to Older Adult Ministry in The United Methodist Church* by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 2004)

*Building a Ministry for Homebound and Nursing Home Residents* by Marie White Webb (Discipleship Resources, 2003)

*Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging* by Kathleen Fischer (Upper Room Books, 1998)

- III. Summative Paper

Write one paper, eight to ten pages in length. The paper should address the following:

1. **Reflection:**
2. **Integration:**
3. **Vision:**

**The summative paper is due by March 15<sup>th</sup>. See Dr. Beverly Johnson-Miller if this deadline creates a problem for you. Turn in the paper with an addressed envelop returnable to you through the SPO, or to another address if you are leaving campus.**

- IV. **Additional Reading (Not Required):**

*Adult Ministries* by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. and Bill Crenshaw, from "Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation" Series (Cokesbury, 2000)

*Aging: God's Challenge to Church and Synagogue* by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. and Donald F. Clingan (Discipleship Resources, 1996)

*Aging, Spirituality, and Religion: A Handbook* edited by Melvin A. Kimble, Susan H. McFadden, James W. Ellor, and James J. Seeber (Fortress Press, 1995)

*Aging, Spirituality, and Religion: A Handbook, Volume 2* edited by Melvin A. Kimble and Susan H. McFadden (Fortress Press, 2003)

*Aging Well* by George E. Vaillant, M.D. (Little, Brown and Company, 2002)

*Growing Old in Christ* edited by Stanley Hauerwas, Carole Bailey Stoneking, Keith G. Meador, and David Cloutier (Eerdmans Publishing, 2003)

*How to Minister Among Older Adults* by Charles Knippel (Concordia Publishing House, 2005)

*How to Say It to Seniors: Closing the Communication Gap with Our Elders* by David Solie (Prentice Hall Press, 2004)

*Ministry To and With the Elderly* by Timothy M. Farabaugh (Authorhouse, 2004)

*Our Help in Ages Past: The Black Church's Ministry Among the Elderly* by Bobby Joe Saucer with Jean Alicia Elster (Judson Press, 2005)

*Remembering Your Story: Creating Your Own Spiritual Autobiography* by Richard Morgan (Upper Room Books, 2002)

*Senior Adult Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* by David P. Gallagher (Group, 2002)

*Successful Aging* by John W. Rowe, M.D. and Robert L. Kahn, Ph.D. (Random House, Inc., 1998)

*10 Gospel Promises for Later Life* by Jane Marie Thibault (Upper Room Books, 2004)

*What Are Old People For?* By William H. Thomas, M.D. (VanderWyk and Burnham, 2004)