



SPECIALIST IN AGING MINISTRY

A Program of the Center for Gerontology at Concordia University Chicago

INTRODUCING: A new Specialist in Aging Ministry (**SAM**) program that provides insights for congregational ministry with older adults based on accepted gerontological principles.

DEVELOPED BY: The Center for Gerontology at Concordia University Chicago (CUC).

DESIGNED FOR: Volunteers with experience or a deep appreciation for older persons, professionals in caring professions, church workers and congregational leaders.

SUMMARY

SAM is focused on helping people to live fully as they grow older. The curriculum examines some of the complex factors that affect aging in the 21st century and considers how a variety of spiritual practices can enrich the faith of and foster well-being and emotional resilience among older persons. Topics covered include tenets of gerontology, ageism, spiritual development, loneliness and isolation, caregiving, mental health, and end-of-life planning. An additional module on creativity is nearing completion.

SAM was developed for Christian congregations through a gerontological lens. Comparative programs are rooted in psychology, healthcare or included in for-profit and non-profit continuing education offerings.

ONLINE FORMATS

- ✓ 6-week **online** training program with readings and discussion. The session duration is from 60 to 90 minutes

- ✓ 3-week **online** program with readings and discussion. The session duration is 2-1/2 hours per session with short breaks

WORKSHOP FORMATS

- ✓ 2-day **in-person** workshop; recommended for late afternoon start with devotional service and running through mid-afternoon the following day
- ✓ Abbreviated 1-day **in-person** workshop for 8 hours, including lunch and closing with devotional service
- ✓ **In-person** workshops can be offered in churches, at conferences in coordination with partners focused on older adult ministry, or at the Center for Gerontology at Concordia University Chicago

SAM modules may also be offered as **independent content**

- ✓ For conference or Christian education workshops
- ✓ Post-pilot, online for churches seeking to offer training on specific topics

PILOT OFFERS

- ✓ Request a 30-45 minute online Introduction to **SAM** to dig into the content and ask questions
- ✓ Participate in a Zoom call with Center for Gerontology to discern your congregation/organization's readiness for the **SAM** program
- ✓ Participate in a complimentary **online** pilot through **February 2024**
- ✓ Schedule a complimentary **in-person** pilot workshop through **February 2024**, travel expenses not included

CONTACT:

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