

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



MAY 6, 2012 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

Older Americans Month is celebrated each May to honor and recognize older adults in this country for the contributions they make to their families, communities, and society. The Federal Administration on Aging's theme this year, "Never Too Old to Play," encourages older Americans to stay engaged, active, and involved in their own lives and in their communities.

The Older Adult Ministries Task Force of the Episcopal Church "challenges congregations to think about how they might honor and celebrate the talents of their aging congregants, and to keep them involved," said Jeri Sedlar, task force co-convenor, from the Diocese of New York.

"As Baby Boomers age," added Missy Morain, co-convenor from the Diocese of Los Angeles, "and our congregations become greyer, attention is being drawn to both the reality of aging in general and to the implications that aging will have on the church overall."



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This spring the Older Adult Ministries Task Force will launch an online resource, “Aging Is Changing” (www.episcopalchurch.org/olderadult), which will include current practical congregational program information, essays from church leaders, and a checklist to assist parishes in assessing their intergenerational preparedness.

The task force is also presenting four resolutions to General Convention this summer: “A Response to the Call of the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation,” “Recognition and Action on Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation,” “Continuing the Task Force on Older Adult Ministries,” and “A Call to Celebrate Older Americans Month.” Details on these resolutions can be found on p. 724 of the 77th General Convention Blue Book, https://s3.amazonaws.com/gco_public/Blue+Book+2012+-+Digital+Edition.pdf.

For more information about current programs for older adults and to offer ideas, please contact the Episcopal Church’s officer for Lifelong Christian Formation, Ruth-Ann Collins (rcollins@episcopalchurch.org).

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