

Adult Faith Formation Scenario Strategies

The Future of Adult Formation Scenarios

Response of Faith Communities to the Increasing Diversity in Society

Embracing Diversity

Scenario 4

The fourth scenario describes a world in which adults are uninterested in developing their spiritual life and faith communities are embracing the diversity in the adult population—including ethnic/cultural, sexual/gender, socio-economic, family styles, and religiosity. In this world faith communities are working to develop approaches, strategies, and programming that address diversity and respond to lives of adults who are uninterested in faith and spirituality and uninvolved in the faith community.

Scenario 1

The first scenario describes a world in which adults have a desire and interest in developing their spiritual life and faith communities are embracing the diversity in the adult population—including ethnic/cultural, sexual/gender, socio-economic, family styles, and religiosity. In this world faith communities are developing approaches, strategies, and programming that respond to diversity and engage adults in growing spiritually

Desire & Interest of Adults in Developing their Spiritual Life

Decreasing

Increasing

Scenario 3

The third scenario describes a world in which adults are uninterested in developing their spiritual life and faith communities are not embracing the diversity in the adult population (ethnic/cultural, sexual/gender, socio-economic, family styles, religiosity, and more). In this world adults experience little need for God and the spiritual life and are typically not affiliated with organized religion and not members of established churches. In light of this many of these faith communities have “given-up” on adult faith formation. They provide little or no adult faith formation for any adults, besides occasional opportunities directed to the active adult members of the faith community or parents with children in educational programming. There is little recognition of the diversity of the adult population or of the uniqueness of each season of adulthood—young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults.

Scenario 2

The second scenario describes a world in which adults have a desire and interest in developing their spiritual life and faith communities are not embracing the diversity in the adult population (ethnic/cultural, sexual/gender, socio-economic, family styles, religiosity, and more). In this world faith communities may recognize the desire and interest of adults in the spiritual life, but provide little or no adult faith formation for any adults or provide faith formation that is focused on a particular adult population, such as active adult members of the faith community or parents or older adults. There is little recognition of the diversity of the adult population or of the uniqueness of each season of adulthood—young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults.

Resisting Diversity

Strategies by Scenario

Scenario 1

Young Adults

1. Diversity training / immersion
2. Musical festivals
3. Build a team, build buy-in
4. Service learning and worship
5. Interfaith worship, walks, exchanges
6. Online community (congregation and beyond)
7. Diverse volunteer opportunities clearinghouse
8. Sexuality training/education
9. Meal/table fellowship
10. Accessible ecumenical “discovery worship”
11. “Third space” ministry
12. Baptism cohort groups / mentoring for parents (“near-peer”)
13. Reflection/discernment opportunities
14. Life skills mentoring, arts/crafts, technology
15. Leadership opportunities

Midlife Adults

1. Wine bar current events conversation; mixed singles, marrieds
2. Self-established daytime groups – kids in schools
3. Hot topics, e.g., gay marriages
4. Sacred music event, contemporary Christian
5. Writing workshops (spiritual)
6. Evangelizing by targeting civic events to make contact with and relate to S3 and S4 people
7. Seeding – deliver sermons on CD; at event – have comment white board, can also be done online
8. Podcast/live stream homilies/spiritual conversations
9. Diversity training
10. Mid-week worship for families who are spending weekends on the road visiting young adult children
11. Adopt a grandchild to ease midlife burdens; prayer partners
12. Family service
13. 5-minute resources
14. Busy-parent retreat
15. Steward service outreach day, whole families, intergenerational
16. Women’s Advent retreat before Advent
17. Easy/short family online seasonal resources
18. Monthly faith formation at local park for whole family – open house format
19. Teach relationship skills using older adult mentors in homes or other places; they’ll talk and evangelize
20. Are church publications and art on walls diverse – language, music
21. Bilingual worship

22. Single midlife adults adopt a grandchild

Mature Adults

1. AFF team – create fair re various life situations/resources (living network)
2. Create yearly/seasonal covenant with regard to spiritual practices service to church and world
3. Launch to AFF website
4. Cultural fair and celebrate cultures representative in community / “ambassadors”
5. “Saints Alive” from each cultural tradition
6. Service opportunities and reflection on site and/or follow-up picnic
7. Milestone moments: host gathers away from church – homes, senior centers, etc.
8. Strength Finders could help with transitions
9. Health and financial issues
10. Grandparents who are parenting grandchildren: tools to navigate that generations reality
11. Resourcing/networking to offering in community
12. Grandparents day out
13. Language and publicity awareness
14. Resources for caregivers / interfaith
15. Navigating widowhood and funeral arrangements; “don’t drop dead—plan ahead”
16. Digital connections
17. Grandparenting groups – share issues, bright ideas, etc.
18. Travel opportunities, local and international, ways of transformation
19. “Mainly Mozart” concerts (3 parish/1 community); pre-event – “Mozart and Faith”
20. Promote community library, local stories, library; consider vision and hearing issues
21. Local museums: how do you see God
22. Amazing Faiths Dinners – members from different faiths; discussion questions provided
23. “Laughter, Libations, and the _____ Life”; “Uncorked”; after Saturday evening services; “Wine and Wisdom”; “Books and Coffee”
24. Correspondence – write articles about events
25. Hike – reflections along the Way
26. Strength Finders – helping them find ways to do things in retirement
27. Leadership development to find/identify circles of influence and equip to tell the faith story. Build up skills to witness to groups 3 and 4. (Peer ministry and mentoring young generations)
28. Introduce ways to relate to and work with people of many faith traditions
29. YouTube vide clips address spiritual life/church participation, or not (links on Facebook, website, other social media)
30. Announcements and prayers of the faithful to heighten awareness of those on fringes; conversation after services

Older Adults

1. Seniors and preschool in a center together; human development and spiritual; learn compassion
2. Faith in the field (home-bar) bring people together
3. Set up a short video from professors (Ted Talk); program in a box to be used in church-home-study groups
4. Use PBS “Being Mortal” (any stories relating to these topics) in church and outside of church
5. Life issues – planning a funeral; Stephen Ministry

6. Connect to mentally impaired or Alzheimer's – use music, use instruments; use Alzheimer's Association to help the church train people
7. Read to people; dance-sing; companions
8. If parishioners travel – they could send a postcard to the shut-ins; have youth bring postcards and give them to shut-ins
9. When church sends a Christmas card; can the church send one to one of the children to connect family to the church

10. Younger people connecting to help people stay connected to families
11. Sex education to help them know about sexual transmitted disease
12. Retreats for older people
13. Prison ministry and older people
14. Older people connection to sick children
15. Kidney and chronic illness – connecting older adults to associations
16. Connecting older adults with children
17. An annual lunch or dinner to gather home-bound or go to a nursing home and share a meal
18. Take a phone / iPad and take pictures to share
19. AARP – bring them to our church
20. Help older adults with social services
21. Young people share story with older adults to listen to each other
22. Spiritual direction team – giving in to help people make a plan or do a new home blessing of the new place
23. Homebound look at pictures and ask about the picture and ask about the picture to share “What meaning does this picture have for you”
24. Can churches come together to buy a van to bring people together
25. Stephen Ministry
26. Spiritual direction in groups at nursing homes
27. Section 202-8 – government will build the building and church run it
28. Old convents, old schools – using buildings for senior housing

Scenario 2

Young Adults

1. Spiritual / cultural film study
2. Forming person – intercultural relationships
3. Diverse young adult leaders
4. Pastoral care
5. Cultural awareness/support in campus ministries, military chaplaincy
6. Diverse neo-monastic experiences

Midlife Adults

1. Wine bar current events
2. Daytime self-formed groups
3. CD sermons on Facebook
4. Religious ethnic CD from parish groups
5. Heifer living gift project – live animals, organized by families, open to all

6. Bible herb festival
7. Family service
8. 5-minute resources
9. Ethnic fest
10. Christmas around the world in July
11. Reading list of children's books on diversity
12. Create openness and hospitality to single, LGBTQ, divorced, atheists, homeless, ethnic, racial, young adults
13. Ethnic saints resources
14. Bilingual worship
15. ESL
16. Three Kings Day
17. Leadership diversity training
18. Hiring diverse leaders
19. Blog
20. 3-minute rule – speak to someone you don't know after worship for 3 minutes
21. Las Posadas for families

Mature Adults

1. More inclusive/diverse bulletin announcements
2. Skills for grandparent (sharing the faith with grandkids); living discussion group
3. "Mozart" concert/events – can add with music in faith; arts fairs
4. Creative ways to advertise
5. Field trips: museums, community locations, restaurants
6. Faith dinners
7. "Uncorked" – Theology on Tap for Mature Adults
8. Correspondents
9. Creative retreats
10. Strengths Finder
11. Support/training for grandparent parenting skills, financial planning, health
12. Caregiver support/"breaks"
13. Open to community – always aware of language
14. Stewardship of last things – funeral, end of life planning
15. Technology use
16. Creating a "spiritual will"
17. Network /Fair
18. Cultural fair
19. Spiritual practices "fair" (intergenerational)
20. Move and meal for singles (Friday night)
21. Service opportunities, not overtly religious but reflective
22. Host gatherings around "transitions"/milestones – "off campus"
23. Grandkids gather on the farm
24. Develop leadership skills for witness
25. Mentoring young adults – in careers
26. Panel approach – diverse topics – various venues
27. YouTube – examples of faith sharing

Older Adults

- All of Items #10-28 from Scenario 1

1. Faith in the field, bring people together
2. Set up a short video from professors (Ted Talk); program in a box to be used in church-home-study groups
3. Older adults being video recorded: faith witness in our church – in a parish committee, meetings, retreats; have middle school youth do the interviews; put on parish website
4. Use PBS “Being Mortal” (any stories relating to these topics) in church and outside of church
5. Life issues – planning a funeral; Stephen Ministry
6. If parishioners travel – they could send a postcard to the shut-ins; have youth bring postcards and give them to shut-ins

Scenario 3

Young Adults

1. Outdoor activity
2. Online resources; online on-ramps
3. Third spaces
4. “Pro” sports relationships
5. Theater, art, music, creative projects, hacker/maker spaces, games
6. Diverse leadership
7. Physical presence in YA spaces
8. Intentional cross-cultural experiences (food, fun)
9. Immersive trips/activities
10. Reflections on encounters; inter- and intra-cultural ministries and authentic
11. Inclusive language
12. Own your faith in public
13. Intergenerational relationships

Midlife Adult

1. Start with what they want
2. Concerts in the parish; contemporary values music, not Christian
3. Writing (poetry, memoir, journaling)
4. Partner/promoting organizations sponsoring events
5. Host civic events
6. Herb festival
7. Include kids/families in programs
8. Family service
9. Mindfulness as a response to human issues
10. Promote through community outlets; digital technologies
11. S3 website
12. 5 minute resources
13. Yoga / Tai Chi
14. Ethnic food fest
15. 1-minute meditation YouTube

16. Happy hour/after work gathering, third places
17. Piggyback on competitive sports; assistance with sportsmanship
18. ESL
19. Assist grandparents with grandchildren spirituality
20. Blog
21. Las Posadas

Mature Adults

1. Mainly Mozart (concert series)
2. Advertising: online, community, at stores
3. Faith content/arts presentations
4. Go to museums – field trips
5. Amazing faith dinners; dine around; go to multicultural restaurants (with reflection) / “uncorked” (after Saturday worship); “wine and wisdom”
6. Strength Finders (community setting) / with transitions
7. Labyrinth – “spirit and spa”
8. Variety of enrichment – financial, health care, etc.
9. Grandparents/grandkids – summer thing (staying connected); resourcing, inter-denominational, community space
10. Care-givers “time-out” / community
11. Funeral planning / “last things” – plan ahead
12. Cultural fair; invite neighbors and friends
13. Lobster bakes; invite neighbors and friends
14. Food trucks in parking lot; invite neighbors and friends
15. Friday night meal and movie for singles – at either church or theater
16. Service ministries – intergenerational? With reflection?
17. Bus trip to camp for terminally ill kids
18. Host gatherings outside of church for milestones – in homes, malls, senior center
19. Nurture leaders so they are joyful and faith is caught
20. Mentor peer leaders and give them vocabulary; peer ministry
21. Invite people to be mentors for younger adults
22. Formation: form people to be disciples, not just to be in your denomination
23. Snippets on YouTube
24. Coffee and conversation after worship
25. In church bulletins and pulpit announcements – announce spiritual events in other denominations such as Gay Men’s chorus, African refugee events, etc.
26. In prayers of people: include prayers for what’s happening with diverse people (e.g., Syrian refugees)

Older Adults

- All of Items #10-28 from Scenario 1

1. Children have a way of breaking through seniors stuck in their ways
2. Life review
3. Older adults being video recorded: faith witness in our church – in a parish committee, meetings, retreats; have middle school youth do the interviews; put on parish website

4. Use PBS “Being Mortal” (any stories relating to these topics) in church and outside of church
5. Life issues – planning a funeral; Stephen Ministry
6. If parishioners travel – they could send a postcard to the shut-ins; have youth bring postcards and give them to shut-ins

Scenario 4

Young Adults

1. Intercultural festivals, experiences
2. Intercultural competency training
3. Church space = art space (iconography workshop)/cultural = spiritual reflection
4. Connection/community learning experiences
5. Inter-faith scripture conversation
6. Mission trips
7. Environmental justice
8. Public, third spaces
9. Community social forums
10. Pop culture, secular hymns – use millennial leadership

Midlife

1. Start with what they want
2. Midlife cultural music
3. Local song writers festival
4. CD ethnic, no religious
5. Herb festival
6. Family service
7. Mindfulness programs/resources
8. 5-minute resources
9. Yoga, Tai Chi
10. Community partners around social justice issues
11. YouTube 1-minute meditations
12. Host shared workspace for home-based businesses; businesses/non-profits that have values consistent with church but not churchy
13. ESL
14. Blogs
15. Career transition support/ministries

Mature

1. “Mainly Mozart” concerts (3 parish/1 community); pre-event – “Mozart and Faith”
2. PR – bulletin boards, restaurants, etc. – Big
3. Faith content / arts presentations
4. Field trips, museums – where do we see God
5. Theology on Tap for older adults;
6. Amazing faith dinners – multicultural
7. Strengths Finders – connect with transitions in life
8. Creative retreats – hiking, spirit, spa

9. Finding financial peace, health issues, parents
10. Grandparents: raising grandchildren, living far away, camps
11. Watch your use of words, pictures
12. Church be a presence at community events
13. Stewardship of last things
14. Cultural fair + Reflection piece online
15. Move and meal night
16. Transition milestone moments at homes, senior centers, mall, etc.
17. Invite to be career or parent mentors to young adults
18. Interfaith gathering
19. Estate and financial planning online
20. Estate and financial planning online resources with mentor facilitator

Older

All of Items #10-28 from Scenario 1

1. Faith in the field (home-bar) bring people together
2. Use PBS “Being Mortal” (any stories relating to these topics) in church and outside of church
3. Life issues – planning a funeral; Stephen Ministry
4. If parishioners travel – they could send a postcard to the shut-ins; have youth bring postcards and give them to shut-ins

Strategies by Seasons of Adulthood

Young Adults

S1

1. Diversity training / immersion
2. Musical festivals
3. Build a team, build buy-in
4. Service learning and worship
5. Interfaith worship, walks, exchanges
6. Online community (congregation and beyond)
7. Diverse volunteer opportunities clearinghouse
8. Sexuality training/education
9. Meal/table fellowship
10. Accessible ecumenical “discovery worship”
11. “Third space” ministry
12. Baptism cohort groups / mentoring for parents (“near-peer”)
13. Reflection/discernment opportunities
14. Life skills mentoring, arts/crafts, technology
15. Leadership opportunities

S2

1. Spiritual / cultural film study
2. Forming person – intercultural relationships
3. Diverse young adult leaders
4. Pastoral care
5. Cultural awareness/support in campus ministries, military chaplaincy
6. Diverse neo-monastic experiences

S3

1. Outdoor activity
2. Online resources; online on-ramps
3. Third spaces
4. “Pro” sports relationships
5. Theater, art, music, creative projects, hacker/maker spaces, games
6. Diverse leadership
7. Physical presence in YA spaces
8. Intentional cross-cultural experiences (food, fun)
9. Immersive trips/activities
10. Reflections on encounters; inter- and intra-cultural ministries and authentic
11. Inclusive language
12. Own your faith in public
13. Intergenerational relationships

S4

1. Intercultural festivals, experiences
2. Intercultural competency training
3. Church space = art space (iconography workshop)/cultural = spiritual reflection
4. Connection/community learning experiences
5. Inter-faith scripture conversation
6. Mission trips
7. Environmental justice
8. Public, third spaces
9. Community social forums
10. Pop culture, secular hymns – use millennial leadership

Midlife Adults

S1

1. Wine bar current events conversation; mixed singles, marrieds
2. Self-established daytime groups – kids in schools
3. Hot topics, e.g., gay marriages
4. Sacred music event, contemporary Christian
5. Writing workshops (spiritual)
6. Evangelizing by targeting civic events to make contact with and relate to S3 and S4 people
7. Seeding – deliver sermons on CD; at event – have comment white board, can also be done online
8. Podcast/live stream homilies/spiritual conversations
9. Diversity training
10. Mid-week worship for families who are spending weekends on the road visiting young adult children
11. Adopt a grandchild to ease midlife burdens; prayer partners
12. Family service
13. 5-minute resources
14. Busy-parent retreat
15. Steward service outreach day, whole families, intergenerational
16. Women's Advent retreat before Advent
17. Easy/short family online seasonal resources
18. Monthly faith formation at local park for whole family – open house format
19. Teach relationship skills using older adult mentors in homes or other places; they'll talk and evangelize
20. Are church publications and art on walls diverse – language, music
21. Bilingual worship
22. Single midlife adults adopt a grandchild

S2

1. Wine bar current events
2. Daytime self-formed groups
3. CD sermons on Facebook
4. Religious ethnic CD from parish groups
5. Heifer living gift project – live animals, organized by families, open to all

6. Bible herb festival
7. Family service
8. 5-minute resources
9. Ethnic fest
10. Christmas around the world in July
11. Reading list of children's books on diversity
12. Create openness and hospitality to single, LGBTQ, divorced, atheists, homeless, ethnic, racial, young adults
13. Ethnic saints resources
14. Bilingual worship
15. ESL
16. Three Kings Day
17. Leadership diversity training
18. Hiring diverse leaders
19. Blog
20. 3-minute rule – speak to someone you don't know after worship for 3 minutes
21. Las Posadas for families

S3

1. Start with what they want
2. Concerts in the parish; contemporary values music, not Christian
3. Writing (poetry, memoir, journaling)
4. Partner/promoting organizations sponsoring events
5. Host civic events
6. Herb festival
7. Include kids/families in programs
8. Family service
9. Mindfulness as a response to human issues
10. Promote through community outlets; digital technologies
11. S3 website
12. 5 minute resources
13. Yoga / Tai Chi
14. Ethnic food fest
15. 1-minute meditation YouTube
16. Happy hour/after work gathering, third places
17. Piggyback on competitive sports; assistance with sportsmanship
18. ESL
19. Assist grandparents with grandchildren spirituality
20. Blog
21. Las Posadas

S4

1. Start with what they want
2. Midlife cultural music
3. Local song writers festival
4. CD ethnic, no religious

5. Herb festival
6. Family service
7. Mindfulness programs/resources
8. 5-minute resources
9. Yoga, Tai Chi
10. Community partners around social justice issues
11. YouTube 1-minute meditations
12. Host shared workspace for home-based businesses; businesses/non-profits that have values consistent with church but not churchy
13. ESL
14. Blogs
15. Career transition support/ministries

Mature Adults

S1

1. AFF team – create fair re various life situations/resources (living network)
2. Create yearly/seasonal covenant with regard to spiritual practices service to church and world
3. Launch to AFF website
4. Cultural fair and celebrate cultures representative in community / “ambassadors”
5. “Saints Alive” from each cultural tradition
6. Service opportunities and reflection on site and/or follow-up picnic
7. Milestone moments: host gathers away from church – homes, senior centers, etc.
8. Strength Finders could help with transitions
9. Health and financial issues
10. Grandparents who are parenting grandchildren: tools to navigate that generations reality
11. Resourcing/networking to offering in community
12. Grandparents day out
13. Language and publicity awareness
14. Resources for caregivers / interfaith
15. Navigating widowhood and funeral arrangements; “don’t drop dead—plan ahead”
16. Digital connections
17. Grandparenting groups – share issues, bright ideas, etc.
18. Travel opportunities, local and international, ways of transformation
19. “Mainly Mozart” concerts (3 parish/1 community); pre-event – “Mozart and Faith”
20. Promote community library, local stories, library; consider vision and hearing issues
21. Local museums: how do you see God
22. Amazing Faiths Dinners – members from different faiths; discussion questions provided
23. “Laughter, Libations, and the _____ Life”; “Uncorked”; after Saturday evening services; “Wine and Wisdom”; “Books and Coffee”
24. Correspondence – write articles about events
25. Hike – reflections along the Way
26. Strength Finders – helping them find ways to do things in retirement
27. Leadership development to find/identify circles of influence and equip to tell the faith story. Build up skills to witness to groups 3 and 4. (Peer ministry and mentoring young generations)
28. Introduce ways to relate to and work with people of many faith traditions

29. YouTube vide clips address spiritual life/church participation, or not (links on Facebook, website, other social media)
30. Announcements and prayers of the faithful to heighten awareness of those on fringes; conversation after services

S2

1. More inclusive/diverse bulletin announcements
2. Skills for grandparent (sharing the faith with grandkids); living discussion group
3. “Mozart” concert/events – can add with music in faith; arts fairs
4. Creative ways to advertise
5. Field trips: museums, community locations, restaurants
6. Faith dinners
7. “Uncorked” – Theology on Tap for Mature Adults
8. Correspondents
9. Creative retreats
10. Strengths Finder
11. Support/training for grandparent parenting skills, financial planning, health
12. Caregiver support/”breaks”
13. Open to community – always aware of language
14. Stewardship of last things – funeral, end of life planning
15. Technology use
16. Creating a “spiritual will”
17. Network /Fair
18. Cultural fair
19. Spiritual practices “fair” (intergenerational)
20. Move and meal for singles (Friday night)
21. Service opportunities, not overtly religious but reflective
22. Host gatherings around “transitions”/milestones – “off campus”
23. Grandkids gather on the farme
24. Develop leadership skills for witness
25. Mentoring young adults – in careers
26. Panel approach – diverse topics – various venues
27. YouTube – examples of faith sharing

S3

1. Mainly Mozart (concert series)
2. Advertising: online, community, at stores
3. Faith content/arts presentations
4. Go to museums – field trips
5. Amazing faith dinners; dine around; go to multicultural restaurants (with reflection) / “uncorked” (after Saturday worship); “wine and wisdom”
6. Strength Finders (community setting) / with transitions
7. Labyrinth – “spirit and spa”
8. Variety of enrichment – financial, health care, etc.
9. Grandparents/grandkids – summer thing (staying connected); resourcing, inter-denomational, community space

10. Care-givers “time-out” / community
11. Funeral planning / “last things” – plan ahead
12. Cultural fair; invite neighbors and friends
13. Lobster bakes; invite neighbors and friends
14. Food trucks in parking lot; invite neighbors and friends
15. Friday night meal and movie for singles – at either church or theater
16. Service ministries – intergenerational? With reflection?
17. Bus trip to camp for terminally ill kids
18. Host gatherings outside of church for milestones – in homes, malls, senior center
19. Nurture leaders so they are joyful and faith is caught
20. Mentor peer leaders and give them vocabulary; peer ministry
21. Invite people to be mentors for younger adults
22. Formation: form people to be disciples, not just to be in your denomination
23. Snippets on YouTube
24. Coffee and conversation after worship
25. In church bulletins and pulpit announcements – announce spiritual events in other denominations such as Gay Men’s chorus, African refugee events, etc.
26. In prayers of people: include prayers for what’s happening with diverse people (e.g., Syrian refugees)

S4

1. “Mainly Mozart” concerts (3 parish/1 community); pre-event – “Mozart and Faith”
2. PR – bulletin boards, restaurants, etc. – Big
3. Faith content / arts presentations
4. Field trips, museums – where do we see God
5. Theology on Tap for older adults;
6. Amazing faith dinners – multicultural
7. Strengths Finders – connect with transitions in life
8. Creative retreats – hiking, spirit, spa
9. Finding financial peace, health issues, parents
10. Grandparents: raising grandchildren, living far away, camps
11. Watch your use of words, pictures
12. Church be a presence at community events
13. Stewardship of last things
14. Cultural fair + Reflection piece online
15. Move and meal night
16. Transition milestone moments at homes, senior centers, mall, etc.
17. Invite to be career or parent mentors to young adults
18. Interfaith gathering
19. Estate and financial planning online
20. Estate and financial planning online resources with mentor facilitator

Older Adults

S1

1. Seniors and preschool in a center together; human development and spiritual; learn compassion
2. Faith in the field (home-bar) bring people together
3. Set up a short video from professors (Ted Talk); program in a box to be used in church-home-study groups
4. Use PBS “Being Mortal” (any stories relating to these topics) in church and outside of church
5. Life issues – planning a funeral; Stephen Ministry
6. Connect to mentally impaired or Alzheimer’s – use music, use instruments; use Alzheimer’s Association to help the church train people
7. Read to people; dance-sing; companions
8. If parishioners travel – they could send a postcard to the shut-ins; have youth bring postcards and give them to shut-ins
9. When church sends a Christmas card; can the church send one to one of the children to connect family to the church

10. Younger people connecting to help people stay connected to families
11. Sex education to help them know about sexual transmitted disease
12. Retreats for older people
13. Prison ministry and older people
14. Older people connection to sick children
15. Kidney and chronic illness – connecting older adults to associations
16. Connecting older adults with children
17. An annual lunch or dinner to gather home-bound or go to a nursing home and share a meal
18. Take a phone / iPad and take pictures to share
19. AARP – bring them to our church
20. Help older adults with social services
21. Young people share story with older adults to listen to each other
22. Spiritual direction team – giving in to help people make a plan or do a new home blessing of the new place
23. Homebound look at pictures and ask about the picture and ask about the picture to share “What meaning does this picture have for you”
24. Can churches come together to buy a van to bring people together
25. Stephen Ministry
26. Spiritual direction in groups at nursing homes
27. Section 202-8 – government will build the building and church run it
28. Old convents, old schools – using buildings for senior housing

S2

All of Items #10-28 from Scenario 1

1. Faith in the field, bring people together
2. Set up a short video from professors (Ted Talk); program in a box to be used in church-home-study groups

3. Older adults being video recorded: faith witness in our church – in a parish committee, meetings, retreats; have middle school youth do the interviews; put on parish website
4. Use PBS “Being Mortal” (any stories relating to these topics) in church and outside of church
5. Life issues – planning a funeral; Stephen Ministry
6. If parishioners travel – they could send a postcard to the shut-ins; have youth bring postcards and give them to shut-ins

S3

All of Items #10-28 from S1

1. Children have a way of breaking through seniors stuck in their ways
2. Life review
3. Older adults being video recorded: faith witness in our church – in a parish committee, meetings, retreats; have middle school youth do the interviews; put on parish website
4. Use PBS “Being Mortal” (any stories relating to these topics) in church and outside of church
5. Life issues – planning a funeral; Stephen Ministry
6. If parishioners travel – they could send a postcard to the shut-ins; have youth bring postcards and give them to shut-ins

S4

All of Items #10-28 from S1

1. Faith in the field (home-bar) bring people together
2. Use PBS “Being Mortal” (any stories relating to these topics) in church and outside of church
3. Life issues – planning a funeral; Stephen Ministry
4. If parishioners travel – they could send a postcard to the shut-ins; have youth bring postcards and give them to shut-ins