Purpose
The purpose of the Certification in Aging Ministries offered by the Center for Christian Leadership at Anderson University School of Theology is to provide a place where church leaders can receive training in how to lead a proactive, developmental ministry through older adults.

This non-academic credit* Certification focuses on how people involved in again ministries through the local church can develop quality programming that seeks to add life to senior years and view seniors as individuals who can significantly add to the ongoing ministry of the church and God’s kingdom.

*The courses and Certification are for non-academic credit under the category of Continuing Education Units. Courses do not meet criteria for academic or degree granting programs.

Enrollment in the Center for Christian Leadership
A person must be enrolled in the Center for Christian Leadership in order for an individual enrollment report to be processed, which indicates completed Continuing Education Units (CEUs). A $55 once-in-a-lifetime enrollment fee must accompany the enrollment form. Participants may enroll at http://www.anderson.edu/sot/ccl.

The Certification in Aging Ministries is granted upon satisfactory completion of the following requirements, for a total of 50 CEUs:

- Part I (24 CEUs) Courses with Reading Assignments
- Part II (5 CEUs) Conference Attendance
- Part III (15 CEUs) Senior Adult Ministry Plan for Local Church
- Part IV (6 CEUs) Supplemental Reading in Aging Ministries or Elective Courses

Courses in Part I of this Certification may be obtained through the Center.

Enrollment Fees for Courses
An enrollment fee is included in courses purchased directly from the center. A $10 processing fee must accompany each Continuing Education Experience evaluation form in order to have book reports and conferences you have attended added to your personal enrollment file. Continuing Education Experience evaluation forms must be fully completed before mailing them to the Center. Forms are available at www.anderson.edu/ccl.

About the Program
The courses in the Certification for Aging Ministries were developed to provide the participant with a balanced understanding of aging ministries. If you have questions regarding the program or requirements for the Certification, please contact the center at (765) 641-4530 or jhaukerman@anderson.edu.
Certification Requirements
Courses & Content

Part I: 24 CEUs total

Courses listed below are available through the center. Prices of these courses are listed on the most current Order Form at www.anderson.edu/sot/ccl.

AGMN 1000  
An Introduction to the Age Wave  
This course examines the concepts surrounding senior adults and aging ministries. Participants explore a number of dimensions about aging and how churches can effectively engage senior adults. The course helps assess current ministries and develop plans for future programming. Text: Catch the Age Wave, by Win and Charles Arn (Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1999). Workbook and text provided.

AGMN 1101  
Senior Ministry in the 21st Century  
This course explores the emotions, experiences, and needs of the senior adult. The course helps one establish a thoughtful, well-planned senior ministry. Text: Senior Adult Ministry in the 21st Century, by Dr. David P. Gallagher. Workbook and text provided.

AGMN 1200  
Faith Development  
This course examines faith development in adults. Through reading, reflection, and group study experience, the course helps participants understand insights to adult faith development. Text: Faith is a Verb, by Kenneth Stokes. Workbook and text provided.

AGMN 1300  
Mentoring Ministries with Older Adults  
This course examines the diversity and challenges of ministering to multiple generations in the same church family. Participants explore ways to bridge the generation gaps and how to help older adults find ways of ministering in the local congregation through mentoring, intergenerational relationships, and other older adult opportunities. Text: One Church...Four Generations, by Gary McIntosh (Baker Books, 2002). Workbook and text provided.

AGMN 1401  
Finances and Senior Adults  
This course examines financial issues facing older adults. Video: Legacy Planning, by Randy Swanson. Workbook and video provided.

AGMN 1501  
Evangelism and Senior Adults  
This course, based on research, helps the participant understand the issues and opportunities of evangelism to older adults. The course will help the participant consider the work of the local congregation in this area. Text: White Unto Harvest, by Dr. Charles Arn. Workbook and text provided.

Part II: 5 CEUs total

AGMN 2000  
Conference Experiences on Aging  
Attending aging workshops, participating as a conference speaker (including preparation time for speaking engagement), or other experiences, such as training during a ministerial conference on the topic of aging, may be utilized to complete this part of the certification. A Continuing Education Experience Evaluation Form is required for each experience. One CEU is given for every 10 contact hours at a conference or seminar; fractions of CEUs are also accepted. For example, if you attend a worship that is 12 hours in length, you would receive 1.2 CEUs for that experience. (See Note 1 at the end of this document.)

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Part III: 15 CEUs total

AGMN 3000  Senior Adult Ministry Plan for the Local Church

The participant must develop and implement a plan that will utilize older adults in their congregation (see Note 2 at the end of this document). Working with a member of the church’s pastoral staff, the certification participant must develop a proactive and practical ministry plan that involves senior adults in ministry and kingdom work. The participant may use a task force or committee structure to assist in this program development for the church. The ministry plan should minimally cover all the following areas:

1. Evangelism: Though should be given to how age affects a person’s values, worldview, and spirituality, and the receptivity and resistance of senior adults to evangelism. This investigation might involve understanding how people come to Christ, explore entry events that attract unchurched seniors, and explore enabling older adults to reach other older adults.

2. Volunteerism: Though should be given in the plan on how to mobilize senior adults for ministry. The plan might address assessment of spiritual gifts of senior adults, analyze available roles or tasks presently involved in the local church, and develop a ministry-matching program for these adults.

3. Nurturing of Senior Adults through Relationships and Small Groups: Thought should be given in the plan as to the methods for developing dynamic relationships among senior adults and through the church community. Small groups might be investigated for meeting the needs of senior adults. Training, implementation, and small group mission should be considered.

4. Resource Directory File: The participant should create a resource file or directory identifying ministry and governmental agencies that serve senior adults in the participant’s community. This file or directory should be made available to the participant’s local church for those needing such services.

The plan should be both proactive (taking the initiative to discover ways of involving senior adults) and practical (not simply a theory about the above ministry components but a means for accomplishing this component). For example, a proactive and practical endeavor in evangelism might be to involve senior adults in nurturing relationships with those who have not made a personal faith decision.

The participant will receive 20 CEUs on completion of AGMN 3000. A copy of the plan and resource directory file should be sent to the center upon completion, with an explanation of the timetable for implementation. A time log of hours spent on developing this plan should also be included. The participant should spend approximately 150 hours in total development and implementation of this ministry plan. These two items will serve as verification of completion of this course. (See Note 2 at the end of this document).

Part IV: 6 CEUs total

AGMN 1900  Supplemental Readings in Aging Ministries or Elective Courses

The participant may read books from the following selection of materials. A Continuing Education Experience evaluation form plus a $10 processing fee must be sent to the center upon completion of each reading for posting on the participant’s enrollment report (see Note 1 at the end of this document). One book read and reported equals one CEU.

A participant may also complete this section by taking one or more of the following courses in addition to a book report of supplemental reading:

- PCCS 1050: An Introduction of Pastoral Care (4 CEU)
- LDSHP 1000: An Introduction to Personal Leadership (4 CEU)
- LDSHP 1200: Building Effective Relationships through Mission and Life Plan (4 CEU)
Supplemental Readings

- Deane, Barbara. Caring for your Aging Parents: When Love is Not Enough.
- Dychtwald, Ken. Age Wave.
- Fowler, Ruth. As We Grow Old ...: How Adult Children and Their Parents Can Face Aging with Candor and Grace.
- Gentzler, Richard & Donald Clingan. Aging: God's Challenge to the Church and Synagogue.
- Gentzler, Richard & Craig Miller. Forty—Sixty ... A Study for Midlife Adults Who Want to Make a Difference.
- Gentzler, Richard. Designing Ministry By, With, and For Older Adults.
- Harwell, Amy. Ready to Live, Prepared to Die.
- Stephenson, John. Through Tears to Triumph ... God's Gracious Help Through Grief and Sorrows.
- Wright, H. Norman. Recovering From the Losses of Life.

Notes

Note 1 Reading/reporting of books, attendance at conferences, and submission of materials (for AGMN 3000) will be added to your personal enrollment report when the Center receives a Continuing Education Experience evaluation form along with a $10 processing fee per form. Continuing Education Experience evaluation forms must be fully completed before mailing them to the center.

Note 2 Individuals submitting material for AGMN 3000 (Seniors Ministry Plan for Local Congregations) permit the Center for Christian Leadership to share this plan, its ideas, and content with other interested individuals about the development of senior ministries programs.