

ENCORE Ministry
Kent McNish, Executive Director

ENCORE Ministry is the official older adult ministry resource in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky (TWK) Conference of The United Methodist Church. ENCORE provides support for church leaders and congregations to meet the needs of the fastest-growing demographic in the conference: older adults.

ENCORE Ministry provides

- Training and support for local church leaders in planning intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults;
- One-on-one consultative ministry with local church and district leadership teams in reframing aging and designing older adult ministries;
- Resources, including seminars, that assist the well-being of older adults and in developing and sustaining intentional older adult ministry;
- Network opportunities for leaders in older adult ministries to learn from one another and from other sources and agencies;
- And grant funding for congregations in several areas related to older adult ministry

As an extension ministry of the TWK conference, ENCORE Ministry's grant funding purpose is to provide:

- Assistance in funding new and ongoing ministries by, with, and for older adults;
- Expertise and strategic planning to the districts and conference for the expansion of innovative and intentional older adult ministries.

Financial grants are provided to United Methodist churches, organizations, and districts within the TWK Conference to meet the needs and challenges of older adults. With few exceptions, grants are matching grants. Since 2013, ENCORE Ministry has awarded 81 grants to conference churches and organizations totaling \$923,000.

At the 2022 TWK Annual Conference, ENCORE Ministry announced the Bill and Lynn McAlilly Fund for Church Accessibility. The fund honors the McAlillys' service to the conference and acknowledges Bishop McAlilly's 43-year career in ministry and his retirement scheduled for September 2024.

ENCORE Ministry Executive Director Kent McNish presented a check for \$500,000 to kick off the campaign. The goal is to raise \$750,000 by September 2024. The fund will be used to provide grants to TWK congregations to make buildings accessible to older adults and persons with mobility impairments.

"Lynn and I are filled with gratitude for this promising goal of making our congregations accessible to all persons. The generosity of ENCORE Ministry to honor us in this way will also make a difference in the lives of persons who long to share in the fellowship and worship with their congregations. Making church facilities accessible will be a difference maker for these persons who are among us," said Bishop Bill McAlilly.

Churches and individuals can make contributions to this fund honoring the McAlilly's by visiting <https://encoreministry.kindful.com/>.

ENCORE Ministry publishes a free monthly e-newsletter, *ENCORE Ministry Connection*, which provides articles and resources for older adults and church leaders (for a free subscription, email info@encoreministry.org).

During the past conference year, training and resources related to older adult ministry were conducted in-person, virtually, and through webinars for church leaders throughout the TWK Conference. A resource for celebrating Older Americans Month in May (celebrated as Older Adult Recognition Day in The UMC) was developed by Rev. Dr. Richard Gentzler, director of ENCORE Ministry, and made available to all church leaders in the conference.

Another resource developed by Dr. Gentzler, *Local Church Resource for Older Adult Ministry*, is available upon request for all church leaders in the conference.

In addition to providing consultation, training, and resources for church leaders, ENCORE Ministry is planning a conference-wide older adult ministry on October 26, 2023. This event for older adults and leaders of older adult ministries will be held at First United Methodist Church in Franklin, Tennessee. The event will include worship and

presentations on topics relevant to intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults. It will be a hybrid event — both in-person and live streaming. ENCORE Ministry leaders are working in conjunction with staff at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, in developing the conference-wide event.

ENCORE Ministry has a Board of Directors with representatives from the conference districts. Members provide training opportunities in older adult ministry and review grant applications.

Board of Directors

Tom Adkinson (L)
Kay Bowers (L)
Lisa Harper Baker (L)
Pat Brandenstein (L)
Cathy Burkhead (L)
Rev. Sarah Carty (C)
Dr. James Clardy (C)
Rev. John Collett (C)
Luci Cromer (L)
Rev. Sonnye Dixon (C)
Mike Engle (L)
Glenda Head (L)
Charles Hewgley (L), Board President
Noel Hinote (L)
Rev. Phil Jamison (C)
Rev. Marie C. King (C)
Rev. Felicia Kumar (C)
Michael Lorange (L)
David Morgan (L)
Al Partee (L)
Cliff Steger (L)
Dr. Ed Trimmer (C)
Shirley Vaughn (L)
Bill Wheeler (L)

Ex-Officio

Bishop Bill McAlilly (C)
Melinda Britt (C)
Dan Camp (C)
Larry Davis (L)
Courtney Lawson (L)
Rebecca Little (L)
Rob Martin (C)

Staff

Dr. Richard Gentzler, Director
Kent McNish, Executive Director
Cindy Solomon, Communications Director