

ENCORE MINISTRY FOUNDATION

John Rivas, Executive Director

Since its inception in 2013, ENCORE Ministry, the official older adult ministry of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church (TWK), has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to 130 congregations and organizations. Grant money has helped fund a variety of projects benefiting older adults throughout the conference.

Milestones include:

- Funding to help churches create or upgrade [livestreaming services](#) during the Covid pandemic
- Helping fund the construction of four houses in Waverly, Tennessee, for [older adults left homeless](#) by a 2021 flood
- Donating \$100,000 to help people whose lives were disrupted by a series of tornadoes in Western Kentucky and West Tennessee in 2021
- Creating the [Bill and Lynn McAlilly Fund for Church Accessibility](#) to make church buildings and parking lots more welcoming
- Establishing the [Kent and Ellen McNish Fund for Older Adult Food Security](#) to help alleviate hunger and malnourishment
- Celebrating the work and legacy of Executive Director [Kent McNish](#) upon his retirement in 2023
- Welcoming incoming Executive Director [John Rivas](#)
- Hosting and expanding [Older Adult Ministry training events](#) post-Covid to include in-person and live streaming options
- Publishing resources for leaders of older adult ministry including annual [Older Adult Recognition Day materials](#) for celebrating Older Americans Month

ENCORE Ministry's mission is to support older adult ministry in the TWK Conference by providing consultation, training and support, advocacy, resources, networking opportunities, and grant funding to equip church leaders in the conference for intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults. The foundation operates exclusively from [gifts](#) and grants from generous donors. It does not receive apportionment dollars from the TWK Conference.

“As I begin my tenure at ENCORE Ministry, I am grateful for founding Executive Director Kent McNish’s leadership,” said Executive Director John Rivas. “ENCORE Ministry’s primary aim is to impact the lives of aging and older adults and I’m passionate about seeing that no person be excluded or alienated because of his or her age. I’m also filled with optimism and anticipation as we continue to support churches and organizations throughout the TWK Conference with resources, training, and support that benefit senior adults in spiritual fellowship, food security, access to healthcare, and providing building accessibility.”

If You Want to Know More

- Grant applications are accepted all year and reviewed at Grants Committee meetings. For grants or funding information, contact Cindy Solomon at csolomon@encoreministry.org. For an online grant application, [click here](https://encoreministry.org/grant-application/) or visit <https://encoreministry.org/grant-application/>.
- For more information about resources, leader training, and church consultations by, with, and for older adults, contact Dr. Richard Gentzler at rgentzler@encoreministry.org or at 615-400-0539.
- To receive *ENCORE Ministry Connection*, a free monthly e-newsletter highlighting recent grant recipients and offering a wealth of articles and tips on ministry and resources for older adults, contact csolomon@encoreministry.org.

ENCORE Ministry Board of Directors by Class for 2024-2026

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Charles Hewgley	Rev. Sarah Carty	Rev. Joe Hansen
Tom Adkinson	Mike Engle	Rev. John Collett
Rev. Sonnye Dixon	Rev. Marie King	Lisa Harper Baker

Luci Cromer	Janice Boyko	Al Partee
Pat Brandenstein	David Morgan	Kay Bowers
Bill Wheeler	Michael Lorance	Dr. Ed Trimmer
Rev. Dan Camp	Noel Hinote	Cliff Steger
		Rev. Phil Jamieson
<i>Ex Officio Members for 2024</i>		
Courtney Lawson	Connectional Ministry Associate	
Rev. Rob Martin	Assistant to the Bishop	
Board Officers for 2024		
Chairman	Charles Hewgley	
Vice Chairman	Cliff Steger	
Secretary	Tom Adkinson	
Treasurer	David Morgan	