

CRESCENDO:  
REVISIONING OLDER  
ADULT MINISTRIES

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LEADERS: DEBBIE BLUE AND EVELYN JOHNSON

# Purpose of this session

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Explore challenges, opportunities and practical ideas to engage an existing older adult population and the emerging “new old” in vital living to advance Christ’s mission.

# Guidelines

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- Stay focused on the topic
- Live on the boundaries of your ideas
- Minimize electronic distractions (step outside if you have an emergency call or text that needs response).
- Have Fun!

# WHAT'S OLD?

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When did you first think someone was old?

Why did you see that person as old?

How old were you?

# VITAL LIVING IN BIBLICAL TIMES

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Deborah

Caleb

Elizabeth

Simeon

# HISTORICAL REFLECTION

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- From biblical times to 1880s...
- Concept of retirement introduced – law in Germany 1889
- Social Security established 1935 in US

**A “normal retirement age of 65” shaped expectations  
in the workplace...  
and the church!**

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DISPEL THE MYTHS AND  
DEFINE REALITY

# TRUE OR FALSE

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1. Most older adults are unable to adapt to change.
2. Most older adults do not experience significant memory loss.
3. Older adults want to relax and live a life of leisure.



# JUST THE FACTS!

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1. The current %age of people over 65 in relation to the total U.S. population is: \_\_\_\_\_. By 2030 it is projected to be: \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ % being from racial and ethnic minorities.
2. A woman turning 65 today can expect to live approximately \_\_\_\_\_ more years. A man can expect \_\_\_\_\_ years.
3. In 2015 slightly over \_\_\_\_\_% of the 65+ population lived in nursing homes.

# REFLECTING

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1. What perceptions of growing older need to be change in your congregation?
2. What are realities of the 65+ older adults in your church? In your community? What about mid and trailing edge Boomers (ages 52-64)?

**We have strayed from a biblical beginning when whatever the age, there was evidence of purposeful living.**

**A woman reaching 65 today can expect to live 21 more years; for men it is 19 years.**

**Social Security began in 1935 and 65 became retirement age.**

**Caleb – So here I am today, 85 years of age, still as strong as when Moses sent me out.**

**Myth – Older adults cannot change.**

**Myth – Older adults want to live a life of leisure.**

**10,000 Baby Boomers have turned 65 each day since 2011 and continue to do so through 2029.**

Psalm 1:3



Spiritual

Physical

Intellectual

Emotional

Social

# POSSIBILITIES START WITH PRAYER!

1. Raise awareness – films, reading, seminars

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2. Recruit a team (ages 50-85+)
3. Gather background info (demographics and needs/interests)
4. Equip the team (if you have one, use the CRESCENDO seminar to equip them)
5. Tap the gifts of a CRESCENDO coach for a planning session or a follow-up workshop – one follow-up visit is funded for each church attending CRESCENDO seminar.

# TIPS FOR THE PROCESS

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- Go slow to go fast!
- Start small and let the word spread.
- Engage in ongoing review and evaluation.
- Share stories – become rich soil for new initiatives
- Learn from failures.

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*Do not go where the path may lead, go  
instead where there is no path  
and leave a trail.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson