



Equipping 21st Century Disciples

Connecting • Equipping • Serving

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION OF A PILOT YEAR CONGREGATION

ENLISTING

ALO A will identify and support congregations whose pastors and people have a record of encouraging healthy innovation and who are open to working actively with similarly-minded churches in intentional ministry with and for persons age 50 and above.

During the pilot year of the *Equipping 21st Century Disciples* project, congregations who participate in a collegial relationship with ALO A commit themselves to...

- **Forming an Adult Ministry Team**—Establish a working group of six to ten adults to take the lead in creating a shared vision for adult ministry in the congregation and local community.
- **Adult ministry review**—Reflect on the identified needs, talents and opportunities for service of middle and older persons in the congregation and in the local community with an aim to address salient needs with focused programs.
- **Networking with other congregations**—Network with other congregations across geographical barriers to encourage and empower adults to deepen and practice their faith.
- **Action, reflection and evaluation**—Share their experiences, programs, and evaluations to help to determine “best practices”^{*} in adult ministry.

SUPPORTING

ALO A will assist pilot year congregations to discern their gifts for ministry, to discern the movement of God’s Spirit in their history and current life together and will provide models of program materials to energize discipleship building and faith enrichment.

During the pilot year of the *Equipping 21st Century Disciples* program, ALO A will encourage and empower linked congregations with specific help in...

- **Forming an Adult Ministry Team**—ALO A will provide a tool kit for enlisting and preparing ministry teams. On-line resources will support the equipping effort.
- **Adult ministry review**—ALO A will provide assessment inventories to help congregations discern their gifts for ministry as well as program starters to use in their own congregations and in their local communities.
- **Networking with other congregations**—ALO A will encourage and empower congregations to work together with partners to share faith-development initiatives.
- **Action, reflection and evaluation**—ALO A will provide online resources and other assistance in the evaluation and sharing phase of the pilot year.

^{*} A “best practice” in any field is a method, technique, or program that through research and practical experience has been shown to produce superior results, and thus can be used as a benchmark for effective practice.