

## Florida Bahamas Synod – Senior Ministry Inventory Results from 50 Congregations Responding

What follows are some of the significant ministry needs uncovered so far by the Inventory!

1. 91% of respondents (most widowed) own their own home, do not plan to move and have no idea how they will eventually care for their home and property.
2. More than 20% of respondents have no way of knowing where immediate and longer term care will come from in an emergency situation.
3. 10% of respondents are now caregivers. 50% more expect they will be caregivers within the next ten years.  
Where will support for caregivers come from when the number of older adults will increase exponentially in the next twenty years in Florida and 60% will be then already involved in care giving before the numbers increase?
4. Of these respondents, 29% cannot now complete minor home repairs, 12% need assistance with housekeeping chores, 15% need help with basic foot and toenail care and 7% already need help with transportation (going to church is one of these).
5. 66% of all respondents have difficulty hearing normal conversation, 48% have difficulty hearing what is sung and said in a worship service.
6. 46% of respondents have feelings of depression or despair frequently, 18% have experienced personal loss or misfortune within the past 12 to 48 months.
7. A large number of respondents have major concern about outliving their resources.
8. 46% do not have the necessary life documents (Durable Power of Attorney for Assets; for Health Care; Health Care Proxy; Wills, etc.) Most who do have them furthermore do not have immediate access to these documents in an emergency.
9. Only 59% of respondents indicate that their spouse has a complete understanding of their finances and 56% indicate they have not reviewed their finances with their children.
10. 18% of respondents have made a charitable provision from their estate. Three fourths of all respondents who answered said “no” when they were asked the question.

There is other information received from our first Synod Report. These are given to show you that our Synod and our Synod congregations have a ripe field for building significant ministry by, with and for older adults.

Pastor Richard Hafer