

ElderZest: Promoting Vital Aging, VAN July 9, 2002 Monthly Meeting
Gullixson Hall Room 104, Luther Seminary

After brief introductions, Steve Wagner offered a VAN web site update and distributed usage statistics. Highlights he mentioned was a spike in activity in June (2,100 hits). In July, the first of monthly questions will be featured to which visitors will respond; this month: “Who’s your Minnesota Vital Aging role model and why?”

Special note of the conference “All God’s Children: Older Adult Ministry,” held July 13 at Luther Seminary, hosted by the Center for Aging, Religion, and Spirituality. (It will be interesting to hear from folks who attended.)

The featured presentation focused on a series of Forums on Vital Aging starting in September hosted by ElderZest. ElderZest’s mission is to promote a positive image of aging and provide encouragement and support to elders to live vital and purposeful lives. Jim Lenarz described what he wanted to hear from the group. They are planning a series of month forums on vital aging starting in September. The group got to view the first feature and provide feedback on its use and upcoming ideas.

The anticipated schedule includes: “Aging Brain – New Connections with Dr. Marion Diamond” – a film in which Dr. Diamond at 73 described the encouraging findings of her life long brain research (in short, if you don’t use it, you lose it). The film would be followed by discussion. All agreed it was an outstanding choice.

Additional features would include:

Oct. 11th – Models of Successful Aging with Dr. Paul Johnsen Psy. D

Nov. 8th – Aging Successfully – Psychological Aspect of Growing Old – a film with Dr. Paul Baltes and Dr. Margaret Baltes

Dec. 13th – Models for Implementing Mental Health Services in Long-term Care Settings with Catherine R. Johnson, Administrator of Sholom Home East

The group provided feedback in three focus groups about what should or shouldn’t be included, ideas for future programs, if the program appeals to them, and what type of cost would be reasonable, among other issues.

The group heard an update on the first meeting of the VAN Leadership Group that met just prior to the VAN meeting; progress will be made to prioritize goals and strategies, which includes identifying funding sources and maintaining communication among and between all of us invested in vital aging issues and programs.

NEXT MEETING: 10-Noon

August 13

Bockman Hall, Room 116 (NOTE THIS LOCATION)

Luther Seminary – St. Paul