

Hospital Ministry

1. Arrange for the intern to receive an introduction and orientation to hospital ministry by the local hospital chaplain, and to accompany him/her during room-to-room visits. Ideally, the intern will have several opportunities for patient visitation. The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.
2. Arrange for the intern to accompany the pastor on a general hospital visit. Provide training about what to say. Here is a sample visit.

The Hospital Visit

- (1) **Clearly identify yourself if you are unknown to the patient.**

“Hello, my name is _____, and I am from the Church of the Nazarene.”

- (2) **Ask if this is a convenient time to visit.**

“Is this a good time to visit for a few minutes?”

- (3) **State the purpose of the visit.**

“I just wanted to stop by and see how you are doing, and ask if there is anything we can do for you or your family in these days.”

At this time, it may be appropriate to talk about . . .

- * The nature of the illness
- * What the doctors are saying
- * Length of hospitalization
- * How the family is responding
- * How the church can help at this time

- (4) **Ask for needs or prayer concerns.**

“As we remember you in prayer during your hospital stay, are there any specific needs or concerns you would like us to pray about regarding you or your family?” (Please be certain to share any stated needs with the pastoral staff or hospital leader.)

- (5) **Keep the visit appropriate in length.**

If the patient is in obvious discomfort, or feels awkward with someone he/she doesn't know, the visit should be brief . . . 10 - 20 minutes.

However, some patients may feel alone or frightened and may need to talk; they may be disappointed or frustrated with a short visit. Therefore, a longer visit would be appropriate. Discretion is advised.

- (6) **Share a Scripture selection and have prayer with the patient before you leave. Below are some possible selections you may want to use.**

Psalm 46:1-7	God is your Strength.
Psalm 139:7-12	God's presence is with you wherever you are.
Psalm 91:1-2,4,11	God cares for you.
Psalm 23	God will supply all your needs.
Psalm 8	The greatness of God is reliable.
Philippians 4:19	God has power for your needs.
Isaiah 40:25-31	God gives strength to those who wait.

- (7) The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.
3. Arrange for the intern to accompany the pastor on a pre-surgery hospital visit. Provide training about the nature of the visit:

The Pre-Surgery Visit

- (1) The pastor may be asked to be with a family the day of a surgery, *arriving before* surgery, and, if possible, staying with the waiting family during the surgery.
- (2) When the pastor arrives, he/she will introduce himself/herself to those family members he/she may not know, and state that he/she is from the Church of the Nazarene.
- (3) The pastor should show a concern and interest in the patient's surgery.
- (4) The pastor should offer encouraging words and assure them of the church's prayers.
- (5) The pastor should share a scripture and prayer with the patient and family right after the "sleepy" shot has been administered.
- (6) The pastor should ask if there is any special need the patient or family would like to share.
- (7) If possible, the pastor should offer to wait with the family during surgery. This helps time to pass more quickly for them.
- (8) The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.

4. Arrange for the intern to interview the senior adult pastor of another church, to discuss recruitment of volunteers, training of volunteers, budget planning, event-planning, and other observations. The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.
5. Ask the intern to read a book about senior adult ministry, or the age wave in America, and write a reflection paper based on the insights learned. The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.
6. Ask the intern to attend a senior adult activity in the local church. This may include a Sunday School Class, small group Bible study, potluck dinner, fellowship activity, ministry opportunity, etc. The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.
7. Arrange for the intern to attend two senior adult services or activities at a different church. Ask them to look for things they liked and didn't like. Ask them to look for something about ministry to senior adults they didn't already know. The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.
8. Ask the intern to prepare and teach a lesson for a senior adult Sunday School class. Assist the intern with curriculum needs and lesson preparation, as needed. The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.
9. Using some of the methods in the master planning materials, ask the intern to prepare a one-year "pretend" calendar showing monthly senior adult events. Also, for each event, ask the intern to show destination, activity, cost, transportation, and other needs. Require the intern to state what purpose this event plays in the life of the senior adult group, and what he/she hopes to accomplish through this event? The pastor should later provide a discussion time for the intern to reflect on observations and lessons learned.