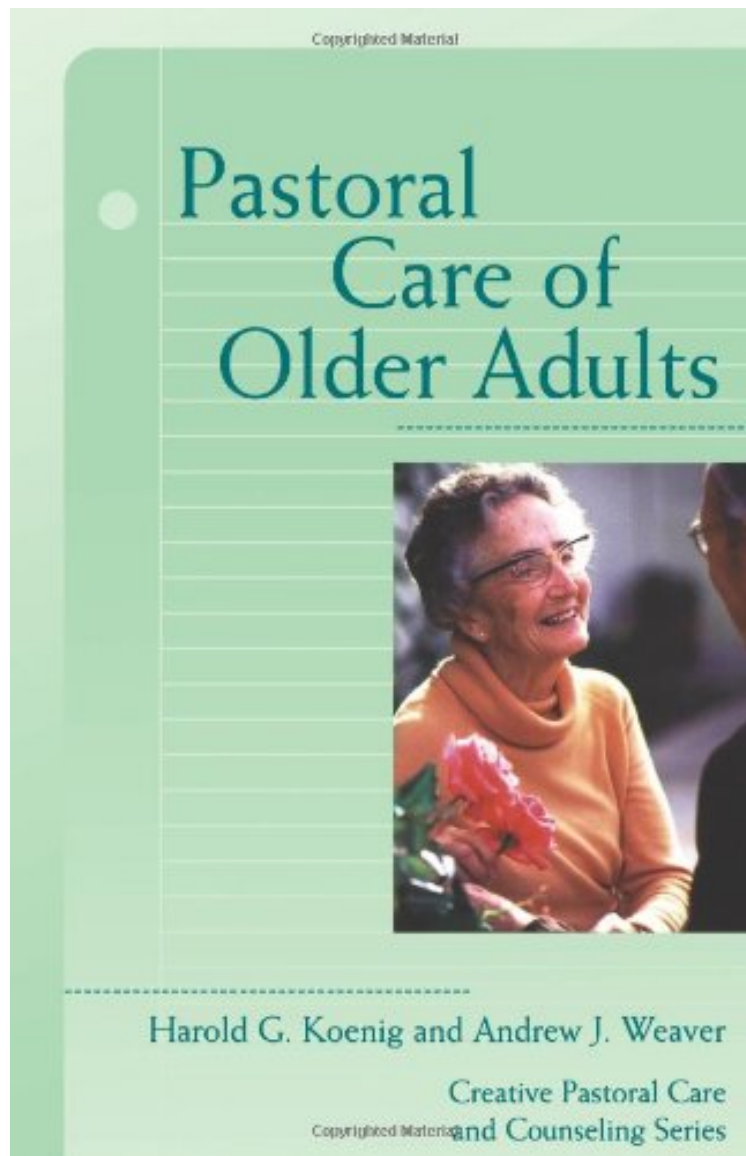


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Harold Koenig

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Harold Koenig : Pastoral Care of Older Adults (Creative Pastoral Care and Counseling) (Creative Pastoral Care Counseling) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pastoral Care of Older Adults (Creative Pastoral Care and Counseling) (Creative Pastoral Care Counseling):

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By the year 2000 more than 50 percent of mainline Protestants will be over the age of sixty. Older adults have special needs, to which many pastors are not adequately prepared to minister. Harold Koenig and Andrew Weaver address this problem by providing practical guidance in dealing with such issues as Alzheimer's disease, the chronically ill, relocation, health crises, grief, depression, anxiety, gender differences, poverty, and the needs of children of older adults.

From the Back Cover"The work that Thomas and Cockburn are suggesting in this book is cutting edge. What they are writing about ministers will be talking about five to ten years from now. . . . Very creative." ---Howard W. Stone Brite Divinity SchoolAbout the AuthorFrank Thomas, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Family Therapy Program at Texas Women's University. He is a licensed marriage and family therapist and has written extensively in brief and family therapy. Jack Cockburn, Ph.D., is a licensed professional counselor in the psychology department at PRIDE, Dallas, Texas. He is the author of several research articles in the area of family therapy.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.I'm not getting any younger. (Neither are you.) That is a truism we can depend on. But Americans as a group are also getting older. We're starting families later. We're having fewer children. We're living longer. These facts have numerous impacts on society--on education, arts, economics, politics, health, certainly on churches--that are only beginning to be felt. The graying of churches in the United States brings with it an expanding need for ministry to older adults and their families. Virtually all congregations include older persons. Increasingly, pastors face a variety of traditional and unprecedented issues concerning the aged. Ministry to older adults has become so crucial that more and more congregations are hiring clergy specialists to serve their senior members. In recent years, one of the more common problems I address in my counseling is adults who have trouble dealing with their aged parents. Harold Koenig and Andrew Weaver, in *Pastoral Care of Older Adults*, address not only the issues of ministry to older adults but also those of ministry to adult children as they wrestle with how to care for their aged parents. Before writing the book, Koenig and Weaver surveyed clergy in order to discover the most common problems encountered in ministry to older adults; the answers to the study generated topics for their book. *Pastoral Care of Older Adults* presents ways in which aged adults can maintain their physical, mental, and spiritual health. It also addresses a number of common, specific problems that older adults encounter. Alzheimer's and related diseases are covered in one chapter. Another chapter suggests community resources available to older persons and their families, including nursing homes, which 45% of all individuals reaching the age of 65 will enter at one time or another. The book lists and gives telephone numbers of agencies that pastors can call upon to help older individuals. Koenig and Weaver also elaborate on ways to help older persons cope with chronic illness, anxiety, depression, grieving, loneliness and isolation, and terminal illness--in themselves and among their friends. They give specific suggestions for enabling lonely, disabled, or dependent older adults to feel useful and needed at a time in their lives when many have given up on the idea that they have any ministry or calling. I believe you will find that *Pastoral Care of Older Adults* has much to offer your pastoral care, counseling, and teaching ministries. It is written in a clear and specific style. It offers ways in which pastors can effectively care for individuals as they enter the last years, months and days of their lives, and it reveals how the congregation, as the people of God, can offer care to older persons and their families. ---Howard W. Stone from the Editor's Foreword In this book, we answer specific questions and concerns of pastors and religious caregivers about the health care of older adults. We have purposefully chosen not to present our agenda. Instead, we have asked clergy and religious caregivers to identify the kinds of information they need in order to better carry out their ministry to older adults, and then we have responded to those needs. We focus here on the fifteen most common questions that clergy want answers to in order to better meet the needs of older adults and their families. To find out what type of information pastors need, we developed a questionnaire that asked about health concerns of older adults and their families and administered it to clergy and religious caregivers. First, we asked what types of spiritual, psychological, social, and physical health problems older adults and their families commonly sought help for from clergy. Second, we

asked which of those areas clergy felt least comfortable with or least prepared to address. Third, we asked which areas pastors needed more information about. We then synthesized their responses, prioritizing and subdividing them into fifteen major questions that are addressed in separate chapters. These chapters cover a wide range of topics, from changes involved in normal aging, to pathological conditions like Alzheimer's disease and depression, to inform about nursing home placement and end-of-life issues (living wills, life support, and so forth). This book is unique in that we have surveyed the needs of clergy and religious caregivers to find out what they want to know and have then responded to their questions in a precise, comprehensive, and professional way. Our goal is to provide practical information and help for clergy and their staff involved in day-to-day work with older adults and families. We present this material in a simple, straightforward, well-organized format to facilitate use by busy pastors and religious caregivers. While we expect community pastors and ministerial staff to be the primary audience for this book, we hope it will also be attractive to students in preparation for the ministry, pastoral counselors, hospital chaplains, and lay persons working with older adults. ---from the Introduction