

## **The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Gentzler, Jr.**

The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. (Rick) is director of ENCORE Ministries, a ministry of the Golden Cross Foundation of the Tennessee Conference – UMC ([www.encoretnumc.org](http://www.encoretnumc.org)).

Dr. Gentzler, a much sought after speaker and teacher, is an internationally recognized leader in the field of aging and older adult ministries. Recent highlights of his ministry include: being selected by Governor Haslam in 2013 to serve on the Governor's Task Force on Aging for the state of Tennessee; keynote presenter for International Conferences on Aging and Older Adult Ministries in Australia and New Zealand in 2013; recipient of the "*Outstanding Leadership in Older Adult Ministries Award*" from the United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries in 2012; recipient of the "*Spirituality and Aging Award*" from the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and National Interfaith Coalition on Aging (NICA) in 2003; and, in 2002 was a presenter at the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain.

Dr. Gentzler is author of numerous books and hundreds of articles on aging, midlife, and older adult ministry. His latest book is *Aging & Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: an Inquiry Approach*. Other books he authored or co-authored include: *Gen2Gen: Sharing Jesus with All Generations*; *The Graying of the Church*; *Designing an Older Adult Ministry*; *Aging: God's Challenge to Church and Synagogue*; *Forty-Sixty: A Guide for Midlife Adults Who Want to Make a Difference*; *1999 International Year of Older Persons: Resource Materials for Congregational Ministry with Older Adults*; *The Pulse of United Methodist Baby Boomers*; and, *Rock of Ages* (a large print worship and song book). He also served as content editor and wrote the *Foreword* for *The Church Responds to Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation*. He is former editor of *Center Sage* newsletter and in 2005 he produced the award winning video on aging titled, *New Beginnings: the Gifts of Aging*.

Dr. Gentzler, an adjunct faculty member at Lipscomb University, Nashville TN teaches classes on aging. He is on the board of directors of the Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee, and is a resource consultant for the Tennessee Conference Committee on Adult/Older Adult Ministries and the Golden Cross Foundation. He also serves as chair of the Nashville Area Older Adult Ministry Network.

Dr. Gentzler holds the following degrees: Bachelor of Science in Social Science from Shippensburg University (Shippensburg, PA), Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, DC), Doctor of Ministry from Boston University School of Theology (Boston, MA), and a Certificate in Aging Studies from Boston University Institute for Geriatric Social Work.