



End-of-Life Care Ministries in the 21st Century

**“We can change the way we do death care
because we believe in the power of the gospel.”**

~ Laurel Nicholson, CEO/Founder ~

The 21st Century Problem:

- **Within 25 years**, The Baby Boomer population is projected to grow from 600M+ to 1.6B. Before this time, hospitals will admit twice as many Baby Boomers in need of medical care than today. The establishment of multi-disciplinary care is one of many solutions to the Gray or Silver Tsunami (1).
- **Medical Aid in Dying** legislation is being passed in a growing number of U.S. states. The cost of **long-term care** is unaffordable for many seniors.
- **Hospice** services are a vital part of **end-of-life care** but many families find the hours of provided care are not enough when a loved one is dying at home. Caring for the dying is unfamiliar territory to many Americans. Death remains an uncomfortable topic for doctors and patients and family members.

The Role of Lay Ministry in Caring for Seniors:

- **End-of-Life Doulas** are becoming more familiar as helpers and companions for seniors and terminally-ill patients. The greek word, *doulos*, means “a woman who serves.” An end-of-life doula is a non-medical practitioner trained to assist individuals, families, and communities through the dying process.
- Secular training programs currently dominate the end-of-life doula care industry. **Christians are called by God to this service role** and Christian training is essential. **The Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program** is turning out strong leaders to help communities navigate senior and end-of-life care.
- How can **Churches** get involved? There are **1 of 2 ways** to incorporate Christian end-of-life doulas into church communities. 1. **Enroll** a Church member in the Death & Resurrection Doula Training Program; 2. **Adopt** a trained Death & Resurrection Doula to serve in a local church community.

How does a Death & Resurrection Doula serve a Church?

- End-of-Life Doulas may be a volunteer, staff member, or individual offering consulting and/or private services in a Church community.
- End-of-Life Doulas can help form or support existing pastoral care and senior ministries; Pastors benefit from the support of trained grief companions.
- End-of-Life Doulas educate on the importance end-of-life planning and cultivate healthy conversations about death to Church members regardless of age and health.

To Get Started:

web: <http://thedeathandresurrectiondoula.com>

email: info@thedeathandresurrectiondoula.com

(1). https://healthmanagement.org/uploads/article_attachment/hm-v19-i5-web-infographic.pdf