

Questions to Ask When Looking for a Christian Senior Living Community

Community Name:

Seniors searching for a faith-based senior living community generally have specific concerns about the facility's features and services. Use the following checklist to make sure your new home will support you in your Christian faith.

Religious Practice

Is the community affiliated with a specific denomination – if so, does it welcome residents of all Christian backgrounds?

Is there a church or chapel on site? If so, is it open at all times or only available during services?

Is mass offered weekly? Is communion offered regularly?

Are there places of worship in the surrounding neighborhood?

Is transport provided to nearby churches?

Are friends and family welcome to attend any on-site church services?

Are sacraments offered on-site, such as confession, anointing of the sick and last rites?

The Community

Are all residents of a specific religious denomination/background, or is the community open to people of other religions?

What faith-based activities are offered in the community?

Are there connections to other faith-based senior living communities should I need a higher level of care, such as a nursing home?

Is there an affiliation with a religious hospital nearby?

How often are faith-based activities offered on the activities calendar?

Are there opportunities for residents to practice their faith through volunteering?

Are there special activities for holy days, such as Christmas, Easter and Lent?

For Orthodox traditions, are any of the fasts observed as a community?

Are faith-based diets accommodated? For example, are fish or vegetarian meals available on Fridays during Lent?

Pastoral Care

Is there a pastor, chaplain, or priest on staff?

If not, how often do ministers visit the community?

Can pastoral staff from outside churches come to visit or facilitate a service?

Is it possible to meet the minister while touring the facility?

Finances

Is the facility owned by a church or other non-profit organization?

For nonprofit organizations, is income reinvested in the community or used to support other programs in the organization?

Is there assistance for low-income seniors or those who have outlived their financial means to pay for care?
