



PRESBYTERIANS FOR DISABILITY CONCERNS

June 2004

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your interest in making your congregation and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) more inclusive of persons with disabilities. It is our hope that this packet of information helps you as you celebrate Access Sunday and also as you seek to become a congregation that is barrier-free (physically and attitudinally).

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) designates July 18th this year to celebrate Access Sunday. Although that is true, the specific Sunday which celebrates accessibility and inclusion is not important, just the fact that it is done in your church. Anytime is a good time to have a worship service that focuses on the gifts that persons with disabilities bring to the Church and the barriers that often keep them from being fully integrated into the life of the Church. Whenever you choose to celebrate, the scriptures are full of possibilities. The Gospel itself is wildly inclusive and Jesus' ministry exemplified this in full measure.

Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC) creates this packet each year. It contains worship and educational suggestions, as well as, articles that encourage further study or action in your congregation. Make sure that you see the resource list. It has some materials that can be borrowed from the PHEWA office or purchased from a variety of sources.

PDC's mission is to affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and we advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities inside the church and in society. PDC is a Network of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), a ministry of the National Ministries Division of the PC (USA). PHEWA is dedicated to the enactment of social justice and welfare ministries. If you are not a member, you are invited to join PDC and PHEWA. Visit PHEWA on the web at www.pcusa.org/phewa.

Again, thank you for your commitment to being an inclusive and welcoming congregation. If we can help you further with any information or if you would like to learn more about the ministries of PHEWA please call **1-888-728-7228, extension 5800**.

Shalom,

Presbyterians for Disability Concerns

PRESBYTERIAN HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE ASSOCIATION (PHEWA)

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