



# PRESBYTERIANS FOR DISABILITY CONCERNS

May 2005



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, spiritually and attitudinally).

Unlike most years, the 2004-2005 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Presbyterian Planning Calendar does not designate a particular Sunday as Access Sunday. Therefore, please choose a date that works well for your congregation. 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.

The General Assembly has designated this as the Decade of the Child. The 2005 packet focuses on Children with Disabilities. It contains worship and educational suggestions along with interesting articles that will enable your congregation seek to incorporate all children into the life of their community.

The PC(USA) Disability Consultants (see enclosed information) are often asked questions about how to make worship, educational or community activities accessible to children with disabilities. We hope that these materials reflect some of those concerns and offer some very practical solutions.

PDC's mission is to affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and they 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](http://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 AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

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