

Disability Concerns Consultants

The questions were overwhelming...

- Help! I need a curriculum for children and adults with developmental disabilities.**
- Can you give me information about accessibility audits/checklists/surveys?**
- My Presbytery meets in a church that's not accessible. Don't they get it?**
- How can our church begin a ministry with persons who are deaf?**
- What do I say to a child who asks, "Why me?"**

We are very pleased to announce that four consultants have been hired by the office of Social Welfare Organizations, PHEWA to help the Church with questions like these.

Rev. Raymond Meester,
Consultant for hearing
 Heritage Presbyterian Church
 880 South 35th Street
 Lincoln, NE 68510-3499
 402/477-3401
 TTY 402/477-3429
 Raymond@HeritagePres.org



Ray is the pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church where they have an active deaf ministry that includes an interpreted worship service and Sunday School classes for adults and children who are deaf. One adult, who is deaf, currently serves on the session. Ray's parents and four uncles and aunts were deaf, enabling him to be conversant in American Sign Language. In 2000, the Louisville Institute awarded him a 12-week sabbatical grant to study deaf ministry from a deaf cultural perspective. He has served on the board of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, was a founding member of Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC) and is currently moderator of the PDC, a network of PHEWA.

Rev. Sue Montgomery,
Consultant for mobility/accessibility
 P.O. Box 16
 Knox, PA 16232
 814/797-1226
 suemontgomery@penn.com



Sue Sterling Montgomery is pastor of the Nickleville Presbyterian Church, Emlenton, PA. She has also served as a chaplain at Polk Center, a residential facility for persons with mental retardation since 1983. Sue has served on local and national boards addressing advocacy issues for persons with disabilities. She's no stranger to the barriers persons with mobility disabilities face. To address more than just

the architectural barriers, Sue has done extensive study in the areas of theology, language and philosophical approaches to life with a disability. She's a wheelchair athlete, an avid hand cyclist, and recently completed a 50-foot elevated element on a high ropes course. She received the Women of Faith Award from the Women's Ministries Program Area, PC (USA) for her work with persons with disabilities. Currently, Sue is on the Leadership Team of Presbyterians for Disabilities Concerns (PDC).

Rev. Rick Roderick,
Consultant for visual disabilities
 2215 Westridge Rd.
 Louisville, KY 40442
 502/423-8195 or 502/327-6010
 richard@iglou.com



Rick has been working in the blindness field for 23 years. He began as a rehabilitation counselor and is now an assistive technology specialist. He teaches primarily Internet and Braille note-taking devices. He also does Internet research in the blindness field and is active on several mailing lists dealing with these issues.

Rick produces Braille for the PC (USA), primarily for the Office of the General Assembly. He currently serves on the Leadership Team for Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC) and consults with the church on accessible technology. He enjoys leading worship when requested and participated in the leadership of the 213th General Assembly. He lives with his wife, Carol, their daughter Marissa and his current Seeing Eye dog, Randy.

Mr. Milton Tyree, Consultant
for developmental disabilities
 P.O. Box 22638
 Louisville, KY 40252
 502/429-6244
 miltontyree@bellsouth.net



Milton Tyree is a member of Springdale Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY. He has had numerous opportunities through the years to develop personal relationships with people who have disabilities and their family members. Milton has more than 20 years of experience in the design, development and provision of supports and services that promote participation of people with disabilities with valued aspects of everyday life. He has worked in a number of capacities including teaching, curriculum development, consulting and program administration. His real passion is in the area of personal advocacy. Milton currently works for the Human Development Institute at the University of Kentucky.

As you can see, these are busy persons working in a variety of professional capacities.

If you contact them directly, please leave a detailed message concerning your question or concern and how they might contact you.

Questions can also go through **PresbyTel – the General Information Service (1-800-872-3283)** of the PC (USA), or the toll-free switchboard number at the PC (USA) and **PHEWA, 1-888-728-7228, ext. 5800.**

For information on **incentive loans** as well as **low-cost loans** for expansions, renovations and site purchase, call the PC (USA) Investment & Loan Program, Inc. at **800-903-7457** and ask for **Ben Blake (ext. 5865).**