



April 2006

Dear Friends:

The Presbyterian Planning Calendar has designated June 25<sup>th</sup> as Access Awareness Sunday. Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC) provide these resources to help you celebrate that day. Don't worry if that particular Sunday doesn't work for you; any day will work that fits your congregation's schedule! We would encourage you to consider going beyond a one-Sunday-emphasis to provide your members with many opportunities to learn about the gifts that persons with disabilities have and do offer your community's life.

This year's theme is The Household of God. Within God's household there are persons with a variety of gifts and yet we are One Body, One Spirit. All are valued members.

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](http://www.pcusa.org/phewa).

We want to also alert you to a new development within the PC(USA). At the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2006) this summer, a new policy on disability will be introduced and acted upon. You can read that policy by going to the PC(USA) web site - [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). It is Item 10-06, "Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities." The last policy was adopted in 1977, thus, this is a much-needed update on disabilities. If you are planning to attend G.A. in Birmingham, AL, June 15-22, you may want to listen in to that discussion in both committee and plenary.

PDC will also be honoring Cascades Presbytery with the Nancy Jennings Award at the PHEWA Awards Reception on June 18 in Birmingham. So, if G.A. is on your calendar and in your plans, please join us as we celebrate the work the Presbytery has done in promoting inclusive ministries.

Thank you for your commitment to be a congregation for all persons. If we can help you further with any information or if you would like to learn more about the ministries of PHEWA, call 1-888-728-7228, extension 5800.



PDC is one of ten networks organized under the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), a ministry of the National Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (USA).