

The Committee on Disability Ministries helps churches grow in their ministry with people of all ages who have challenges with mobility, hearing, vision, cognitive and intellectual disabilities.

The Church can get **REAL** about including people with disabilities in the Body of Christ by:

R - Removing barriers of attitude, communication, and architecture which can keep people with disabilities away from church and from knowing Jesus

“They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.” Mark 2:4

E - Empowering people with disabilities and involving them as brothers and sisters in ministry within our churches, affirming that they have special God-given gifts to bless and lift up the Body of Christ

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms” – 1 Peter 4:10

A - Advocating for people with disabilities who face prejudice, ridicule, and denial of opportunities within society and our communities

“But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously. “ Micah 6:8 MSG

L – Loving and befriending people with disabilities with the love and grace Christ first showed us.

“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed...” Luke 14:13-14

“...and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us...” Ephesians 5:2a

WE “CAN DO” MINISTRY WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BETTER BY THINKING ABOUT WHO WE MINISTER TO...

1. Those people who know who cannot participate at all because of the current programs and services, as well as accessibility issues

2. Those people who participate in part, but cannot be a full participant due to barriers
3. Those in attendance but have challenges when they try to participate
4. Those who have quit coming to services and special events because it is too difficult due to the current services and level of accessibility

How does your church rate on meeting the needs of...

People with Vision challenges – are large materials including books, bulletins, and the sermon (or outline) available? Is the room lighting bright enough?

People with Hearing challenges – are all auditory elements of worship (spoken, sung, prayed, preached) able to be heard by all in all parts of the room?

Persons with Physical Challenges – can people get through the front door, the bathroom door, the classroom door as well as down the aisle and into the seating area easily?

Persons with Cognitive and Intellectual Challenges - are appropriate educational materials and activities available in Sunday School, VBS? Are multi-sensory approaches and elements used to enhance worship?

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference, through the Advocacy Resource Team and the Committee on Disability Ministries, seeks to assist churches and individuals in showing our love for our Lord and Savior by fulfilling:

The Great Commission
(Matthew 28:19-20)

The Great Commandment
(Matthew 22:37-39)

to ALL People, including those with disabilities by providing:

Resource links through the conference website at:
www.pen-del.org > ministries > disability information and resources

Training and workshops offered locally and regionally throughout the year

Materials to assist local churches with “Disability Sunday” observances

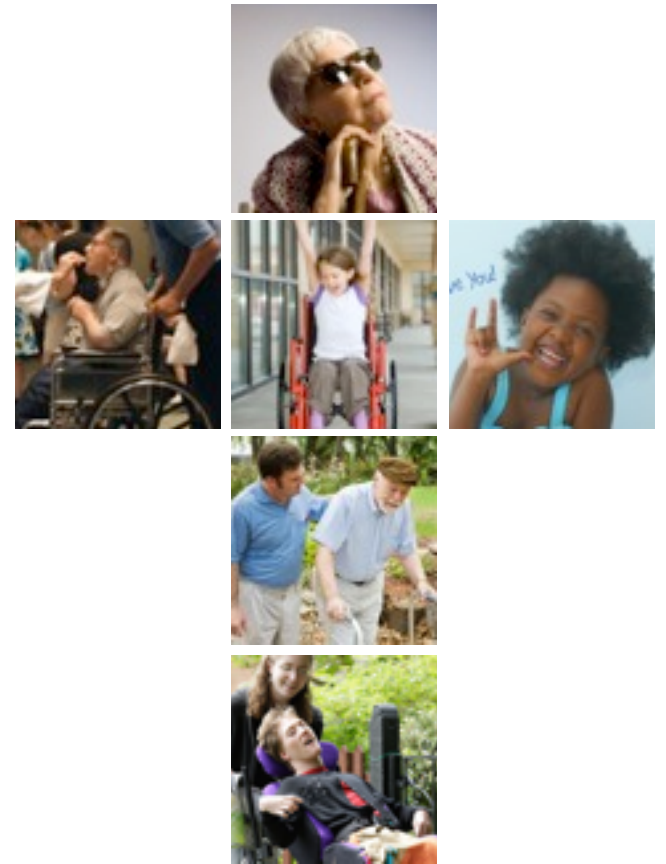
Contact persons on each district to assist local churches and individuals with making worship, architecture, and attitudes more accessible

Open minds
Open hearts
Open doors



Committee on Disability Ministries
A part of the Advocacy Team of the
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A “Can Do” Approach
to Effective Ministry with
People with Disabilities



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