

**Making Paths Smooth —
Removing Barriers**

2019 Update



- We provide numerous resources on our **newly-renovated website**, umcdmc.org, updating current and developing new materials and reporting on our work. Check us out, and learn about our new **Disability-Friendly and Accessible Church Badge project!**
- We are **temporarily under The Council of Bishops**, which assigned Bishop Peggy Johnson to oversee us. At a meeting of seven General Church agencies in Baltimore in April we received an invitation from GCORR (the General Commission on Religion and Race) to potentially come under their advocacy umbrella. This would be a mutually-strengthening relationship, as we would gain by being part of a General Commission and they would gain a team of passionate, skilled volunteers who are called to advocate, educate, and empower ministry with people with disabilities.
- Members of the committee attended and **presented papers** at the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability. We also **led workshops** at United Methodist organizations, e.g. CEF (Christians Engaged in Faith Formation) and the Camp and Retreat Leaders Gathering.
- A **devotional** by one of our self-advocates was published in The Upper Room in March-April 2019. Congratulations, Eve Newman!
- We are **preparing resolutions** to be submitted to General Conference 2020 to ensure that the gifts and needs of people with disabilities will continue to be addressed in our churches.
- We actively **encourage and support new conference committees** and are pleased to welcome the brand-new Susquehanna Disability Ministries Committee, spearheaded by Rev. Rebecca Holland.
- We awarded nine **accessibility and disability ministry grants** to churches in 2018 to help fund accessibility projects and inclusive programs. This year our **first global grant** allowed a church in Uruguay to build a ramp into their building. Pictured are an automatic door opener in Arkansas and a crock pot Healthy Eating ministry in Indiana.
- **Donate through the Advance # 3021054:** <https://advance.umcor.org/p-400-disability-ministry.aspx> to help us fund future accessibility and inclusion projects for other churches!
- Many of our **blog articles** have been reprinted in other UM media. **Sign up** for the blog at <http://umdisability.blogspot.com/> and for our **newsletter** at <https://umcdmc.org/>.
- **Follow us** on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DisAbilityMinistriesUM/> .to stay on top of **news and resources** related to disability and the church.

