

**INVISIBILITY is the Challenge**

Equipping Churches to See Individuals



Equipping Individuals to Find Their Place in God's Family

**ABILITY Is Not**

## Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church

### Committee on Accessibility Ministries

P.O. Box 19207 Springfield, IL. 62794-9207

The Committee on Accessibility Ministries has set aside funding to assist local churches working toward total accessibility and to assist any church or ministry group within the Illinois Great Rivers Conference wanting to establish new programs to reach and serve individuals with disabilities. These funds are limited and will not cover the entire cost of most projects. However, through the awarding of a grant, the Committee offers its support to efforts toward full inclusion of all persons in worship and Christian formation experiences and to advocacy for the needs of persons with challenging conditions. Funds are made available through contributions to the Disability Awareness Sunday Offering. Amount of grants awarded will vary as funds are available.

**Architectural Accessibility Grants:** The *Book of Discipline* calls upon the Board of Trustees of each local church to conduct an annual accessibility audit of their buildings, grounds, and facilities to discover and identify any physical, architectural, or communication barriers that impede the full participation of people with disabilities and to make plans and determine priorities for the elimination of all such barriers (§2533.6). Once an audit has been completed and priorities established, a church may apply for an accessibility grant. A visit by members of the Committee on Disability Concerns may be required. Technical support in the form of resource information from the Committee is available upon request.

**Mission Project Grants:** Funds awarded for mission projects outside IGRC may be used to send equipment or a resource person beyond the bounds of the conference or to enable an individual with disabilities to participate in a mission experience.

**Attitudinal Accessibility and Family/Direct Service Grants:** The *Social Principles* of The United Methodist Church calls on the church and society to protect the civil rights of persons with disabilities and to be sensitive to, and advocate for, the full inclusion of ALL people in the community of faith and in the larger world community. To this end, the Committee on Accessibility Ministries of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference is charged with providing advocacy, education, and direct services on behalf of persons with challenging conditions, affirming that **ALL PEOPLE** are **ONE** in the Body of Christ. IGRC churches and ministry groups may submit proposals for assistance with startup costs for new programs and services.

To be considered for grant funds, complete the online application form with the required attachments. Note that there are four separate forms: for Architectural Grants on a January grant cycle, and for Mission projects, Attitudinal and Family/Direct Service grants which are not on a grant cycle (received year-round). Be sure to complete the correct one for your project.

A copy of the most recent annual accessibility audit must be uploaded as part of a request for accessibility grant funds. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Beth Fender, staff liaison to the Committee on Accessibility Ministries, at [bfender@igrc.org](mailto:bfender@igrc.org) or (217) 529-2611.