

2021 Annual Report:

Work of the Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church

The Disability Ministries Committee (DMC), a ministry partner of the General Commission on Religion and Race, does not receive apportioned funds from the Church. We rely on gifts from United Methodist General Agencies and organizations, annual conferences, congregations, and individuals to continue this important work.

Some of the things we did in 2021 included:

- Awarded 4 Accessibility grants to help fund ADA parking improvements at a local church, restroom modifications for a mission-education urban church, ramps and accessible restrooms for a college/ conference meeting space in The Philippines, and ramp improvements for a soup kitchen ministry.
- Compiled and sent 6 newsletters/resource updates to over 2000 individuals and organization each time, adding a Mental Health newsletter that alternates with the existing Disability Connections newsletter.
- Provided resources through an up-to-date and accessible DMC website (<https://umcdmc.org/>) and via social media, recording over 35,000 engagements.
- Initiated fundraising strategies to increase our base of support and insure viability into the future.
- Welcomed our first Central Conference member to the DMC.
- Began a cross cultural disability ministry focus group with initial members representing Korea, The Philippines, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Hispanic ministries near the Mexican border.
- Responded to disability-related queries from throughout the denomination regarding accessibility, advocacy, and resource needs, including churches that wrote to claim their Disability-friendly and Accessible Church badge.
- Solicited, oriented, and incorporated 4 new volunteer Resource Persons to supplement and leverage the work of DMC members.
- Strengthened partnerships across the General church, including providing feedback to Discipleship Ministries on a proposed revision of the Safe Sanctuaries materials.

With your continued support, the future looks bright, and the possibilities are many. With your help, we see a church where people with disabilities will find a true place of belonging where their gifts and graces are welcomed and put to God's good use to bring the Kingdom of God a little closer.

In Jesus' Name,

Rev. Debbie Hills

Chairperson, Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church