



Mini Workshop

Be a Participant with Partners

Standing in the Gap - June 2011

Katie Karsten, Justice Mobilizer for DMC, writes that it is important for our churches to become "more hospitable and provide inclusive spaces for the disabled. Churches need to choose to be intentional in seeking out ways to stand in the gap for those families who are isolated and disconnected due to the disabilities in their midst."

Let the following exercise be the catalyst for your diaconate to find ways to encourage your church to "stand in the gap."

1. **Reflect** on your congregation, and those who are known to have disabilities. Are there issues in the structure and design of your church, but also in its programs and ministries that exclude some from participating fully in the life of the church? List 3 things that could be done to make your church more inclusive. Resolve to do at least one of those things. (10 min.)
2. **Consider** doing an accessibility audit of your church (found at <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/disc/churchaccessible/>). Challenge a group, like the young people or the administrative team, to undertake it. (5 min.)
3. **Visit** the DMC website at www.diaconalministries.com and click on "Encouraging Justice" to find suggestions on how to advocate for people with disabilities. **Choose** an advocacy or ministry opportunity and resolve to carry it out in the life of your church. (10 min.)

Develop your passion and skills in diaconal ministry by

- A. Visiting the website www.diaconalministries.com for many diaconal resources.
- B. Contacting the Diaconal Ministry Developer in your classis to serve and support your church's diaconal ministry. Enjoy various workshops to become equipped in ministry.

Diaconal Ministries Canada is your resource!

Call us at 1-800-730-3490 or email at info@diaconalministries.com
See www.diaconalministries.com for ministry resources!