

Disability Advocacy Sunday

November 22, 2015

Theme: Inclusive and Accessible Church

Welcome:

Pastor / Leader: God our creator has gathered us together in Spirit, Love, Life and in Faith.
So, Let us welcome and honour everyone in this community.

(The Congregations may move around and shaking hands with wishes and greetings and welcome one another including the PWDs)

Opening Hymn:

Prayers

Leader: We come together today with
people with different skills, different abilities and disabilities.

People: **We come to this sanctuary of God as one body in Christ.**

Leader: Let us offer our thankful praises God for being compassionate towards all

People: **Regardless of physical strength and ability, regardless of differences of mind or spirit. Help us O'God help us to be accessible to your Spirit and to your people.**

Leader: May, the God of Hope fill our hearts with joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope by the power of Holy Spirit. (Adapted from Romans 15)

All: **Amen**

Call to Worship

Left: We gather together as people with abilities and disabilities

Right: With hopes, dreams, and visions,

Left: Glimpsing a time when there will no longer be insiders and outsiders

Right: When all are held together in the love of God.

All: Let us worship as a foretaste of this vision!

Confession of Sins:

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Genesis 1:26-27 "We are created in God's image"

Mark 2:1-4 "His friends lowered him down through the roof"
I Corinthians 12:22-27 "The body of Christ"
Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17 18 "The Lord knows our frame"

Congregations Hymn:

Ministering the Word of God (Sermon):

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the Creator God who has been inclusive in embracing and including every creature along with human beings in Noah's ark. I affirm that the inclusion of every being from the animal and avian 'kin-dom' in the ark is a primary purpose of God for All humankind, to live in solidarity and oneness with Persons Living with Disability.

I believe in the Redeemer Lord Jesus Christ who prayed for 'oneness', that He came to this world to bring inclusivity in His community by restoring sight to the visually challenged, healing those living with motor disabilities, opening the ears of those suffering from hearing impairment, curing all cerebral illnesses. I affirm that His life and ministry of redemption has given birth to an *ecclesia* of 'oneness' where Persons Living with Disabilities are part of that wedding banquet.

I believe in the Sustaining Holy Spirit, the wind that infuses life in us, the water that quenches our thirst, the flame that sets us ablaze to fulfill the dream and vision of our Saviour of an 'inclusive community of believers'. I affirm that the presence of the Lord sustains and empowers the 'people of God' with the vision of 'All in the house of the Lord' that Peter saw.

I believe in the Inclusive Body of Christ that breathes and lives with the vision of God where All of God's people, irrespective of their abilities, identities and backgrounds, worship the Lord in spirit and in truth; where All of God's people render acts of justice, love, peace and power in the direction of creating an inclusive society that's abundant with God's love, justice, peace and power. I affirm that recognizing, accepting, embracing, accommodating and infusing the life of Christ into the Persons Living with Disabilities will enhance meaning, love and life in the Inclusive Church. **AMEN**

(NCCI – IDEA Disability Advocacy Sunday Worship – 2013)

Time of Intercession:

Leader: Recognizing our dependence on the Lord to care for all God's people, we bring these petitions before God:

Leader: God of life, help us a congregation to become a welcoming and inclusive communities to all people especially those who may be overlooked by the rest of the society...

All: **Lord ... hear our prayers...**

Leader: God of love, help us to accept and love them with dignity and respect to our sisters and brothers with challenging conditions may realize our dignity as children of God through faith in Christ the resurrected.

All: **Lord ... hear our prayers...**

Leader: God of all people, help us to openly receive the gifts brought by who have disabilities.

All: **Lord... hear our prayers...**

Leader: God of reconciliation, help us to unite all of us in praise and thanksgiving to reconcile with your Word and deed.

All: **Lord... hear our prayers...**

ALL: **Our parent God, we praise you for the gifts you have bestowed upon each of us, help us accept each as we are with disabilities, challenges and abilities. Help us to love the socially, religiously and culturally excluded persons and communities. In Jesus' name we pray.... Amen**

(Mennonite Mutual Aid Worship Resources: Celebrating Our Oneness in the Body of Christ)

Closing Prayer

O God we acknowledge that you have created all of us in your own image and likeness. We adore you for choosing us to be your own people in spite of our differences in caste, color, sex, and abilities. Give us an understanding that your body is incomplete if people are left behind because of their disability. Give us courage to accept them as they are and to encourage them to equip themselves to excel in all spheres and phases of life. We ask your grace that entire humanity may develop unconditional positive regard towards persons with disabilities and accept them as your image.

Maker of our life, we look for the bright future with optimism and faith in you, as we pursue our call to provide justice and fullness of life to persons with disabilities. Let the barriers of disability which divide the body of Christ and hinder its unity be eradicated. In Jesus name we do pray. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (modified)

O God you have bestowed on us the joy of calling you our 'father' in spite of our weaknesses, imperfections and disabilities. We are blessed to call you our 'mother' as you never shy off from nurturing us, loving us and caring for us. We await you Kin-dom as we believe it establishes the values of love, peace, justice, sustainability, solidarity and equality, which are envisioned by you. Give us what we need and nothing more than that, because more may cause us to be arrogant and lacking may cause us to blame you. Lead us not into the temptation of treating others unequally, intolerantly, discriminatorily but deliver us from all temptations so that we may live a life based on the values of being accessible to all, being inclusive by removing the fences that we have created to exclude ourselves. Let us honor and glorify your name through our thoughts, words and deeds. Amen. *(DAS 2012)*

Commissioning

During His life time, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out and preach the gospel of the reign of God, to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons (Matt.10:7-8). May we this day go out into the world reaching people on the margins with the gospel of love and justice.

God in Christ is once again commissioning us to break down all that separates the people on the margins from their rightful place and role in the church and society. Go out into the world as ambassadors of the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring all into the fellowship of the church and society in dignity, love and participation!

Recessional Hymn / Lyric

Benediction:

May the Love of God who suffers with us, empower us to fight against all experiences of marginalization, suffering and disability,

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who identified with us, help us to show to the world what it means to love and how to stand in solidarity with the people with disability, and

May the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit, who enables the Church, the body of Christ, to enlighten the world and equip it to create an inclusive and accessible society for all, be with you now and forever. **Amen**

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