



DisAbility Ministries
The United Methodist Church



Ohio Disability & Ministries Collaborative Newsletter July 2022

WATCH FOR IT! COMING SOON!

EXCITING NEW INFORMATION ON ACCESSIBILITY GRANTS!

The Institute on Theology and Disabilities



Four members of our Ohio Disability and Ministry Collaborative – Kati Glover, Zachary Holler, Mimi Luebbers and Amanda Stuffelbeam, recently attended the Institute on Theology and Disability held June 6-9th at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. International scholars, writers, faith leaders, advocates and others committed to advancing inclusive ministries gathered together again in person and online after the institute was cancelled for the past 2 years due to Covid.

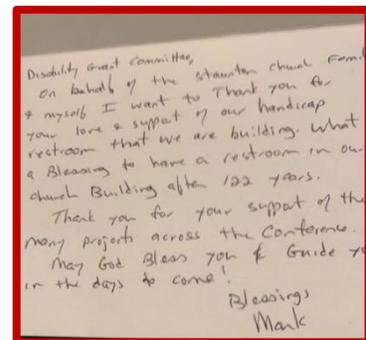
Participants had plentiful opportunities for diverse and interfaith conversations, renewing their resolve to embrace not only the needs, but the gifts and contributions, of those with disabilities within their faith communities.

Grants Update



Accessibility grants were recently awarded to churches in the West Ohio Conference (WOC) by the Ohio Disability & Ministries Collaborative (ODMC) of which the EOC Disability Awareness team and Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services are also members. On June 12, Rose Darling, a Flat Rock Church Engagement Coordinator, visited Staunton UMC in Washington Court House to congratulate them on the award, and to share Flat Rock ministries. Pastor Mark Armstrong said the congregation is very grateful and excited for the installation

of accessible rest rooms, which will save people from crossing a two-lane street for facilities. The rest rooms will be built out from the two smaller stained-glass windows shown in the photo, and those windows will remain as part of the decor. Construction is expected later in June. Congratulations to these other WOC churches who were awarded a grant: Pleasantville UMC, Bethany/Middleton, Grace in Springfield, and most recently,



Rushsylvania UMC. Each accessibility project is different, yet each addresses the specific needs of the church. These projects are "in progress," and updates will be posted in the next ODMC newsletter!

Resources

These links to various websites are dedicated to disabilities awareness. If you have a specific interest but need more information, please let us know, and we will try to locate what you need.

- [UM Disability](#)
- On Facebook you may find The United Methodist Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries
- <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>
- [Disability Awareness: Information, Programs and Event Dates : Disabled World \(disabled-world.com\)](http://disabled-world.com)
- [Articles about Disability and Health | CDC](#)

Reminder

Is this the weather you waited for all winter long? Sunshine is important to personal health,



growth of crops, and fun activities. However, with summer heat comes the risk of dehydration, heat "stroke," sunburn, and other serious conditions. Be sure to drink lots of water, wear sunscreen, take frequent rests, and cool down as much as possible. Keep an eye on your neighbors, children, and pets, and offer a 'cup of cold water' in Christ's love. [Tips for a Healthy Summer | CDC](#)

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start." - Nido Qubein.

In Memory Of...

You are invited to remember someone special through the gift of a walkway paver, memorial bench, planter, or a beautiful tree at the new Outdoor Therapeutic Center (TRL) at Flat Rock. This huge project includes a prayer labyrinth, upgraded accessible activity equipment, a musical instruments installation, and a memorial walking trail at the main campus of Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services in Flat Rock (Seneca County). Visit [TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center | Flat Rock Homes](#) for more details. Flat Rock is an Intermediate Care Facility serving individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Questions? Contact Rose Darling at Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org