

1 **ACTION REQUEST AR #8**
2 **2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

3
4 **TITLE:** Disability Awareness and Accessibility Sunday with a Special Offering

5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Oregon-Idaho Conference Committee on Disability
6 Ministries

7 **SPOKESPERSON:** Rev Janine DeLaunay

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 1035 Ridgefield Ct., Stayton, OR 97383

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** jandela51@wvi.com

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 503-754-6505

11 **AMENDED IN YELLOW**, ADD IN **BOLD**, DELETE IN ~~STRIKEOUT~~

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Passed 23-1-0**

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14 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

15 1)The newly forming Oregon-Idaho Conference Committee on Disability Ministries will be the
16 local resource to work with churches toward inclusion of persons with disabilities in the
17 ministries of the church. The observance of a Disability Awareness Sunday will help remind all
18 congregations of the gifts of all people and the importance of making the church accessible to
19 everyone.

20 2) Every congregation in the Oregon-Idaho Conference will **may** observe Disability Awareness
21 Sunday annually on the third Sunday of May, or on another Sunday that suits the congregation's
22 schedule.

23 3) A special offering will **may** be taken on Disability Awareness Sunday to be divided as follows:
24 one half for the local congregation's accessibility needs, and one half for the Conference
25 Committee on Disability Ministries for use in reaching out to churches and camps to improve
26 disability awareness and accessibility.

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28 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

29 Christ heard the cries of people with disabilities and, disregarding the objections of others,
30 stopped to ask what he could do for them and provided what they needed, including restoration
31 to society. Additionally, scripture teaches that all people are given spiritual gifts by the Holy
32 Spirit; yet, the gifts of people with disabilities are often overlooked by churches who fail to
33 recognize the gifts and graces of people with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of
34 church life.

35 The Book of Discipline states that "we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus' ministry
36 to all persons" and further states that "Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support
37 that enables all persons to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the world..."
38 (§140). One way that the church does this, per The Book of Discipline, is to require every
39 congregation to observe Disability Awareness Sunday and allow for the annual conference to
40 set the date and direct that a special offering be received to support creation of architectural and
41 attitudinal accessibility in churches (§265.4). To assist congregations in carrying out a Disability

42 Awareness Sunday observation, the Disability Ministries Committee of the UMC provides
43 resources to local churches.

44 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

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46 The Oregon-Idaho Conference Committee on Disability Ministries volunteers will work with the
47 congregations throughout the conference to establish a Disability Awareness Sunday and will
48 work with the conference treasurer to establish a system for collecting the funds from the
49 special offering. The oversight for the work of the committee will be the Conference Mission and
50 Ministry Coordinator.

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52 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

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54 The funding will come from the donations made by the congregations' special offering on
55 Disability Awareness Sunday. The funds will be used by the local congregations to improve
56 accessibility and by the Oregon-Idaho Conference Committee on Disability Ministries to offer
57 support services.

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