

Registration Form

Name _____	Title _____
Congregation _____	Email Address _____
Mailing Address _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____	Fax Number _____

Please select your top two choices for both workshop sessions (indicate the letters used on the agenda portion of this brochure):

10:00 a.m. Workshop	11:15 a.m. Workshop
1st choice _____	1st choice _____
2nd choice _____	2nd choice _____

Signing requested – We will be happy to secure signing throughout the conference provided we receive the request no later than August 27.

Check here if you would like a certificate of participation for this conference.

Questions? Contact Peaceful Living, 610.287.1200 or visit our website www.peacefulliving.org.

I plan to attend the clergy breakfast

Feel free to copy this form for additional registrants. Download copies of this registration brochure at www.peacefulliving.org.

Please remit registration form with check in the amount of \$25 for each Saturday attendee to Peaceful Living, 850 Old Skippack Road, Box 130, Lederach, PA 19450.

Scholarships are available if needed.

Registration Deadline: September 3, 2008



850 Old Skippack Road
P.O. Box 130
Lederach, PA 19450

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Honoring a Place in Faith Communities for People with Disabilities and Their Families

Peaceful Living Conference

Saturday, September 13, 2008

7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Pastors' Breakfast

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Workshops

Host Location: Salford Mennonite Church
480 Groff's Mill Rd., Harleysville, PA 19438

This facility is handicapped accessible.



Join Us!

Many individuals with disabilities and their families lead their lives at the fringes of society, even alienated from congregational life. This conference provides tips, tools, and wisdom to inspire you to build a strategy and action plan to help your faith community become more inclusive. You'll learn from an amazing assembly of internationally and nationally known experts, as well as local leaders in the field. Feel the transforming power of welcoming all people just as they – and we – are!



Key Take-Aways

- Enrich congregational life by welcoming people with disabilities and recognizing their gifts
- Provide congregational leaders with knowledge and tools to feel confident and competent as they reach out to people with disabilities and their families
- Build support networks for family members dealing with the joys and stresses of having a child/sibling/other family member with a disability
- Obtain skills to assure that people with disabilities in our community are included fully in a supportive faith community, if they wish to be

Who Should Attend?

- Clergy
- People with Disabilities
- Parents/Families of People with Disabilities
- Elders/Deacons/Congregational Caregivers
- Congregational Educators
- Direct Care Professionals
- Companions/Caregivers



About Peaceful Living

Faith-centered Peaceful Living works to build lifelong relationships for individuals with disabilities within congregations and the community. The organization provides in-home and community-based care and training. It also serves as an advocate for people with disabilities and their families, offering education and consulting to congregations and respite services for family members to take an occasional break from care giving. The eight-year-old Lederach-based nonprofit has grown from serving one person in 2000 to providing home-based supports for 30 families today. Its Friendship Connection program has matched more than 25 people with caring community friends over the early months of the initiative. This year a number of community living options were begun, including Life Sharing, where a person with a disability becomes part of a family, and two group homes, the Jubilee and Gehman Houses. Led by executive director Joe Landis, Peaceful Living serves residents of Montgomery and Berks Counties. For more information, visit www.peacefulliving.org.

Saturday, September 13, 2008

6:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration									
7:00 am – 8:15 am	Pastors Breakfast Topic: Disability and Pastoral Care; Speaker: Dr. Richard Steele									
7:30 am – 10:30 am	Continental Breakfast									
8:30 am – 9:45 am	Opening Ceremonies Christopher Dock Choir; Keynote Address: The Enabling Congregation, Dr. Richard Steele, (Main Auditorium)									
9:45 am – 10:00 am	Break									
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Exhibits Open	A Rekindling the Spirit of Direct Care Bill Gaventa	B Sarah Goes to College Sarah Steele and Marilyn Hair (Via Remote Connection)	C From Client to Citizen Derrick Dufresne	D Going Beyond the Pastor to the Rest of the Church Carl Yusavitz	E Loving Kim: Watching Our Designer God at Work Paul Miller/Kim Miller	F Problems of Caring in an Over-Corporatized Consumerized Service System Hans Reinders	G Healing Community in an Over-Stimulated World Paul Leichty	H Finding a Place in the Congregation Elizabeth Howes	J What to Say to a Person in a Wheelchair Marilyn Kriebel
		Break								
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break									
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Exhibits Open	K Rekindling the Spirit of Direct Care Bill Gaventa	L For Fathers Only Rick Steele	M From Client to Citizen Derrick Dufresne	N When Life Takes an Unexpected Turn Mark Garis	O Ethics on the Workfloor Hans Reinders	P Where to Turn When a Child with a Disability Is Born MARC (Speaker TBA)	Q Blessed Is the Meadow Barbara Shisler	R Rejoicing Spirits (Speaker TBA)	S Starting and Continuing a Successful Special Needs Bible Study Program Friendship Ministries
		Call to Action and Closing								
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Call to Action and Closing									

Sunday, September 14, 2008

9:00 am – 10:15 am	Exhibits Open	Salford Mennonite Church Sermon: The Scepter and the Staff: Mephibosheth, Claudius, and Epictetus Richard Steele
10:15 am – 10:30 am		Break
10:30 am – 11:30 am		Joint Adult Sunday School Classes/Sermon Discussion with Rick Steele
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm		Pot Luck Lunch: Community Invited

Speaker Snapshots



Derrick Dufresne – Senior Partner, Community Resource Alliance; CEO, Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities, St. Louis, MO. Visit craconferences.com and instituteonline.org. Based upon the premise that all people are entitled to a meaningful life, Derrick’s workshop, **From Client to Citizen**, answers important questions...

What strategies can providers use to help individuals with developmental disabilities build opportunities and competencies to be full members of the community? What role can the faith community play? This workshop will explore a radical understanding of self-determination and person-centered support.

Friendship Ministries – Its mission is “to share God’s love with people who have cognitive impairments and to enable them to become an active part of God’s family.” Friendship Ministries has helped churches/parishes from various denominations for more than 25 years. Visit friendship.org. At this workshop you’ll learn about Bible study materials and how to start a program that includes **Friendship Ministries’** mentoring. This program trains friends for worship through teaching about prayer, singing, and more. They will also bring their resource exhibit.

Mark Garis, Ed.D. – Mark Garis is a retired superintendent and former principal in the Souderton Area School District. His volunteer work has included board leadership at Indian Creek Foundation, Penn Foundation, Messiah College, Philadelphia Mennonite High School, and Brethren in Christ Denominational

Government. Mark was diagnosed with a brain tumor from which he has recovered. In his workshop, **When Life Takes an Unexpected Turn**, Mark shares lessons learned from his personal experience of a devastating diagnosis, treatment, and recovery.



Bill Gaventa, M.Div. – Associate Professor and Director, The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Co-editor of the Journal of Religion, Disability, and Health; Columnist for Insight, the national newsletter for the ArcUSA. Visit rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/. Bill’s workshop, **Rekindling the Spirit of Direct Care**, recognizes that in

the everyday world of individuals with disabilities we are often overwhelmed by the day-to-day and immediate needs of the individual. This workshop will focus on cultivating a deeper spiritual relationship between caregiver and individual and will describe ways to enhance that relationship.

Marilyn Hair and Sarah Steele – Respectively, wife and daughter of Richard Steele. In the **Sarah Goes to College** workshop (via remote connection), Marilyn and Sarah share the story of bringing to fruition Sarah’s dream of college attendance – how they overcame frustrations and obstacles, with tips for helping your family member achieve his or her dreams.

Elizabeth Howes, M.Ed. – Program Director, Peaceful Living. In her workshop, **Finding a Place in a Congregation**, Elizabeth explains an interactive model (discrepancy analysis) for fostering inclusion in youth groups and other congregational activities. She also shares tools and resources for inclusive activities.

Marilyn Kriebel – Married, 3 sons, board member of Souderton Mennonite Homes; confined to a wheelchair as a result of a spinal cord injury from a bicycle accident; life-long member of Grace Mennonite Church; often seen volunteering at Souderton Mennonite Homes, 3-4 afternoons a week. Marilyn’s workshop, **What to Say to a Person in a Wheelchair**, will help well meaning individuals feel more comfortable interacting with people in wheelchairs rather than avoiding the situation because they don’t know the “right” thing to do or say.

Paul Leichty – Parent, former pastor, and founder/director of Anabaptist Disabilities Network (www.adnetonline.org). Through Paul’s workshop, **Healing Community in an Over-stimulated World**, participants will learn about the dilemma of over-stimulation for society as a whole and, especially, for those with social and communication challenges. You will identify ways to reduce over-stimulation in work, home, and congregational settings and to respond compassionately to persons for whom this is a challenge.

MARC – Serves more than 900 children in the Early Intervention program per year and 2,400 families who need advocacy services for a family member with a disability; membership of 1,500. The Arc works to better

the lives of people with mental retardation and other developmental needs. Visit marcpa.org. MARC’s workshop, **Where to Turn When a Child with a Disability Is Born**, will share tips, tools, and resources for the family or congregation that is new to the world of developmental disabilities.

Paul and Kim Miller – Founder/director of See Jesus; Paul, his wife Jill, and his daughter Kim are members at Line Lexington Mennonite Church. Visit www.seejesus.net. Kim communicates through selecting icons and letters on a keyboard that are verbalized by an electronic voice (known as an Augmentative Communication Device or ACD). Paul and Kim’s workshop, **Loving Kim: Watching Our Designer God at Work**, will demonstrate how the act of loving draws us closer into union with Christ.

Hans Reinders, Ph.D. - Willem van der Bergh Professor of Ethics and Mental Disability at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam; internationally known author and presenter and parent of child with a disability. Author of **Receiving the Gift of Friendship: Profound Disability, Theological Anthropology and Ethics**. Eerdmans Publishing. (February, 2008). Hans’ seminars, **Problems of Caring in an Over-Corporatized, Consumerized Service System** and **Ethics on the Workfloor**, will focus on ethical issues faced by people in disability services.

Rejoicing Spirits – A groundbreaking, successful ministry which reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, and other supportive community members. This is done through an inclusive, adapted worship and fellowship time which delivers God’s message of love. You’ll learn how this model might be applied to your congregation. To learn more about Rejoicing Spirits, visit rejoicingspirits.org.

Barbara Shisler – Recognized poet, writer, and author of **Blessed Is the Meadow**; retired Mennonite pastor, Perkasio, PA; founder of the first Mennonite Faith and Light group in the US. Barbara’s workshop, **Blessed Is the Meadow**, will focus on Beatitude stories of the spiritual lives of people with disabilities. Listen to individuals share their personal stories.



Richard Steele, Ph.D. – Seattle Pacific University, Professor of Moral and Historical Theology and father of a daughter with a disability; author of (among numerous books and articles) a book chapter, **Five Things I’d Like a Youth Minister to Know about Disabilities**. The workshop, **For Fathers Only**, will create space for fathers to openly discuss their feelings and will offer father-to-father tips and wisdom

on nurturing themselves and their families.

Carl Yusavitz, D.Min. – Director of Pastoral Services, Penn Foundation for Mental Health, Sellersville, PA. Penn Foundation is a behavioral healthcare ministry of the Franconia Conference of the Mennonite Church USA. Carl’s workshop, **Going beyond the Pastor to the Rest of the Church**, notes that many people with mental illness remark how much they love their pastor. Explore pastoral strategies to equip the WHOLE church to include persons with mental illness in the life of the congregation.