



Church Disability Advocate Description & Covenant

- Position:** Church Disability Advocate volunteer
Duration: Two years (renewable)
Commitment: 2-4 hours per month (1-2 hours in supporting people with disabilities and their families; 1-2 hours in follow-up, research, networking, etc.)
Goal: To serve one's congregation by championing the full inclusion of people with disabilities in church life

Activities and Responsibilities:

- Identify the needs of church members living with a disability (and their loved ones) and together explore with church leaders appropriate ways for the church to respond.
- Encourage the full inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the church so that their God-given abilities are utilized fully.
- Assist people with disabilities and their families (as appropriate) to identify needed resources.
- Offer Disability Concerns resources to the congregation, including *Breaking Barriers*.
- Advocate for the adoption of a disability policy by church leaders and assist in its implementation.
- Establish and implement annual goals to improve the congregation's welcome and engagement of people with disabilities.
- Communicate yearly with the Regional (Classis) Advocate for Disability Concerns and participate in training opportunities when possible.

Preferred Skills and Abilities:

- Love for God and God's people
- Good communication skills
- Willingness to work with others and follow through on commitments
- Ability to establish positive relationships with members and newcomers

I have read and understand the activities and responsibilities of a Church Advocate. For the next two years, I am willing to volunteer 2-4 hours per month of my time, energy, and creativity in helping my church engage and be engaged by people with disabilities.

Your church/location _____

Your name/email/phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Return to:

For RCA churches: Terry DeYoung, RCA Coordinator for Disability Concerns, 4500 60th Street SE, Grand Rapids MI 49512 (tdeyoung@rca.org; 616-541-0855). For more information: www.rca.org/disability.

For CRCNA churches: Mark Stephenson, CRCNA Director of Disability Concerns, 1700 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508 (mstephenson@crcna.org; 888-463-0272). For more information: www.crcna.org/disability.

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