



OPENING THE CHURCH TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

LETTER OF INVITATION

TRAINING COURSE: 5 – 9 JUNE 2017: DISABILITY INCLUSION FACILITATORS

"Persons with disability feel excluded from churches." This was the finding of a research project undertaken in South African churches, with persons with disability.

These are some of their stories:

'After my accident, I came back to church as a paraplegic, now using a wheelchair. My old friends at church now avoided conversation with me. A few others just came to tell me I don't have to take responsibilities any more at church, they will do my part.' – a 40-year-old man who was a deacon in the church.

'So often in churches people want to pray for me, assuming that I need healing from the disabilities that remained after I had a stroke. Nobody cares to talk to me and show interest in me as a person.' – a young mother with mild disability.

It is estimated that about 5% of persons with disabilities are reached by churches. As evident in the above stories, research reveals that many of the remaining "unreached" 95% have a longing to be included in the church and to be part of the body of Christ.

Two organisations, RampUp and Christian Blind Mission (CBM), have embarked on a joint endeavour to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in churches.

One of the elements of this programme is to train people to become 'Disability Inclusion Facilitators' in their churches. The training will enable participants to:

- **Facilitate discussion groups** about disability inclusion in the church.
- Raise awareness about disability inclusion by facilitating the annual **Disability Awareness Sunday**.
- Do a basic assessment of **accessibility** of church buildings and worship services and facilitate the necessary changes.

WE THEREFORE INVITE YOU TO:

- Share our concern about the exclusion of persons with disabilities from active membership of the church.
- Get involved by delegating people (both disabled or non-disabled) from your church to be trained as 'Disability Inclusion Facilitators'.
- Set plans in place for to enhance the inclusion and belonging of persons with disability in your church

FORMAT OF THE TRAINING

The training will be offered at Padre Pio retreat centre, Rietvallei rand (Elardus park) Pretoria; 5 – 9 June 2017 and participants will be expected to stay at the centre for the full duration of the workshop.

A workshop format is followed which means that participants are expected to actively take part in various activities.

It is an intensive process of written assignments, assessments and personal transformation. Participants must be able to express themselves in English and willingly cooperate towards developing a liberating approach to disability inclusion.

Cost: The training is subsidised. However, applicants and their churches are invited to make a financial contribution towards the cost. Please discuss with the organisers.

The full value of the training is R8000 per person. This includes training material, all meals and accommodation (R2545.00). Participants are expected to cover their own traveling cost.

A registration fee of R500 will be compulsory which is payable at registration.

THE PROFILE OF THE IDEAL CANDIDATES

When churches select trainees, the following should be kept in mind:

- 1 A person with a specific interest in people with disabilities and their inclusion in the faith community.
- 2 A person with a disability; or a family member or friend of a person with disability who has first-hand experience of disability.
- 3 A leader who has experience in training, public speaking, facilitation, able to communicate effectively and influence persons and structures.
- 4 A Grade 12 / matric or more advanced qualification.
- 5 A good command of English that allows for learning and expressing himself or herself clearly in English. The training is offered in English.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Should you be interested in working towards disability inclusion in your church, kindly fill in the application form and send it to Erna Möller at erna@tlm.co.za. Enquiries: 012 345 4915.
2. The closing date for applications is 19 May 2017.
3. Applicants will be assessed according to their profile as set out above.
4. We will inform you whether your application was successful by no later than 23 May 2017.
5. All participants who have been accepted will then be required to pay a registration fee of R500.00 by 26 May 2017.

We look forward to developing a good working relationship with you – for the sake of *Opening the church to persons with disabilities*.

Erna Möller
Project leader – RampUp
erna@tlm.co.za 012 345 4915

3	INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISABILITY FIELD	
3.1	Have you attended any previous workshops and/or training regarding disability? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3.2	If "yes", give more information:	
3.3	Do you personally have any contact with persons with disability?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.4	What is the current involvement of your local congregation regarding inclusion of persons with disabilities? What is your involvement in this programme?	
4	Experience in training, facilitation and public speaking	
4.1	Do you have any experience in running training sessions, information sessions or public speaking? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
4.2	If "Yes", give more detail:	
5	Why would you like to attend this training for Disability Inclusion Facilitators?	
6	How do you intend to use the skills and knowledge obtained in this training?	
7	RampUp expects trained facilitators to keep us informed of their involvement and contribution for a minimum of five years after the initial training. This feedback is given by completing a feedback form once a year. Would you be willing to complete such a feedback form? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
8	Give contact details of two people who know you well, particularly considering your interest and involvement in Disability Inclusion. (Give Name and contact telephone numbers)	
	Name:	Telephone:
	Name:	Telephone:
9	Did you complete this form yourself? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If "no" please provide the details of the person who completed this form on your behalf.	
	Name: Relationship to you: Telephone numbers:	

Return the completed application form to Erna Möller at erna@tlm.co.za no later than 19 May 2017