

# OPC National Diaconal Summit IV

Ministry to, and with, people affected by disability.

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What are the barriers that get in the way of our ministry to, and with, people with disabilities?  
“It is often easier for a person with a disability to get a beer at a bar than it is to enter a church to pray.” Attributed to John R Dunne

## 1. Issues of Accessibility

Ministry in this building—is it accessible?  
(Entering, Sitting, Seeing, Hearing, Sensing)  
See sample checklist. Several other checklists are available.

## 2. Issues of Communication

Ministry means listening. Hear what people tell you.  
See sample disability etiquette.  
Sight impaired  
Hearing Impaired  
Wheelchairs  
Autism Spectrum

## 3. Issues of Attitude

Are we prone to judge first and be kind later?  
What kind of church would we become if we simply stopped evaluating people from a human point of view rather than a chosen-in-Christ point of view?

Consider the impact of 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 upon our ministry.

“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Luke 14:13-14