



Stephanie O. Hubach MNA Special Needs Ministries Director 278 Stony Lane Stevens, PA 17578

August 2016

Dear Friend of MNA Special Needs Ministries,

One of the greatest adventures of my life has been the privilege of launching and leading MNA Special Needs Ministries during the last nine years. I am so grateful for the ways in which God has abundantly blessed us with an amazing team and taken the figurative "loaves and fishes" that we have brought to the table and multiplied them beyond what we could have asked for or imagined. In my personal skill set, I am wired much more like a "ministry launcher" than I am wired as a "follow-on leader." It has been said, "a leader's job is to look into the future and see the organization, not as it is, but as it should be." In prayerfully considering the opportunities that lie before us—to deepen the work that we have started, to develop many more practical resources that our churches can use, and to proactively address the needs or a growing population of people with autism—I believe it is time for me to joyfully pass the torch of leadership to new hands with appropriate skill sets for the work which lies ahead.

In concert with the leadership of MNA, we have developed a plan that we believe will serve the denomination well for the next decade of ministry development in "making the gospel—the good news of the coming of Christ's kingdom—accessible to all, in word and deed." In addition to filling the Director position we have added the new position of Associate Director of Congregational Care (ADCC). This role will allow us to have a staff person focused specifically on the needs of our PCA congregations in ministering to and alongside people with disabilities and their families. In addition to gleaning information from our local churches about the types of resources that we need to be developing, the ADCC will oversee our team of volunteer Facilitators who conduct many of our church consultations and provide much of our training.

We are thrilled to announce that God has provided two wonderful people to fulfill these positions—each in a part-time capacity. Our new director, **Ashley Hall Belknap**, is a talented young leader who excels in developing and advancing vision, mission and goals in a genuine relational style. A gifted communicator with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Reformed Theological Seminary, Ashley has the ability to tackle challenging issues with creative

and practical ministry applications. She served for four years as Director of Women's Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS where she led a wide variety of ministry initiatives. As the mother of a son with autism, Ashley has a personal passion to see families touched by disability reached with the good news of the gospel. Ashley and her husband, John, have three children and reside in Brandon, MS and attend Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church. Ashley will join the staff on 1 September 2016.

Our new Associate Director for Congregational Care, **Kristen Harnly**, is also well-qualified. For almost ten years, Kristen has been the disability ministry leader at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA. She has already served on our team of volunteer Facilitators for four years. Kristen is an Occupational Therapist by training, an excellent problem-solver and a caring leader. In addition to living with epilepsy herself, Kristen's son has learning disabilities. Both of these life-shaping realities have formed Kristen's heart for gospel ministry to and through families touched by disability in their local congregations. Originally a native of Georgia, Kristen and her husband, Keith, have two teenage children and reside in Havertown, PA. Kristen will join the staff on 1 October 2016.

My new position, Consultant, will allow me to stay on staff (part time) and mentor our new staff members well through the process of transition over the next year. I continue to remain deeply committed to serving the Church, to loving people with disabilities and their families, and to participating in the work of advancing the good news of the gospel. I'm also excited to see what God has in store for me personally in the future. Joel Wallace, our Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Cheryl Erb, our Assistant, are faithfully continuing in their current full time positions.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in this ministry that God has blessed in mighty ways over the years! Join me in praising God for what he has done, and for eagerly anticipating how he will work again in the future. Please welcome our newest staff members, and please pray for our entire team during this exciting time of growth.

P.S. If you have been supporting me financially, please continue to do so! Your ongoing ministry partnership is still needed!

In His Name,

Stephanie O. Hubach

MNA Special Needs Ministries, Director

Stephanie Hubach Ashley Hall Belknap Kristen Harnly Joel Wallace Cheryl Erb shubach@pcanet.org abelknap@pcanet.org kharnly@pcanet.org jwallace@pcanet.org cerb@pcanet.org

Consultant (as of 1 September 2016)
Director
Associate Director of Congregational Care
Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives
Assistant