

**“May God help you live well with one another,
so that you praise God with a united voice.”**

(Romans 15:5–6, paraphrased)

100 United Years

Miriam Spies

Miriam Spies was born in 1988 in Quebec. As a child, she loved to swim, read, ride horses, and spend time with her family. Miriam also spent a lot of time at church because her parents were ministers.

Miriam has Cerebral Palsy, a disability that makes it hard for her to move and speak. She uses a power wheelchair and sometimes has a service dog. It was not always easy for Miriam to make friends as a kid, but church was a safe place for her.

As she grew older, Miriam felt called by God to be a minister like her parents. Her church community agreed. Yet, after Miriam finished school, many churches did not welcome her because of her disability. They couldn't imagine a minister who used a wheelchair and spoke slower.

Miriam knew she was meant to serve God and God's people. She also knew her experience as a queer disabled woman meant she had a unique understanding of God's love. Today, Miriam volunteers at her home church, on national committees, and with the World Council of Churches. This group includes Christians from all over the world who talk about loving and serving God. Miriam first joined them in 2011 in Jamaica. She listens to people, joins in worship, and talks about being a disciple of Jesus. She even served as a leader for nine years.

Miriam believes that learning from churches around the world helps us become better disciples. Together, we listen for God's voice and care for God's creation.



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