



BEYOND THE RAMP: DISABILITY MINISTRY [LIVE Q&A]

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"Ninety percent of what you need to know to do a good job welcoming and including people with disabilities you already know."

Erik Carter



DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights and
Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 2006**



EXAMPLES

Physical impairments, such as amputation, paralysis, and cerebral palsy



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Intellectual impairment, or significantly below-average intelligence that results in limitations in performing the activities of daily life

Sensory impairments, such as blindness and being hard of hearing, and difficulty processing sensory information



A disability is an impairment, “which in interaction with various barriers, may hinder [a person’s] full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”



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A disability includes the response of society (including the church) with regard to that impairment



TOPICS TO HELP YOU THINK OF QUESTIONS

Liability

Worship "disruptions"

Dealing with aggressive behaviors

Disability, law, and the church

Allergies and sensitivities

Autism

Mental illness

Setting appropriate boundaries

Accommodating people with specific disabilities

Involving youth and adults with disabilities

Teaching and managing students with disabilities



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Notes:

Nlla Uitvlugt

A woman with intellectual disability from our church seems to be making poor spending choices and keeps asking our church for money.

What should we do?



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Notes:



What suggestions do you have to get the average member from our church interested in disability ministry?

Many times the attitude is, “we don’t have anyone with disabilities in our church.”



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Notes:



A family from our church has a child with a disability, and they have a lot of extra needs.

How should our church respond?



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Notes:



A young man with autism in our church has outbursts and the other kids his age don't know how to relate to him.

What should we do?



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Notes:



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities by Barbara Newman

Autism and Your Church by Barbara Newman (also available in Spanish)

Inclusion Handbook (download free from www.crcna.org/disability)

Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities by Erik Carter

www.friendship.org

www.crcna.org/disability

www.clcnetwork.org (click on Church Services for the GLUE manual)

www.pathways2promise.org

CONTACT US

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