

Disability and Religion Resource List

Many religions and denominations will have specific statements and/or resources on disabilities. Please note that the list below is not comprehensive.

Adventist

Seventh-Day Adventist Church Disability Ministries

Link: www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=25

Description: This link leads to the North American Adventist Church homepage that has information on their division of disability ministries. A statement about disability ministries can be found here as well as resources that can be acquired by mail.

Baptist

Bethlehem Baptist Church Disability Ministry

Link: www.hopeingod.org/DisabilityMinistryatBBC.aspx

Description: The Bethlehem Baptist Church Disability Ministry has this vision: to "value and display the supremacy of God in disability and suffering." Their resources include an in-depth presentation on their disability ministry (PDF) and some specific tips on welcoming persons with different disabilities.

Teaching Children with Disabilities in Regular Classes

Link:

www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0%2C1703%2CA%25253D150198%252526M%25253D200824%2C00.html

Description: This page provides a list of general principles for adaptation and links to other related articles.

Gospel Accountability: When Can Special Needs Adults Understand the Gospel?

Link:

www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0%2C1703%2CA%25253D168109%252526M%25253D201144%2C00.html

Description: This article addresses the issue of salvation for people with severe disabilities. The author states: "Anyone with a disability, however severe, can come into God's kingdom. They can be as receptive to the working of the Holy Spirit as anyone else. To question whether anyone has the capacity to come into the kingdom questions the power of the Holy Spirit."

North American Mission Board Disability Awareness

Link: www.namb.net/site/c.9qKILUOzEpH/b.232954/k.83A9/Disabilities_Awareness.htm

Description: This site includes a statement of purpose, links, and resources. The NAMB states: "You and your church can develop accessible buildings and open attitudes toward people with disabilities. You can encourage them to be all God created them to be and offer support to their families."

Catholic

Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities

Link: www.usccb.org/prolife/personswithdisabilities.shtml

Description: This statement was written in 1978 and states that the mission of the Catholic church includes furthering the spiritual and intellectual development of the people it serves and working for a deeper understanding of both the pain and the potential of all people in the church with disabilities.

Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities: A Framework of Access and Inclusion A Statement of the U.S. Bishops

Link: www.usccb.org/doctrine/disabilities.shtml

Description: This moral framework is based upon Catholic documents and serves as a guide for contemplation and action.

Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators

Link: [Http://ipi.udayton.edu/nice.htm](http://ipi.udayton.edu/nice.htm)

Description: The Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators serves as a support network and resource to individuals with disabilities and their families by providing conferences, DVD and print resources, consultations, workshops and networking opportunities on the national and local level.

National Catholic Partnership on Disability

Link: www.ncpd.org

Description: The National Catholic Partnership on Disability provides resources from materials to seminars. Rooted in Gospel values that affirm the dignity of every person, the NCPD works collaboratively to ensure meaningful participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of the life of the Church and society.

National Catholic Office for the Deaf

Link: www.ncod.org--National

Description: The mission of NCOD is to “Spread God’s message through the support of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Pastoral Ministry so that we may all be one in Christ.” They do this through providing lists of links, resources, magazines, and many other tools.

Episcopal

The Episcopal Diocese of New York: Providing for Disabilities

Link: www.diocesenyc.org/pages/200

Description: This page is a fact sheet of questions and answers about disability and making churches more accessible in the New York diocese.

The Episcopal Disability Network

Link: <http://disability99.org/index.html>

Description: We are an organization of the Episcopal Church that works for the inclusion of people with disabilities into the life of the church and of society. We provide consultation, multi-media resources, a lending library, and we advocate for people with disabilities.

How do you begin?

Link: <http://home.earthlink.net/~disability99/id3.html>

Description: This webpage gives an outline for how to form a committee for disability concerns in order to establish a ministry to address disability issues.

Jewish

Union for Reformed Judaism: Disabilities

Link: <http://urj.org/life/community/disabilities/>

Description: This page begins by stating: “Our goal is the full participation in the spiritual, educational and communal aspects of synagogue life for people living with disabilities and for their families.” Many resources are provided.

Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities

Link: www.njcd.org/

Description: Yachad/NJCD is dedicated to enhancing the life opportunities of individuals with disabilities, ensuring their participation in the full spectrum of Orthodox Jewish life. Yachad members participate in activities each month.

The Power of Belonging: Welcoming Jews with Disabilities into Jewish Communal Life (Orthodox Union)

Link: www.ou.org/pdf/ja/5766/fall66/WelcomingJewsDisab.pdf

Description: This document addresses the reality that many communities are not accessible and moves into positive examples of inclusion and ways of including people with many different disabilities in Jewish communal life.

It’s My Birthright Too! Orthodox Union

Link: www.ou.org/pdf/ja/5767/fall67/64-66.pdf

Description: This link opens the document with this statement: “The only disability-friendly birthright tour helps Jews with disabilities experience a dream come true in Israel.”

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Religion, Conservative Judaism

Link: www.uscj.org/The_Americans_with_D7512.html

Description: The ADA is explained along with what the law requires of religious institutions.

Inclusion of People with Disabilities, Conservative Judaism

Link: www.uscj.org/Accessibility7508.html

Description: This site is the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism’s site for information about programs, services, and access that welcomes people with disabilities. The site includes a mission statement, questions and answers, and resources.

Empowering Jews with Disabilities

Link: www.empoweringjewswithdisabilities.org/links.html

Description: The creators of this site describe their goal in this way: “This site was created because it is time for Jews with disabilities to be seen and heard. Our goal is to embrace a spirit where we can express ourselves freely, take a stand, be a part of a welcoming community, and rejoice in our strengths and abilities. We need to ask for help while striving for independence in whatever fashion we can attain for ourselves. We will support each other emotionally and spiritually through this site. This site will help create the tools we need to be our own advocates.”

Jewish Special Education International Consortium

Link: www.jsped.org

Description: The Jewish Special Education International Consortium is a professional network of Directors, Coordinators and Administrators of Jewish special education services in Central Agencies for Jewish Education. The mission of the Consortium is to provide a structured forum that will enable professionals in special education to access and disseminate information and ideas.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Disability Resources

Link: <http://disabilities.lds.org/disabilities/eng/>

Description: This Web section on disabilities has been created to offer support, comfort, and an increased level of acceptance toward those with disabilities. Those individuals who live with a disability, their caregivers, as well as leaders, teachers, and members may find within this site additional understanding of specific disabilities and some of the difficulties faced by those involved.

Lutheran

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Link: www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=14173

Description: The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is aware of the barriers to worship that people with disabilities face. At this website, LCMS provides many Disability Ministry Resources that can help you welcome all people to worship, regardless of physical, mental or developmental ability.

2. Disability and Deaf Ministries (ELCA)

Link: www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Disability-Ministries.aspx

Description: Disability and Deaf ministries recognize the beauty of each unique person and strives to provide information, resources and networking to help all of God's children to be included and celebrated in the Church.

10 Teacher Training Ideas for an Inclusive Classroom

Link: www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Disability-Ministries/Education/10-Teacher-Ideas.aspx

Description: An inclusive classroom is about innovation and preparation. For both teacher and student, the motto is "there is no right way to do something." Be creative and seek out ideas from others.

What it Means to be "Disabled": Theological and Ethical Reflections

Link: www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Journal-of-Lutheran-Ethics/Issues/July-2007/What-it-Means-to-Be-Disabled-Theological-and-Ethical-Reflections.aspx

Description: Deborah Creamer teaches and writes about disability and addresses assumptions and models of disability in the church.

Disabilities Links (ELCA)

Link: www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/DCS/DISABILITIES_inlk.pdf

Description: This ELCA list of resources gives links for families and congregations that are both related to the denomination and are secular.

Wisconsin Synod Commission on Special Ministries

Link: www.wels.net/cgi-bin/site.pl?2617&collectionID=1332&contentID=87526&shortcutID=29675

Description: The Commission on Special Ministries offers spir-itual and other services to people whose needs are not adequately met by the regular ministries of WELS parishes, schools, and agencies.

Orthodox

Arms Open Wide

Link: <http://armsopenwide.wordpress.com/resources-2/>

Description: Arms Wide Open is set up as a space to share information as well as providing resources that include links to other websites.

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) Disability Policy—Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities (2006)

Link: www.pcusa.org/phewa/resources/living-into-the-body-of-christ.pdf

Description: This 2006 denominational statement includes basic information on the stance of the church on disability and a rationale for creating a task force.

Welcoming People with Mental or Developmental Disabilities (PCUSA)

Link: www.pcusa.org/phewa/networks/pdc/pdf/aswcp-welcoming-mental.pdf

Description: This two-page information sheet describes what disability is and how people acquire disabilities and then lists ways church leaders are welcoming people with disabilities into congregations.

Making an Accessible Website (PCUSA)

Link: www.pcusa.org/phewa/networks/pdc/church-website-accessible.htm

Description: This website describes how to make a website accessible for people with visual disabilities by using means such as speech technology.

Creating a Task Force on Disability Issues/Inclusion Committee (PCUSA)

Link: www.pcusa.org/phewa/networks/pdc/taskforce.htm

Description: Information on how to form a task force is given and the site opens with this statement: “A Task Force on Disability Issues can be a major catalyst for a congregation to take seriously the call for the church to be a ‘house of prayer for all people’ — in this instance, persons who have a disability and their families.”

Establishing a Presbytery committee on disability concerns (PCUSA)

Link: www.pcusa.org/phewa/networks/pdc/presbytery-committee.htm

Description: A presbytery committee on disability concerns offers opportunities for addressing issues such as utilizing the gifts and different abilities of church members with disabilities. This link contains knowledge collected from the experiences of one presbytery.

Whoever Welcomes Me: What does it mean to include *all* of God’s Children? (PCUSA)

Link: www.pcusa.org/horizons/archives/2006/hrznjlag06/whoever.pdf

Description: This article addresses these concerns:

“While many congregations have created physical access to their buildings, the psychological barriers to inclusion have yet to be broken down. These barriers range from ignoring the needs of children with disabilities to lack of inclusivity in worship services.”

Creating an Inclusive Community (PCUSA)

Link: www.pcusa.org/horizons/archives/2004/hrznspot04/creating.pdf

Description: This document gives tips for gaining access, awareness, and acceptance.

Resource List of Books (PCUSA)

Link: www.pcusa.org/phewa/resources/resources-pdc.htm

Description: This list includes books for children and adults ranging from personal experiences to how to include people with disabilities in congregations.

The Dignity of Every Human, Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

Link: <http://byfaithonline.com/page/in-the-world/the-dignity-of-every-human>

Description: This article from the PCA’s web magazine, *by Faith*, delves into what it means to be made in the image of God and issues of equality and respect.

Reformed Church of America

Christian Reformed Church: Disability Concerns

Link: www.crcna.org/pages/disability.cfm

Description: This page has resources, information on consulting service, and statements on what the denomination believes about disability.

Unitarian Universalist

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities: 1997 Business Resolution

Link: www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/14236.shtml

Description: This business resolution and denominational statement outlines an aggressive plan to address accessibility within the Unitarian Universalist Association for people with disabilities. The resolution also states that the Unitarian Universalist Association acts as an advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities both within its own association and globally.

Disability 101: Introduction

Link: www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/accessibility/disability101/index.shtml

Description: This page offers a definition of disability and basic information. It states that the environment in which we live, learn, play, sing, work, and meditate, reflect, and pray must feel "welcome" in order for everyone to grow and thrive.

Disability 101: Hidden or Invisible Disabilities

Link: www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/accessibility/disability101/27049.shtml

Description: This page offers a partial list of disabilities and chronic conditions that you may see no signs of on the outside and some very helpful comments by a Unitarian Universalist lay leader who has an invisible disability.

Disability and stereotypes: beyond accessibility

Link: www.uua.org/documents/idbm/beyond_accessibility.pdf

Description: This resource addresses stereotypes of people with disabilities and has questions, answers, and resources for overcoming stereotypes and seeing a person with a disability as whole and their disability as part of the human experience.

Access Resources and Beyond the Ramp

Link: www.uua.org/documents/idbm/access_resources.pdf

Description: These are lists of resources to help you welcome people with disabilities.

Welcoming Children with Special Needs: A Guidebook for Faith Communities. Sally Patton.

Link: http://archive.uua.org/re/faithworks/winterspring05/sj_special.html

Description: *Welcoming Children with Special Needs* is a life-affirming book about a difficult subject. Reading it opens our eyes to new ways of thinking about children with special needs – maybe new ways of thinking about all children.

Sex Education for Physically, Emotionally, and Mentally Challenged Youth

Link: www.uua.org/documents/advocatesyouth/sexed_challengedyouth.pdf

Description: Resources, organizations, websites, questions and answers about why parents should educate their adolescents with disabilities about sex.

The Bigger Picture

Link: www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/accessibility/disability101/27066.shtml

Description: An important part of making our Unitarian Universalist community more welcoming and affirming of people with disabilities is being open to the perspectives and controversies in the disability activist community. These articles, some illuminating, some even disturbing, provide a place to start reflection and dialogue about "The Bigger Picture."

United Church of Christ

United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries

Link: www.uccdm.org/

Description: This site helps members and friends of the UCC explore what it means for our churches (and our hearts) to be "accessible to all." Some resources here are available to download. You can check on new developments or read about our 25+ year history of advocacy within our denomination and the wider world.

God of Wholeness

Link: www.ucc.org/.../God-of-Wholeness-for-All-Acess-Sunday-October-11-09.pdf

Description: This prayer was written to be used for All Access Sunday.

United Methodist

The rights of persons with disabilities (from the *Book of Discipline*)

Link: www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=1wL4KnN1LtH&b=5019205&content_id=%

Description: This website is still in production and will be available soon but is not currently available.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) DISC (Disability Concerns)

Link: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/disc/>

Description: DISC is a resource for persons with disabilities, their families, friends, caretakers, congregations and clergy. This page offers information related to disability concerns with a focus on spiritual care. Here, you will find material on developmental disabilities, mental illness, appropriate language, social and environmental accessibility and resources on disability for individuals and faith communities.

Statement from the United Methodist National Task Force on Developmental Disabilities

Link: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/UMCOR/work/health/disc/developmental-disabilities/?search=curriculum>

Description: The mission of the United Methodist National Task Force on Developmental Disabilities is to identify, develop and communicate about programs and resources for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities within the faith community of each Annual Conference, and to mobilize disability champions to represent each Annual Conference and promote our vision.

Awareness: A Manual for Ministry of Accessibility, June 2001 (Tennessee Annual Conference for the United Methodist Church)

Link to PDF:

[www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=Awareness%3A+A+Manual+for+Ministry+of+Accessibility%2C+June+2001+\(Tennessee+Annual+Conference+for+the+United+Methodist+Church\)&aq=f&oq=&aqi=](http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=Awareness%3A+A+Manual+for+Ministry+of+Accessibility%2C+June+2001+(Tennessee+Annual+Conference+for+the+United+Methodist+Church)&aq=f&oq=&aqi=)

Description: This four-page manual gives tips for inexpensively making your congregation more accessible.

Autism and Spirituality: Information for Religious Education Teachers

Link: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/media/pdfs%20health/autism%5Fspirituality042007.pdf>

Description: This PDF gives information on the characteristics of autism and tips for teaching people with autism.

Jonathan's Child Ministry

Link: www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=1wL4KnN1LtH&b=2072519&ct=4495981

Description: The Jonathan's Child ministry assists children with disabilities and provides support and encouragement to their families.

Interdenominational

On the Road to Congregational Inclusion

Link: <http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/DimensionsfinalAugust2005.pdf>

Description: This 170 page list of resources is a bibliography and address listing of resources for clergy, laypersons, families, and service providers published by the Boggs Center of New Jersey.

The Creative Soul of Children, Inc.

Link: www.thecreativesoulofchildren.org/about.html

Description: The mission of this nondenominational group is to start a national campaign to shift awareness for children with special needs labels from focus on children's deficits to focus on children's assets.

Pathways Awareness Foundation

Link: www.inclusioninworship.org

Description: The "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" program assists congregations of all faith traditions to include people with physical, sensory, mental or emotional differences into all aspects of faith life.

Friendship Ministries

Link: www.friendship.org

Description: As an international, inter-denominational ministry with more than 25 years of service, Friendship Ministries has helped equip churches from more than 60 denominations to include people with cognitive impairments.

Pathways to Promise

Link: www.pathways2promise.org

Description: Pathways to Promise is an interfaith technical assistance and resource center which offers liturgical and educational materials, program models, and networking information to promote a caring ministry with people with mental illness and their families. These resources are used by people at all levels of faith group structures from local congregations to regional and national staff.

Interfaith Disability Connection

Link: www.interfaithdisability.org/blog/?cat=1

Description: Interfaith Disability Connection is a blog that educates and engages faith communities in cultivating mutually beneficial relationships with people with disabilities.

Resources were not found for:

Islam, Asian religions/Buddhism, Pentecostal, **Church of Christ**

If you know of resources that are not present on this list, please email Courtney Taylor, courtney.taylor@vumc.org, or call (615) 322-5658.