

# Awareness

## Objectives:

- To verbalize comfort with disability etiquette and people-first language
- To understand the biblical and historical background for negative perceptions of persons with disabilities
- To differentiate between healing and curing
- To identify collective and individual attitudes about disability that divide the body of Christ and to consider attitudes that bind us together

## Closing Litany

Group One: We recognize that God made all creation and saw that it was good.

**Group Two: As a diverse people of God who bring special gifts and evidences of God's grace to the unity of the Church and to society,**

Group One: We are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus' ministry to all persons

**Group Two: Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support**

Group One: that enables all persons to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the world.

**Group Two: Thus inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination.**

Group One: The services of worship [fellowship, and educational offerings] of every local church of The United Methodist Church.

**Group Two: shall be open to all persons.**

Group One: The mark of an inclusive society is one in which all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supporting of all other persons,

**Group Two: enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church, the community, and the world.**

Group One: A further mark of inclusiveness is the setting of church activities in facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**All: In The United Methodist Church inclusiveness means the freedom for the total involvement of all persons...Amen**

## **Help Us Accept Each Other**

UMC Hymn Book p. 560 Words: Fred Kaan/Music: Johh Ness Beck

1 Help us accept each other As Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother, Each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us And bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted And meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons, As in our daily life  
We struggle to be human And search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, For all, not just for some,  
To love them as we find them Or as they may become.

3 Let Your acceptance change us, So that we may be moved  
In living situations To do the truth in love;  
To practice Your acceptance Until we know by heart  
The table of forgiveness And laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters With all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance, For righteousness and bread,  
We need new eyes for seeing, New hands for holding on:  
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

# Accessibility

## Objectives:

- To recognize the role that environmental modifications, technology, and task adaptations play in enabling many persons with disabilities to live full, satisfying lives
- To carry out a functional accessibility audit with a focus on safety and access for persons with mobility and vision losses
- To describe the difference between communication needs and identity of persons who are part of the Deaf Culture, persons who are hard of hearing , and persons who are late-deafened.

**Scripture:** Luke 14: 12-24

## Opening Prayer - ALL:

God of all persons, thank you that we can come together with others and worship in the church. Help us to overcome self and really encounter each other so that we may assist each other in our worship and work. thank you for transforming us when we come together as a body to praise and worship in your name. Amen

**Accessibility Audit:** see handout

"Scriptures contain overwhelming evidence that the gospel of Jesus Christ, the saving power of God, is grasped and applied not in power or self-sufficiency but in weakness and brokenness. Further, if that is the case, we contend that people with disabilities display for us in a tangible fashion the transforming power of the gospel. If this is true, we ask why so few people with disabilities are seen in the pews of the average local church. If the gospel comes in weakness and brokenness, why are people with disabilities too often so absent from the covenant community of God's people" - Michael S. Beates

How can 100% of us know, work with, live with the disabled - but only (whatever amount is left) are served and used in our churches? THINK this weekend about WHO in your home, neighborhood, workplace, your child's school are being segregated from the Word of God and fellowship of His children because of a disability

## Closing Litany:

**Leader:** God of life, we connect with other and their stories and experiences

**All: God who created us all, mold our actions like those of Christ Jesus**

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, assist us as we discover a renewed understanding of the beauty in God's world.

**ALL: Lead us to grow in strength and wisdom. Amen**

# Integration

## Objectives:

- Disability ministry means an attitude of integration in which there is no place for "us" and "them", and all persons are welcomed and assimilated as members of the body of Christ.
- Congregations can learn to identify, nurture, and use the gifts of persons with all kinds of disabilities in the service of God.
- Leaders strengthen worship and education through employing all the senses and engaging heart and body as well as mind and spirit.

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26 (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MexBDXKdJbc>

**Song:** **Many Gifts, One Spirit** The United Methodist Hymnal # 114

Text: Al Carmines, 1973 Music: Al Carmines, 1973 Tune: KATHERINE

1- God of change and glory, God of time and space,  
When we fear the future, give to us your grace,  
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise

**Chorus:** Many gifts, One Spirit, One love known in many ways  
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we prayise  
One Giver One Lord, One Spirit, One Word  
Known in many ways, Hallowing our days.  
For the Giver, For the Gifts, Praise, Praise, Praise!

2- God of many colors, god of many signs,  
You have made us different, Blessing Many kinds.  
As the old ways disappear, Let your love cast out our fear.

**Chorus**

3- Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,  
You are still creating endless love and light  
Thee we see, as shadows part, many gifts from On great heart

**Chorus**

Prayer: Creator of us all, remind us that You are in charge. Beautiful people, divinely created by You, have been sent into this world for Your plans, regardless of the shape of the body. Many prayers would be answered if people were given a chance to show Your glory. Amen

## Closing Litany:

**Leader:** In our mind and lives, we have constructed a definition of what is "normal." When we do this, we smudge parts of God's masterpiece.

**All: Go Move us to Your Inclusive beauty, Creator God**

**Leader:** If a young person has ADHS or Tourette's are we willing to sit with them in the pew or do we move around them so we're not disturbed or because we are afraid?

**ALL: Move us to Your Inclusive beauty, Creator God.**

**Reader 1:** If a woman suffers depression, do we leave her be? If a man is bipolar, do we avoid him to make ourselves more comfortable? Or, could we possibly find God's love emanating through this person?

**All: Move us to You inclusive beauty, Creator God.**

**Reader 2:** If our sisters are absent because they have a new job of care taking their homebound loved ones - are we stepping up to offer respite? Do we give the encouragement needed to have the strength to face another day of bathing, feeding, and changing adult diapers?

**All: Move us to You inclusive beauty, Creator God.**

**Reader 1:** When the new parent learns that their newborn child is 'differntly abled', do we whisper pity thoughts to one another or do we step up in love and offer practical services from our hearts. Do we remember "God created man in His own image? In the image of God He created him = male and female, He created them.

**All: Move us to Your inclusive beauty, Creator God. Give us understanding that "having a disability is a difference like any other human characteristic. It is not a deficiency. It is by no means a tragedy. Disabled people are not in our way; they are a part of our way - they are the way to creating a caring church that truly reflects the love of Christ, as well as His power.**

# Advocacy

## Objectives:

- To verbalize awareness of discrimination and disadvantage that people with disabilities, including veterans, experience and how faith communities can make a difference
- To be prepared to advocate in one's local church and community to improve accessibility and integration
- To envision the gifts that a pastor living with or affected by a disability would bring to one's congregation

**Scripture:** Mark 2:1-12 (video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MshHMMnkS0Y>

**Video:** Special Needs Church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiAwkNmG3pw>

**Prayer:** To sit at the feet of Jesus listening to spiritual insights is a beautiful blessing. It is in these moments that we hear how to advocate for each other. In the name of your Son, give us wisdom and knowledge to bring about positive change. Amen

"We recognize and affirm the full humanity and personhood of all individuals with mental, physical, developmental, neurological and psychological conditions or disabilities as full members of the family of God.

Created in Your image we spill coffee.

Created in Your image we lose our memories.

Created in Your image we lose our reasoning skills and imagination.

Created in Your image we lose our emotional and relational skills.

Created in Your image we are injured by accidents.

Created in Your image we do not hear or see or speak.

And yet, You call us beloved.

Your name creation blessed.

In our vulnerability we are created in Your image.

And yet we are more than these, as You are more than vulnerability.

In our community with one another is our strength.

Created in Your image we have one another to clean up the coffee and to tell the stories that we forget.

Created in Your image we trust one another and You to remember to whom we belong.

Created in Your image we have You to behold in wonder and awe.

by Rev. Jeanne Tyler

## Closing:

**ALL:** Creator, forgive us for our lack of awareness in our perception of disability. It is our society's view on beauty and perfection that sometimes distorts our view of one another. Please help us to remember that you created each of us and are at work in our lives in ways we may not understand. Open our insight to the divine beauty, gifts, and talents in each of us. Amen.

**Song: Sent Out In Jesus Name:** The Faith We Sing p. 2184 Words: Anon trans.by Jorge Maldonado, alt. Music Trad. Cuban arr. by Carmen pena

Sent out in Jesus' name,	our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place	to which the kingdom comes.
The angels cannot change	a world of hurt and pain
Into a world of love,	of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,	to set it really free.
O help us to obey	and carry out your will

"Our God is the Great Weaver,  
who from the loom of diverse human experience  
weaves different colors, textures, shapes, sizes, and abilities together,  
creating one beautiful work of art we call humanity".

"Pray and meditate on this. What commitment can you make to the disabled of your community? Feel welcome to write or draw what you are feeling and leave on the body of Christ as you leave or share as the Spirit leads you. Please take a piece of broken pottery with you to remind you of your personal commitment and that God uses broken pottery everyday for His glory

Dear Lord, I'd like to hire you to do a little 'housekeeping' of my soul today. Dust me off and clean me out. Please don't miss those nasty corners I try to keep hidden with a smile and a giggle. Wipe clear the pane to my heart - it's getting hard to see through the darkness that has built up, and I'm tired of seeing only the inside. The garbage is overflowing, I've really let that pile up lately. When you finish wiping the cobwebs away and my innermost being is sparkly and shiny I'd like my favorite candle lit so my fragrance will be as sweet as your glory. Oh, and I hope you brought your rubbing oil, my hands and feet have been giving me trouble, they just don't seem to be working for you anymore.

[Beverly Maulden]

## RESOURCES

UMW 2014 Disability Workshop by Beverly Maulden Resources Used:

DisAbility Ministries Committee of the UMC

<http://www.umdisabilityministries.org/resource.html#5>

*A Place for All: Faith and Community for Persons with Disabilities* documentary \*GBGM

<http://www.divacomcommunications.com/programs/documentaries/a-place-for-all/>

UMC Mini Accessibility Audit:

[http://unyumc.s3.amazonaws.com/9C8986676DB741E5B564955D8AAEF832\\_Accessibility%20Mini-Audit%20for%20Churches.pdf](http://unyumc.s3.amazonaws.com/9C8986676DB741E5B564955D8AAEF832_Accessibility%20Mini-Audit%20for%20Churches.pdf)

That All May Worship:

<http://www.aapd.com/what-we-do/interfaith/that-all-may-worship/that-all-may-worship-cover.html>

Christian Reformed Church - Disability Concerns

[http://www2.crcna.org/pages/disability\\_worship.cfm](http://www2.crcna.org/pages/disability_worship.cfm)

Disability Awareness Sunday:

[http://www.interpretermagazine.org/interior\\_print.asp?ptid=43&mid=8153&pagemode=print](http://www.interpretermagazine.org/interior_print.asp?ptid=43&mid=8153&pagemode=print)

GBOD: <http://www.gbod.org/worship>

United Methodist Congress of the Deaf: <http://www.umcdhm.org>

The United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities

<http://www.umdisabledministers.org/about/100.html>

Cinderella and the Magical Wheelchair by Jewel Kats: [childrens book \$14]

<http://www.jewelkats.com/cinderella/story-synopsis-and-acclaim>

Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift (Max Lucado's Wemmicks)

YouTube Video's Used:

Psalm 139: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewHk\\_wL\\_cwk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewHk_wL_cwk)

Mark 2: 1-12: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MshHMMnkS0Y>

Understand Alzheimer's Disease in 3 Min: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eq\\_Er-tqPsA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eq_Er-tqPsA)

Special Needs Service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiAwknmG3pw>

Beautiful Things: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ4yNYY1hHM>

ASL song [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyVy\\_NQqOO0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyVy_NQqOO0)

\* Is not showing on website now, if can't find through GBGM can use this website

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