

Bibliography:

Accessible Gospel, Inclusive Worship, Barbara J. Newman (clcnetwork.org)

**After We're Gone: A Christian Perspective on Estate and Life Planning for Families that Include a Dependent Member with a Disability*, Duane Ruth-Heffelbower

+*Amazing Gifts: Stories of Faith, Disability, and Inclusion*, Mark I Pinsky

Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Barbara J. Newman

+**Circles of Love: Stories of Congregations Caring for People with Disabilities and Their Families*

+*Creating a Culture of Inclusion*, a video from the First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Michigan:

http://youtu.be/zh4wJB_jsJU

Creating Moment of Joy (for the Person with Alzheimer's or Dementia), Jolene Brackey

Every Child Welcome: A Ministry Handbook for Including Kids with Special Needs, Katie Wetherbee & Jolene Philo

+*Interpreting Disability: A Church of All and for All*, Arne Fritzon & Samuel Kabue

++*Living Gently in a Violent World: the Prophetic Witness of Weakness*, Stanely Hauerwas & Jean Vanier
Respectful Disability Language (pdf):

www.miusa.org/sites/default/files/documents/resource/Respectful%20Disability%20Language.pdf

+*Start with Hello: Introducing Your Church to Special Needs Ministry* (The Irresistible Church Series), Kate Brueck & Ali Howard

+**Supportive Care in the Congregation: Providing a Congregational Network of Care for Persons with Significant Disabilities*

The Child with Autism Learns about Faith: 15 Ready-to-Use Scripture Lessons, from the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea, Kathy Labosh

+*The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*, Naoki Higashida

++*The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology of Disability*, Nancy L. Eiesland

(+) best for group discussions

(++) more theological content

***Published by Anabaptist Disabilities Network and available at Brethren Press**

Additional Information:

Church of the Brethren Disabilities Ministry: www.brethren.org/disabilities/

Self Assessment form:

www.brethren.org/disabilities/documents/congregational-accessibility-survey.pdf

Open Roof Fellowship information:

www.brethren.org/disabilities/openroof.html

Anabaptist Disabilities Network: www.adnetonline.org/

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5 STAGES

the JOURNEY of DISABILITY ATTITUDES

STAGE 5: CO-LABORERS

STAGE 4: FRIENDSHIP

I have come to know and spend time with a friend who has a disability. This person has value in God's sight, but also in mine, and I know that my life is better for having known this person, and as much as I have helped her, she has also blessed me. In fact, I now like to initiate relationships with people who have disabilities. God brings many different people into my church and community, including people with disabilities, and we all benefit as we grow in friendship with each other.

If God has called each of us to serve and praise Him with every fiber of our beings, then He has done the same for our brothers and sisters in Christ with disabilities. I think ministry should not just be to people with disabilities, but with or alongside people who have disabilities. Together, we will encourage and equip each other, with and without disabilities, into every good work to respond to God's call on our lives. We can all give and we can all receive.

STAGE 3: CARE

Like me, people with disabilities were created in God's image. By that virtue alone they have value. I hope that someone will take the time to show them God's love, and I will happily support such an effort. In fact, I think we need to find ways to help those people. Maybe we should start a special church education class, or respite care for the sake of the parents.

STAGE 2: PITY

I feel sorry for people with disabilities. It's too bad, really. I am blessed by God and I can help others. I am grateful that my children are not disabled. People with weaknesses and disabilities obviously need someone like me to help them and give them meaning, due to their troubles. I really don't see any meaning or purpose to their lives.

STAGE 1: IGNORANCE

Weaknesses and disabilities are a sign that God either does not care or is not able to fix the situation. In fact, they may be a result of sin or a lack of faith. God is not involved in the life of someone with a disability, because He can't use people who are so broken. I do not know people with disabilities, nor do I know anything about disabilities. I have no interest in getting to know them or to know more about their life.

BUILDING AWARENESS PROVIDING ACCESS INTEGRATING ENGAGING



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