

Worshippers of All Abilities Feel Welcome When the Congregation:

- Displays a welcoming attitude by extending open arms to individuals of all abilities
- Chooses words that promote dignity and respect for individuals of differing abilities
- Removes physical barriers by using “universal design” to make buildings more accessible for everyone
- Makes worship services and religious education accessible to all
- Keeps welcoming and belonging “alive” by forming a TEAM W Ministry of committed individuals, including worshippers with disabilities

For free tools and grants of up to \$1,000 to welcome worshippers of all abilities visit or call:

www.team-w.org
1-800-364-1337

Welcoming Worshippers of All Abilities is Important

When we recognize and welcome the gifts of all people, even the most vulnerable among us, our faith communities are strengthened.

Please join TEAM W to ensure that your faith community reaches out to worshippers who happen to have disabilities to ask, “What can we do to welcome you and your family into our faith community?”

TEAM W
That Every Ability May Worship
www.team-w.org
1-800-364-1337



Team W: That Every Ability May Worship
is a program of
Pathways.org
www.Pathways.org



TEAM W
That Every Ability May Worship



Tools to Welcome
Worshippers of All Abilities

Use Free Materials and Funding at www.team-w.org

Did You Know?

- One in four adults - 61 million Americans - have a disability. Mobility, cognitive, hearing, and vision differences are most common.*

*Center for Disease Control Press Release 9/16/18

- Since 1996 TEAM W (formerly Inclusion In Worship) has provided interfaith educational materials about intentionally welcoming worshippers of all abilities.

- When worshippers of all abilities are offered the same respect and opportunity to participate and differences are accommodated, a sense of welcome and belonging is conveyed.



Start a TEAM W Ministry



- Start an ongoing ministry dedicated to intentionally welcoming worshippers of all abilities with our *TEAM W Ministry Handbook*.

Communicate Welcome

- Show dignity and respect for people of all abilities using our *People First Language* and *Guidelines for Clergy, Ushers and Lay Leaders* handouts.

Develop an Access Plan



- Use *Reflecting on Belonging* to address any attitudinal barriers.
- Use our *Facilities Survey* and *Survey of Congregant Needs* to determine accommodations needed.
- Prioritize projects with our *Accessibility Plan Worksheet*.

Fund Access Projects



- Our TEAM W Awards for adults and Junior TEAM W Awards for children and youth ages 5 -18 are grants of up to \$1,000 to help congregations and religious schools fund access and inclusion projects.

Annual deadline is October 1.

Download applications from our website

Involve Children in Hospitality

- Use our *Different Gifts, Same Spirit* lesson plan series to teach 8 to 18 year olds that everyone has gifts to share.

Available from Loyola Press or download a free version from our website

Celebrate Belonging: TEAM W Month

- Use our interfaith workbooks of activities, bulletin items and prayer cards throughout the month to keep hearts and minds open to intentionally welcoming people of all abilities.