

TEN EASY WAYS TO WELCOME PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE AREA OF COMMUNICATION

1. State the desire to be intentionally inclusive in the faith community's mission statement.
2. Use "people first" language in homilies, sermons, and bulletin articles.
3. Use access symbols in newspaper advertisements, event announcements and signage to publicize accessible features already in place.
4. Include the words "All are welcome. Please call (insert phone number) so that we can provide accommodations for your participation" in all event announcements.
5. Personally invite congregants with disabilities to participate in ministries, clubs, religious education programs, and events and arrange any accommodations to make participation possible.
6. Make large print prayer books, missals, Bibles, bulletins and hymnals (such as this 14 point bold type) available.
7. Provide homilies on audiotape or in large-print and promote their availability in the bulletin.
8. Keep individuals with visual impairments informed by announcing information from the bulletin at the end of the worship service.
9. When new members join your congregation, ask, in a sensitive and dignified way, if any accommodations would enhance their participation in the faith community. Then provide the accommodations.
10. Invite congregants who cannot regularly attend services to participate through a "ministry of praise". Send the congregation's intentions to be prayed for to the "ministers of praise" on a regular basis. Express the congregation's gratitude for their prayer support.