

INCLUSION IN WORSHIP

A Ministry to Welcome Worshippers of All Abilities as Active Participants

COMMUNICATION

Some good ideas used by congregations to welcome persons with disabilities and their families in the area of communication:

- **Worship services are presented verbally and visually, dramatically and musically for different learning styles.**
- **Sermons or entire worship services are recorded on audiotape or are available in large print.**
- **Amplifying sound system is in good order. Assistive listening devices are available for those with hearing difficulties.**
- **Lighting is surveyed to ensure that the wattage is high enough and that the placement of fixtures ensures maximum visibility.**
- **A TDD is in the church office so that a person without hearing can communicate by telephone.**
- **A comfortable way to offer suggestions for inclusion is created for people with disabilities and their families so they are not made to feel like “complainers”.**
- **Sign language interpreter is available for worship service on a regular basis.**
- **The words “Stand or sit as you are able” and “Kneel or sit as you are able” are used in worship aides to direct the congregation.**
- **The faith community consistently publicizes that persons with disabilities are intentionally included in worship, ministry, fellowship and study. Access symbols are used in print materials and signage.**
- **Transportation is personally offered to people in need and provided on a consistent basis. This availability is also communicated in bulletins and event announcements.**