

COMMUNICATION

Some good ideas used by congregations and schools to create a sense of belonging for individuals of all abilities and their families:

- Liturgies are presented verbally and visually, dramatically and musically for different learning styles.
- Worship services are available online.
- Amplifying sound system is in good order. Assistive listening devices and/or an audio loop 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 comfortable way to offer suggestions for belonging is created for people with disabilities and their families so they are not made to feel like “complainers”.
- Sign language interpreter is available for liturgies 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 and school consistently publicize that persons with disabilities are welcomed into 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.