

## **WHAT DOES A TEAM BELONG MINISTER DO?**

Every faith community is unique. The work of the TEAM Belong Minister is always under the guidance of the department head, pastor or principal and will vary with the needs of the faith community. The following suggestions will give you an idea of how to begin.

- Visit [www.TEAMBelong.org](http://www.TEAMBelong.org) and read the information, peruse handouts, review the TEAM Belong Ministry Handbook and watch videos.
- Form a well-rounded TEAM Belong ministry team approved by the religious leaders and councils.
- Survey needs and with the guidance of religious leaders, plan how to accommodate those needs. Visit [www.TEAMBelong.org](http://www.TEAMBelong.org) for the Facilities Survey and Survey of Congregants Needs.
- Coordinate annual TEAM Belong Month activities to showcase how you welcome individuals of all abilities every day of the year. Planning materials are available on [www.TEAMBelong.org](http://www.TEAMBelong.org).
- Apply for a Pathways.org TEAM Belong Award or Junior TEAM Belong Award (for children 5 to 18 years). Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for planned access and belonging projects.
- Promote the use of the Different Gifts, Same Spirit lesson plans in your parish school and religious education program. Download the free plans at [www.TEAMBelong.org](http://www.TEAMBelong.org) or purchase from Loyola Press.
- Use people first language and educate others about how to speak about disabilities with dignity and respect.
- Use disability etiquette and educate others about how to interact comfortably with individuals who have differing abilities.
- Understand the stages of belonging and use That Every Ability May Belong handouts and resources to create belonging for individuals of all abilities in your faith community.