



Beginning and Strengthening Inclusive Ministries and Congregations

- Start with the book *That All May Worship* and the Journey of a Congregation and their Accessible Congregations Campaign. www.nod.org. Another excellent new book for congregations, agencies, and families is from Brookes Publishing, Erik Carter's book entitled *Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Providers, Families, and Congregations.*
- Start one person and one family at a time. Take time to listen deeply to their stories. Ministry in this area impacts many dimensions of individual lives and the lives of congregations.
- Find out what your denomination is already doing and connect with others who are involved.
- Use Dimensions of Faith, the online resource guide, for specific resources, http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/products/prod_info.htm. That also includes lots of videos useful for congregations.

If Christian, subscribe to two free ecumenical newsletters:

- *Extras*..the newsletter of Friendship Ministries. Free. www.friendship.org
- *Breakthrough*. From Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc. Also free. www.blhs.org

Interfaith:

- The newsletter of the Religion and Spirituality Division of the AAIDD. *The Religion and Spirituality Division Quarterly*. People are encouraged to join, but congregational members who are not full time in ministries with people with disabilities can subscribe for \$25 for three years. Go to www.aaidreligion.org.

Videos

There are several that are excellent for congregations and agencies. See a long listing in Dimensions of Faith. (above). They include *The Ten Commandments for Communicating with People with Disabilities* (Program Development Associates), *Believing, Belonging, Becoming* (Wisconsin DD Council), *Bridges to Faith* (program in Massachusetts that recruits "faith companions" to help adults participate in faith communities, and *Surprising Grace: The Church and People with Disabilities.* (Presbyterian)

For more reflection, theoretical and theological resources, besides all the books and resources listed in Dimensions of Faith, subscribe to the Journal of Religion, Disability, and Health. www.haworthpress.com. You can see the Tables of Contents of past issues at the website.

Join: The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Ministries:

To join the listserv, send an email to NJCIM-online-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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