OPENING DOORS TO FULL PARTICIPATION
RESOURCES FOR DISABILITY MINISTRIES

Is your congregation ready to consider a full-access church? Do you have a feeling that the reason you don’t see many people with disabilities among your members is because your church presents walls rather than doors to full access? Read on, intrepid movers and shakers. United Methodists have many resources—online sites, print, and people—to help congregations on their way to creating a more inclusive body of Christ.

UNITED METHODIST RESOURCES

DisAbility Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church
http://www.umdisabilityministries.org
This is a general interactive site for United Methodists seeking information, assistance, and helpful ideas on reaching out to people with disabilities. Most of the other resource links on this page can be found on this one site. Email: umdisability@gmail.com

The VOICE of the United Methodist Disability Connection (free newsletter)
Published by the DisAbility Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church
http://www.umdisabilityministries.org/join.html#news
Sign up for the mailing list or check out past issues in the archive section.

Disability Awareness Sunday Resources
http://www.umdisabilityministries.org/dasunday/base.html
Every congregation should be celebrating an annual Disability Awareness Sunday. This site offers all kinds of ideas and examples of ways to incorporate disability awareness into a special service.

Accessibility Audits
http://www.umdisabilityministries.org/access/audit.html
Have you tried to see your church facility through the eyes of someone who depends on a wheelchair, cane, or guide dog for mobility? Have you ever attended a worship service celebrated in a language you could not understand? Resources for auditing your church are easily available, and resource people from the national committee or your conference office will be happy to talk with you about audits.
MINISTRIES WITH THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries
http://www.umcdhm.org
You can contact the committee through email: umdeaf@gmail.com

United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (caucus)
http://www.umcd.org

Breaking the Sound Barrier in Your Church by Robert Walker
http://www.umcd.org/Publications.htm

Deaf Ministry: Make a Joyful Silence by Peggy A. Johnson and Robert Walker (2007)

A translation of the United Methodist Hymnal into ASL-gloss.
http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=445749

http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9780687066810#.UyNBT_idV8E

CLERGY ASSOCIATION
United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities (caucus)
http://www.umdisabledministers.org/
An association for clergy with disabilities. Contact by email: umamwd@gmail.com

This association has also published a book by clergy with disabilities:
Speaking Out: Gifts of Ministering Undeterred by Disability, Robert L. Walker, Ed.
http://www.umdisabledministers.org/231.html

MISSION STUDY RESOURCES
Order the book for the Mission study:
Disability and the Church: Awareness, Accessibility, and Advocacy by Peggy A. Johnson
http://www.umwmissionresources.org
Also available: Disability and the Church: Leaders Guide by Lynn Swedberg; Disabilities and Our Response: A Study for Youth by Beth Miller; Welcoming Persons with Disabilities into Our Lives: A Study for Children by Beth Miller

CERTIFICATION IN MINISTRY
Certification Program: Ministry with Persons with Disabilities
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
http://www.gbhem.org/article/new-certification-ministry-people-disabilities

United Theological Seminary
UMC Professional Certification Program
Ministry with People with Disabilities: Disability Awareness—Course covers the nature of disabilities through the lifespan. It includes the history of disability, theories, laws, policies, attitudes, and resources.
http://www.united.edu/UMC-Certification-Program/UMC-Professional-Certification-Program/menu-id-439.html

ECUMENICAL RESOURCES
Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network of the World Council of Churches
http://www.edan-wcc.org/

A Church of All and for All (statement of theology)

Congregational Accessibility Network — is taking over the role of the disbanded National Council of Churches Committee on Disability
http://www.accessibilitynetwork.net/

Pathways to Promise: Ministry and Mental Illness
http://www.pathways2promise.org/

Mental Health Ministries
http://www.mentalhealthministries.net/