



**Disability  
Belongs™**



202-517-6272



Info@DisabilityBelongs.org



www.DisabilityBelongs.org

## 5 Ways to Show Your Commitment to Disability Inclusion in Your Faith Institution

**Creating an accessible and inclusive faith community ensures that all members feel welcome and valued. Here are five actionable ways your faith institution can demonstrate its commitment to disability inclusion:**

### 1) Prioritize Physical and Digital Accessibility

Make your place of worship physically accessible by providing ramps, elevators, accessible seating, and restrooms. Clear signage, wide pathways, and designated seating for disabled people who may be using a mobility aid like a wheelchair, guidance device, or service animal.

Ensure online services and materials are also inclusive, with captions, sign language interpretation, and screen-reader-friendly content.

### 2) Create Inclusive Worship and Programs

Offer accommodations such as large-print materials, sensory-friendly services, and flexible seating. Ensure that people who use mobility devices can sit with family and friends rather than being placed in isolated sections.

Use clear, accessible fonts and avoid materials that may be distracting or trigger seizures, such as fast-moving geometric patterns and flickering effects.

Incorporate accommodation statements into all communications, including emails, websites, registration forms, and event announcements. These statements invite individuals to share their accessibility needs. For example:

“If you require a disability accommodation to participate in [the meeting/service/event], please contact [name] at [phone and email] by [due date].”

### **3. Train Leaders and Volunteers on Disability Inclusion**

Educate staff and volunteers on inclusive communication and best practices for supporting congregants with disabilities. Training should include guidance on interacting with service animals and understanding legal accessibility requirements. Partner with organizations like Disability Belongs™ for disability inclusion resources and training.

Clearly outline available accommodations at worship services and events, such as:

- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters
- Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) captioning
- Accessible materials in Braille and large print
- A low-sensory space for individuals who need a break from overwhelming sensory input
- Marked accessible parking spaces and public transportation accessibility information
- Locations of elevators, lifts, and ramps
- Accessible restrooms

### **4. Foster a Culture of Belonging**

Use welcoming and inclusive language, celebrate diverse identities, and ensure people with disabilities are valued as integral members of your faith community.

Encourage people with disabilities to share their experiences and participate in leadership, teaching, and decision-making roles.

### **5. Advocate for Disability Rights and Justice**

Support policies that promote disability inclusion within your faith institution and the broader community. Engage in advocacy efforts, collaborate with disability-led organizations, and amplify the voices of people with disabilities in faith-based initiatives.

Implementing these steps can help your faith institution model true inclusion and ensure that all members feel respected, valued, and empowered in their spiritual journey.

**Visit the [Disability Belongs™ website](https://DisabilityBelongs.org) for more information and resources.**

If your organization would like tailored disability inclusion training(s), a physical site visit, or specific support and services, we would love to partner with you!

Please email [Partners@DisabilityBelongs.org](mailto:Partners@DisabilityBelongs.org) with your request.