

# Ways to Keep Up with Ideas, New Resources, Publications, and Events At the Intersections of Faith, Theology, Ministry and Disability

The level of interest and engagement in disability and its interactions with religion, faith, ministry, spirituality, and theology has been steadily rising in the past decade. A list of new resources is almost out of date the moment you finish it. (Just like this list will probably be.) But here are some suggestions:

The Institute on Theology and Disability. <a href="http://faithanddisability.org/projects/summer-institute/">http://faithanddisability.org/projects/summer-institute/</a> Learn about Institute from the webpage. "Like" our Facebook page to receive news about the Institute, new resources, other conferences, articles, things we find out about. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/theologydisability/">https://www.facebook.com/theologydisability/</a>. There is also an Institute FB Group where members can post materials, questions, etc. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/148879055307753/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/148879055307753/</a>.

#### The Disability Ministry Network. https://disabilityministrynetwork.org

The Disability Ministry Network was established in 2023 to enhance communication and collaboration between Christian organizations working with people with disabilities and their families and with congregations. You can see the 50+ organizations on the website. Organization members only.

#### Respectability, Inc. https://www.respectability.org

The only national disability advocacy organization with a department on Inclusion and Belonging. Its other major project areas are policy, employment, leadership training for young people with disabilities and portrayal of people with disabilities in television and movies. It has expanded from a focus on Jewish resources to multi-faith. Respectability produces materials for the February Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month.

## Key Ministry. <a href="https://www.keyministry.org/">https://www.keyministry.org/</a>

A national resource office and network with primary focus on evangelical and non-denominational congregations and with an active Facebook group called the <u>Special Ministries and Disability Leaders Forum</u>.

#### Muhsen. https://muhsen.org

Muhsen aims for better communities and daily lives for adults and children living with disabilities, with a focus on Muslim communities in the USA.

# The Religion and Spirituality Interest Network of AAIDD (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) www.aaidd.org

A multi-faith interest network within an interdisciplinary association. Membership includes an online subscription to the Journal of Disability and Religion. The Interest Network has its own website: <a href="https://aaiddreligion.org">https://aaiddreligion.org</a> and Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/aaiddreligion/">https://www.facebook.com/aaiddreligion/</a>

The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. <a href="https://worship.calvin.edu">https://worship.calvin.edu</a> CICW has several excellent resources on inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in Christian congregations.

**Pathways2Promise**. <a href="https://www.pathways2promise.org">https://www.pathways2promise.org</a> A multi-faith advocacy, resource and training organization that focuses on faith supports with people with mental illness and their families.

New in 2024: The Baylor Center on Developmental Disabilities, https://bcdd.soe.baylor.edu

## **Look Within Your Own Faith for Organizations and Resource Offices**

Many have national resource offices in the US. Some include the Roman Catholics (<a href="www.ncpd.org">www.ncpd.org</a>), multiple Protestant and Jewish networks (google Jewish Disability Awareness Month (February) and several Muslim support networks.

**Related Online Networks:** There are multiple Facebook pages, blogs, and websites of organizations devoted to inclusive ministries and faith supports.

#### **Places to Publish and Present**

- Send news about new events and resources to any on this list.
- The Journal of Disability and Religion
  Interfaith, multi-disciplinary
- The Journal of the Christian Institute on Disability http://www.joniandfriends.org/jcid/
   Christian journal
- <u>The Christian Citizen</u> regularly seeks short articles on disability and ministry. See the website or email Curtis Ramsey Lucas: curtis.ramsey-lucas@abhms.org
- <u>American Academy of Religion Disability Interest Group</u>. Seeks papers each year for the annual meeting.
- The Institute on Theology and Disability, the AAIDD Religion and Spirituality Interest Network, Key Ministry, and Together We Care sponsor **annual conferences** with calls for workshop presenters.
- If you write, don't forget your own faith tradition's magazines and newsletters.

What's missing? Email bill.gaventa@gmail.com