

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

Creating Access and Inclusion in Worship

COMMUNICATION

Some good ideas used by congregations to welcome persons with disabilities and their families in the area of communication:

- Worship services are presented verbally and visually, dramatically and musically **for different learning styles**.
- Sermons or entire worship services are recorded on **audiotape** or **are available in large print**.
- Amplifying **sound system** is in good order. **Assistive listening devices** are available for those with hearing difficulties.
- **Lighting** is surveyed to ensure that the wattage is high enough and that the placement of fixtures ensures maximum visibility.
- A **TDD** is in the church office so that a person without hearing can communicate by telephone.
- A comfortable way to offer **suggestions for inclusion** is created for people with disabilities and their families so they are not made to feel like “complainers”.
- **Sign language interpreter** is available for worship service on a regular basis.
- The words “**Stand or sit as you are able**” and “**Kneel or sit as you are able**” are used in worship aides to direct the congregation.
- The faith community **consistently publicizes** that persons with disabilities are **intentionally included** in worship, ministry, fellowship and study.
- **Transportation** is personally **offered** to people in need and provided on a consistent basis. This availability is also communicated in bulletins and event announcements.