

DISABILITY MINISTRIES – *Bibliography*

Our vision is to network, educate, and resource churches and the Covenant as a whole so that persons with disabilities and their families are effectively served and fully included in the life and ministries of the Covenant and their local communities. This web site includes a wealth of practical ideas, as well as a network of churches willing to share their experiences.

CovChurch.org/justice/disability/

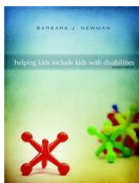
Highlighted



Autism and Your Church

by Barbara J. Newman (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2011)

This resource offers practical ways to welcome and include individuals with ASD into the full life of your congregation. This version includes reproducible questionnaires, forms, job descriptions, and is also available in Spanish.



Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities

by Barbara J. Newman (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2012)

In this book you'll discover how to help kids and their leaders welcome and include kids with disabilities at church or school. This revised edition contains a wealth of helpful information for understanding disabilities. It also includes guidelines and forms to help churches identify and meet needs, lesson plans for presenting information on each area of disability, and more.



Including People With Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, & Congregations

by Erik W. Carter (Brookes Publishing, 2007)

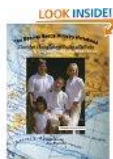
To make inclusion work in any faith community, this how-to- book gives readers workable strategies and reproducible forms for identifying “indicators of welcome,” encouraging community outreach, and gathering important information about the support needs of people with disabilities and their families.



Inclusion Handbook: Everybody Belongs, Everybody Serves

edited by Terry A. DeYoung and Mark Stephenson (Reformed Church Press, 2013)

This booklet helps church leaders and members welcome and engage people with disabilities in the life of the church.

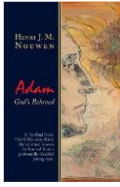


The Special Needs Ministry Handbook: A Church's Guide to Reaching Children with Disabilities and Their Families

by Amy Rapada (Booksurge, 2007)

This is a church's guide to reaching children with disabilities and their families, written by a Covenanter. Through this handbook, your church can learn how to: start a special needs ministry, use inclusion models, involve volunteers and church leaders, choose and adapt a curriculum, involve students in the learning process, create a successful experience, address challenging behavior, stay connected with the special needs family. It also includes 30+ weeks of conceptual lessons for students with special needs.

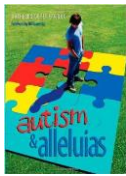
Ministry with Families/Caregivers



Adam: God's Beloved

by Henri J.M. Nouwen (Orbis Books, 2012)

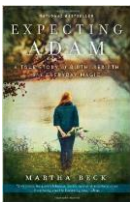
Henri Nouwen completed this book just weeks before his death in 1996. It is a personal memoir about his friendship with Adam, a severely handicapped man he knew at the L'Arche Daybreak Community in Canada. Although Adam could not speak and was wracked with violent seizures, Nouwen called Adam "my friend, my teacher, and my guide," and credited Adam with renewing his faith in a particularly dark period of life. Thanks to Adam, Nouwen came to understand the central questions of Christian theology in a way that transcended all statements of belief, and instead found joy in the mere gift of human existence.



Autism and Alleluias

by Kathleen Dyer Boldus (Judson, 2010)

In this collection of honest and insightful reflections about life with her son who has autism, the author invites us to walk alongside her as she turns to God with her difficult questions and with her moments of unexpected joy.



Expecting Adam

by Martha Beck (Harmony, 2011)

The conception and birth of Adam, who has Down Syndrome, changed the life of his family in deep and dramatic ways. This book is his mother's account of the spiritual discovery that led them away from lives dedicated to professional success at Harvard and toward a whole new way of seeing and being.



Journey with Jeff: Inspiration for Caregivers of People with Special Needs

by Sybil Y. Reisch (BookSurge, 2007)

This book is an inspirational memoir of the joys and stresses of raising a special needs child. Each short chapter begins with an inspirational quote or Bible verse and is followed by an illustration of a particular challenge that leads into a prayer of thanksgiving or a call for God's direction. As a parent of a child with Down syndrome, the author provides a clear message that God's patience and love are the sustenance of the heart and soul.



You Will Dream New Dreams: Inspiring Personal Stories by Parents of Children with Disabilities

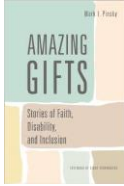
by Stanley Klein (Kensington, 2001)

A book of short personal stories by parents of children with disabilities. The stories contain bits of wisdom, ways families coped, and what they learned from their experiences. A good book for anyone who has a friend with a child recently diagnosed with a disability, giving great advice in an inspiring manner about how to respond.

First Steps: A Guide for Parents of Young Children with Developmental Disabilities (Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, 2006)

www.fddc.org/publications/first-steps

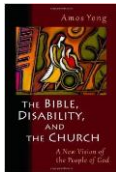
This publication is a valuable tool to guide parents in the initial steps of their journey, as well as a resource they can visit again and again as they, their child, and their families grow through the coming years together.



Amazing Gifts: Stories of Faith, Disability, and Inclusion

By Mark I. Pinsky (Alban Institute, 2012)

Amazing Gifts: Stories of Faith, Disability, and Inclusion is a new publication by noted religion writer Mark I. Pinsky. Pinsky has gathered stories from churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples across the country, "stories of people with disabilities and the congregations where they have found welcome." He has taken special care to include the widest range of disabilities, including non-apparent disabilities like lupus, chronic pain, traumatic brain injury, depression, and mental illness.



The Bible, Disability, and the Church: A New Vision of the People of God

By Amos Yong (Eerdmans, 2011)

A theologian whose life experience includes growing up alongside a brother with Down syndrome, Amos Yong in this book rereads and reinterprets biblical texts about human disability, arguing that the way we read biblical texts, not the Bible itself, is what causes us to marginalize persons with disabilities. Revealing and examining the underlying stigma of disability that exists even in the church, Yong shows how the Bible offers good news to people of all abilities — and he challenges churches to become more inclusive communities of faith.



Human Disability and the Service of God: Reassessing Religious Practice

By Nancy Eiesland, Don Saliers (Abington Press, 1998)

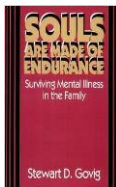
A living religious tradition continually reassesses its practices. In our contemporary situation, the task of reassessment must attend to the presence of persons with disabilities who are increasingly taking part in public life and therefore in the worship and work of the churches. What questions, insights, and perspectives should be advanced if people with disabilities, in all their diversity, were placed at the center of religious life and education?



Dementia: Living in the Memories of God

By John Swinton (Eerdmans, 2012)

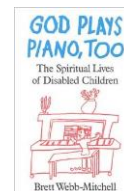
Offering compassionate and carefully considered theological and pastoral responses to dementia and forgetfulness, Swinton's *Dementia: Living in the Memories of God* redefines dementia in light of the transformative counter story that is the gospel.



Souls are Made of Endurance: Surviving Mental Illness in the Family

By Stewart Govig (Westminster John Knox Press, 1994)

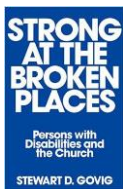
In *Souls Are Made of Endurance*, Stewart Govig gives a personal account of his family's struggle with their son's mental illness. After his son was diagnosed with schizophrenia, Govig's family faced not only the difficulty of finding medical care and therapy but also the personal anguish and the questioning of faith and of God that often accompany such a crisis. The author's two foundations are the Bible and personal experience. His spiritual search returns meaning to his family's struggle and restores faith and hope. Govig provides guidance and support, and exposes the way society stigmatizes people with mental illness. This book is a powerful statement of hope that every pastor, counselor, and family dealing with mental illness needs to read.



God Plays Piano, Too: The Spiritual Lives of Disabled Children

By Brett Webb-Mitchell (Crossroad Publishing, 1993)

Joshua is a young boy with an extraordinary gift for playing the piano. He is also autistic. His story is one of many in this revelatory look at the spiritual lives of children with disabilities: those with mental retardation, autism, or behavior disorders.

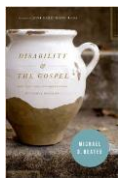


Strong at Broken Places: Persons with Disabilities and the Church

By Stewart Govig (Westminster John Knox Press, 1989).

When linked to biblical teachings, understanding disability offers congregations and society the pathway to hope and change. Stewart Govig, himself disabled, provides a practical resource that enables congregational communities to achieve a balance of realism and hope in responding to the needs of all of its members. He examines the attitudinal barriers thrust upon persons with disabilities and investigates the biblical resources for overcoming these barriers. He advocates an understanding of the Christian community that removes social stigma.

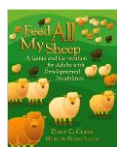
Ministry Resources



Disability and the Gospel: How God Uses His Brokenness to Display His Grace

by Michael S. Beates (Crossway, 2012)

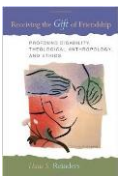
Working through key Bible passages on brokenness and disability while answering hard questions, Michael offers helpful principles for believers and their churches. He shows us how to embrace our own brokenness and then to embrace those who are more physically and visibly broken, bringing hope and vision to those of us who need it most.



Feed All My Sheep: A Guide and Curriculum for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

by Doris C. Clark (Geneva Press, 2000)

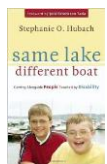
Recognizing the needs for religious education and full inclusion among adults with developmental disabilities, this book guides churches in planning and implementing this special education ministry.



Receiving the Gift of Friendship: Profound Disability, Theological Anthropology, and Ethics

by Hans S. Reinders (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008)

Is it our ability to think and to act that makes us human? What about people with profound cognitive impairments? Reinders challenges common perceptions, from dogmas of Christian churches to dogmas of academic disability studies. He argues that while we've advanced equality in matters of rights and justice, too often we've not achieved friendship with people with profound disabilities. As Reinders confronts barriers that remain in hearts and minds, he transforms the way we think about our common humanity.



Same Lake, Different Boat: Coming Alongside People Touched

by Disability by Stephanie O. Hubach (P & R Press, 2006)

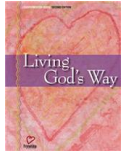
When the church attempts to function without all of its parts, the body of Christ becomes disabled. This is a transformational work—designed to renew our minds to think biblically about disability in order that our lives, our relationships, and our congregations might wholly reflect Christ.



Special Needs Ministry for Children: Creating a Welcoming Place for Families Whose Children Have Special Needs

edited by Pat Verbal (Group, 2012)

This practical book is packed with case studies and personal stories. You'll learn: the best ways to reach the most overlooked group of people in your community; how to launch a special needs ministry in your church; how to promote your ministry and recruit the right volunteers; what families with children who have special needs really need from you, and more.



Living God's Way: The 10 Commandments
(Friendship Ministries, 2008)

This 13-session study begins with an Overview Session that introduces the two most important commandments on which all the other commandments depend: "Love God" and "Love Others." Ten sessions, one for each commandment, follow.



Pocket Guide to Special Needs: Quick Tips to Reach Every Child
(Group Publishing, 2008)

Equip your children's ministry to identify and confidently reach out to kids with special needs. This handy pocket guide contains relevant teaching techniques, age-appropriate ways to inspire positive peer relationships, tips for partnering with parents, and more.



Leading a Special Needs Ministry: A Practical Guide to Including Children and Loving Families

by Amy Fenton Lee (Orange, 2014)

A practical "how-to" handbook for the family ministry team working to welcome children with special needs. Easily referenced guidance is offered for expressing care for parents who are learning that their child has a diagnosis all the way to developing programs, policies and education for volunteers working with children with disabilities.

Amistad (Friendship Ministries)

friendship.org/es/

The only Bible study materials available in Spanish for people with cognitive impairments.

Dimensions of Faith

rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/products/documents/AutismandFaith-English2011.pdf

Boggs Center; (2011)

Disability Resource Manual: A Practical Guide for Churches and Church Leaders

by Ashley Peterson

www.CovChurch.org/idea-exchange/disability-resource-manual-a-practical-guide-for-churches-and-church-leaders/

This manual includes definitions of different disabilities, suggestions for relating to that person, and accommodations that can be made within the church. It also provides information for starting a disability ministry, providing care, the theology of disability, and the spirituality of disability.

Expressing Faith in Jesus

www.faihaliveresources.org/Products/300661/expressing-faith-in-jesus.aspx

Is your group close to completing the new Friendship Bible Studies? If so, this message is particularly for you. Now is the time to think about whether you have a friend in your program who is ready to become a full member of the congregation through baptism, confirmation, or profession of faith. The book *Expressing Faith in Jesus* and the accompanying resource kit include review ideas, a mentor guide, a study guide, a commemorative certificate, and more to help your friends get ready for this wonderful day in their spiritual journey.

Friendship Life Studies

www.friendship.org/bookstore

Friendship Life Studies consist of ten courses on various life-application topics. Each study includes 5-sessions for adults with cognitive impairments. Each course consists of a leader's guide and student magazine. Studies include:

Caring for God's World
Faith for Tough Times
God's Gift of Work
Growing Closer to God
Helping Each Other

Learning the Lord's Prayer
Talking to God About Your Feelings
Telling Your Friends About Jesus
We All Have Gifts
When People Die
Living God's Way (The 10 Commandments)

On the Road to Congregational Inclusion: Dimensions of Faith and Congregational Inclusion: Dimensions of Faith and congregational Ministries with Persons with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families

(The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School)

rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter/products/dimensions.htm

This is a bibliography and address listing of resources and organizations for clergy, laypersons, families, and service providers.

The Equal Access Guide for Meetings, Conferences, Large Assemblies and Worship

by the NCC Committee on Disabilities

www.covchurch.org/justice/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2010/08/DISABILITIESMANUAL.pdf

The guide is based on the theological principles that all people are created in the image of God, are called by God, have spiritual gifts, and are invited to participate in God's ministry. The guide helps meeting planners implement the principles with detailed practical advice ranging from the maximum slope of access ramps to the seating of Sign Language interpreters, adequate space for work dogs, and much more.

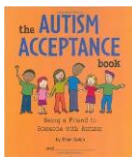
Tips for Siblings of Children with Disabilities

by Heather Dorn and Erin Wachholz (autism.org)

www4.uwsp.edu/education/pshaw/Portfolios/Heather%20Dorn/Brochures/siblings.pdf

This tip sheet has information to assist siblings themselves in creating wonderful relationships with their brother or sister who has a disability.

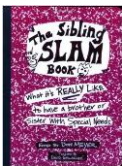
Books for Children



The Autism Acceptance Book: Being a Friend to Someone with Autism

by Ellen Sabin (Watering Can Press, 2006)

The Autism Acceptance Book is an interactive, educational, and character-building book that introduces children to the challenges faced by people with autism while also supporting their personal journey toward appreciating and respecting people's differences. This book offers educational information, conversation-starters, and exercises that invite children to "walk in someone else's shoes" as they learn to treat others the same ways they would like to be treated themselves.



The Sibling Slam Book: What It's REALLY Like to Have a Brother or Sister with Special Needs

edited by Don Meyer (Woodbine House, 2005)

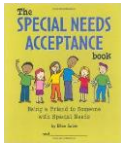
This book presents teenagers' varying views on having a sibling with a disability in a fun notebook-style format.



Sometimes Smart is Good

by Dena Luchsinger (Eerdmans, 2007)

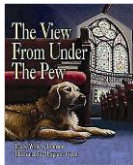
Smart people can explain the world around us; strong people can keep us safe; talented people can show us things that are beautiful. It's good to be smart, and strong, and talented. But what about people who don't have these abilities? With sensitive illustrations, this English-Spanish bilingual book underscores the values of love, patience, and kindness, teaching young readers that all people — regardless of their abilities — are valuable as children of God. Sometimes smart is good, but unconditional love and acceptance are *always* good. The author is a Covenanter.



The Special Needs Acceptance Book: Being a Friend to Someone with Special Needs

by Ellen Sabin (Watering Can Press, 2007)

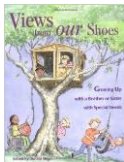
This book uses informative narrative and engaging activities to help children develop understanding, compassion, and appreciation for people different from themselves—and shows children that we are all different, all special, and all of us like to be accepted and understood! The book covers a range of disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, learning disabilities like dyslexia, ADHD, blindness and deafness.



The View from Under the Pew

by Diane Winters Johnson (Abingdon, 2008)

This book introduces children to the true story of Walter, a guide dog who assists Pastor Diane through her day at the church. Walter helps Pastor Diane minister to others as they visit the sick at the hospital and attend church meetings and potluck suppers. Walter is her faithful companion as Pastor Diane conducts Bible studies and leads worship. Walter loves his view from under the pew, where he can listen to the choir sing and see the faces of families who have come to church to worship God together.



Views From Our Shoes: Growing Up With a Brother or Sister with Special Needs
edited by Donald Meyer (Woodbine House, 1997)

Boys and girls whose essays are featured in this collection share their experiences of growing up with a brother or sister with a disability.

Organizations

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Religion & Spirituality Division (AAIDD)

www.aamr.org/

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

American Sign Language

www.aslpro.com/

This site's mission is to serve the needs of the American Sign Language (ASL) Educational Community. They strive to provide free, easy to use reference and learning tools to enhance in-classroom learning for ASL Educators. Featured are over 1,200 interdenominational signs and a quiz section to assist in testing knowledge of religious signs.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities

bethesdalutherancommunities.org/

Another source for special needs curriculum and other resources, they seek to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Christian Reformed Church

www2.crcna.org/pages/disability.cfm

Get information on accessibility and awareness, ideas for an Awareness Sunday, and advice on beginning a Disability Ministry. (Faith Alive Christian Resources - <http://www.faithaliveresources.org/>)

Disability Concerns

www2.crcna.org/pages/disability.cfm

Everybody belongs. Everybody serves

Covenant Enabling Residences (affiliated with Covenant Ministries of Benevolence)

covenantcer.org/

Covenant Enabling Residences provide around-the-clock care to residents in a warm, Christian environment. Staff members nurture residents' dreams and hopes as they teach the skills and self-confidence needed to become economically and physically independent. Residences are currently in Michigan, Minnesota, and Illinois.

Friendship Ministries

www.friendship.org/bookstore

Friendship Ministries is a not-for-profit organization that exists to help churches and organizations around the world share God's love with people who have mental impairments. Friendship Ministries for groups of persons with developmental disabilities began as a project of the Christian Reformed Church and has now been successfully made use of by a wide variety of denominations over several years.

Joni and Friends

www.joniandfriends.org/

Resources for people affected by disabilities, either their own or those of people they care about.

Large-Print Ministry

Not a web site, but accessible via e-mail at largeprinthehelp@aol.com

Offers The LARGE-PRINT Book of Common Prayer CD and the Prayers & Psalms for Today CD. It is formatted in Microsoft Word 97. The main text is in 18 point. It is laid out for 8.5 x 11-inch pages. The CD can be used to help prepare large-print worship materials for those who cannot read the print in pew edition of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Center for Parent Information and Resources

www.parentcenterhub.org/

(CPIR) serves as a central resource of information and products to the community of Parent Training Information (PTI) Centers and the Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs), so that they can focus their efforts on serving families of children with disabilities.

Sibling Support Project (Sibshops)

www.siblingsupport.org/

The Sibling Support Project is a national effort dedicated to the life-long concerns of brothers and sisters of people who have special health, developmental, or mental health concerns.

This bibliography was prepared by the ECC Disability Ministries Committee. While not specifically endorsed by the Evangelical Covenant Church, the above resources may be helpful as you plan for ministry. For additional assistance or suggestions, contact Make and Deepen Disciples at mdd@covchurch.org.

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