

Congregational Outreach Survey

Our congregation is called to have an impact on our community. We desire to be an inviting congregation that is intentional about finding ways to worship among, mutually support, and serve alongside people with disabilities and their families in fellowship. We invite you to help us realize this vision. Do you know people with disabilities who might want to attend our congregation? Are there needs we can help meet or support we could provide? Would you like to help welcome people with disabilities and their families into our faith community? Your answers to this brief questionnaire will help us identify steps we can take to become a congregation known for our hospitality.

1. How would you describe yourself? *Check all that apply.*

- I have a disability.
- I have a child with a disability.
- I have a sibling or relative with a disability.
- I have a friend or neighbor with a disability.
- I interact with people with disabilities at my workplace.
- I do not know anyone with a disability.
- Other: _____

2. If you or a family member has a disability, which of the following supports might help you participate more fully in congregational life or meet a personal need?

Check all that apply.

- Transportation:
 - To worship services
 - To other congregational activities throughout the week
 - To other events in the community
- Additional support to participate in
 - Worship services
 - Children's programs
 - Youth programs
 - Adult programs
- Respite care (e.g., offering a periodic break to parents of children with disabilities)
 - To attend worship services
 - To participate in other congregational activities
 - At other times throughout the week
- Support group for parents, siblings, and other caregivers of people with disabilities
- Pastoral counseling
- Financial or other material assistance: _____
- Accessible scriptural or other study materials
- Support in advocating for your needs among agencies, organizations, and schools
- Information about faith-based services and programs within our community and state

In the space below, we encourage you to share with us other needs not already listed:

Figure 3.1. Example of a congregational outreach survey.

(continued)

3. As we consider new ways of welcoming people with developmental and other disabilities into our congregation, would you be interested in learning more about how you might serve in any of the following ways?

- Periodically giving someone a ride to services or other congregational activities
- Serving as a companion or partner during congregational activities
- Inviting someone with disabilities to sit with you during worship services
- Inviting someone over for a meal and fellowship periodically
- Joining a ministry team to improve our welcome to people with disabilities
- Serving as a children's or youth program teacher
- Serving as a helper or buddy to a person with disabilities during children's and youth programs
- Volunteering to help us provide respite care activities
- Attending an informational workshop about disabilities and our congregation's welcome
- Serving on the team that reviews and acts on the responses to this survey
- Other: _____

4. People often have gifts that they never thought of using to welcome and support people with developmental disabilities—an outgoing personality, a specific hobby or talent, or a knack for making connections among people. Perhaps there are things you care deeply about. List one or two things that you are really good at or have a passion for doing.

5. Will you commit to inviting your friends and neighbors with disabilities to attend services and activities within our congregation?

- Yes
- No
- I'd like to learn more about how to do this

6. If you would like to talk further about the information you provided on this survey, please let us know your name and the best way to contact you?

Name:

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

7. Are there any questions, concerns, or comments you would like to share with us?

Please return to _____ by _____

Figure 3.1. (continued)