



# All Right Ministry

an inclusive ministry of the New England Synod, ELCA

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## Gathered Together as the Body of Christ

As you think about what it means to gather together all people into the body of Christ, *especially within your own community of faith*, here are some things to consider:

- **what the Bible says**
  - *Humankind was created as God's reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them.* Genesis 1:27 (The Inclusive Bible)
  - *...the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.* 1 Samuel 16:7
  - *The free gift of God's grace makes all of us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free.* Romans 3:24 (NIRV)
  - *But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.* 2 Corinthians 4:7
  - *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.* Philippians 4:13
  
- **questions to ask**
  - What barriers in your house of worship prevent some people from worshiping there?
  - How can someone get to your house of worship if they do not drive?
  - Are written and auditory materials provided in a variety of formats (large print, email format, transcripts, audio amplification, etc.)?
  - Have your greeters and ushers been trained to warmly welcome people with disabilities?
  - Do you offer gluten-free and alcohol-free Communion options?
  - Do you limit the use of possible allergens, such as incense and bathroom sprays?
  - Are you willing to help when people request accommodations that are not already in place?
  - How do people react if someone cannot sit quietly during the whole worship service?
  - Are your faith formation teachers trained to teach using a variety of visual, tactile, physical, and verbal methods?
  - Are all people encouraged to grow in their faith and offered ways to use their gifts?
  - Are the bathrooms in your building accessible and gender-neutral?
  - Has your community of faith done the work to become welcoming, accepting, and a safe place for people of all abilities and gender expression/orientation?
  
- **what YOU can do!**
  - welcome all people warmly and without hesitation
  - use language that honors and respects the individual person
    - put the person first – “people with a disability”
  - get to know people as people
    - ask each person directly about their interests and gifts
  - ask if someone needs help before offering assistance
  - talk with other people in your community of faith and come up with your own list of what you can do in your particular setting
    - consider starting an inclusion committee or team
    - seek out more information -

**For more assistance or information, contact Deacon Susan Lindberg Haley ([slhaley09@gmail.com](mailto:slhaley09@gmail.com))**