

## KEEP THE GOALS SIMPLE

### Start today

**Strengthen** the growth of disabilities ministries by educating church leaders with the seven major disability groups.

**Initiate** advocacy teams ensuring full church and community inclusion through activities including worship, education, fellowship, outreach, and leadership roles.

**Maintain** necessary resources for building an informed church and community using workshops, Disability Awareness Sabbaths, webinars, and literature.

**Plan** activities to showcase skills and talents of people with disabilities highlighting Bible studies, baptisms, and community service.

**Listen** with patience the need and desire of people with disabilities to participate in all church activities especially children's church, pathfinders, Youth 4 Inclusion, and adult programs for those who cannot attend church.

**Encourage** parents, guardians, and other family members with adults and children with disabilities to participate in building an inclusive ministry.

"I saw that it is in the providence of God that ..., the blind, the deaf, ... and persons [disabled] in a variety of ways, have been placed in close Christian relationship to His church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to see how we treat ... persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence. This is God's test of our character. If we have the true religion of the Bible, we shall feel that a debt of love, kindness, and interest is due to Christ in behalf of His [children]; and we can do no less than to show our gratitude for His immeasurable love to us while we were sinners unworthy of his grace, ..."

*Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 511*



**SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION**

# BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE MINISTRY



Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

DISABILITIES  
MINISTRIES

# 7 MAJOR DISABILITY GROUPS

## Cognitive

A cognitive disability affects a person's ability to comprehend what is seen or heard, and then infer information from social subtleties and body language. Cognitive disabilities may include, but are not limited to, autism, learning disabilities, Down Syndrome, and traumatic brain injuries.

## Hearing

A hearing disability affects a person's ability to hear sounds and, in some instances, the ability to discriminate speech. Hearing disabilities may range from mild to severe to profound hearing loss. Hearing disability does not include those who identify with the Deaf community.

## Hidden

A hidden disability is a physical or mental condition that is not easily recognized.

Hidden disabilities may include, but are not limited to, arthritis, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, cancers, lupus, epilepsy, or a host of other conditions from A - Z.

## Mobility

A mobility disability is an impairment that limits the individual's ability to perform the activities of daily living. The individual may need assistance or use a cane, walker, or wheelchair in moving from one place to the other.

## Psychiatric [Mental]

A psychiatric disability is a mental disorder that may affect daily living. This may include, but is not limited to, Altered Perception Syndrome, bipolar disorder, and phobias.

## Speech

A speech disability affects a person's ability to communicate and can be characterized as language and voice disorders, articulation errors, disfluency or stuttering.

## Visual

A visual disability affects a person's ability to see. This can include, but is not limited to, wearing glasses or contact lenses to correct vision, glaucoma, cataracts, or blindness.

**APPOINT YOUR DISABILITIES  
MINISTRIES DIRECTOR NOW!**

## INTENTIONALLY GROWING THE MINISTRY BY ASKING YOURSELF

**MULTIPLY** - How can we increase member involvement to grow an inclusive church? How can we increase our impact and influence with people who have disabilities? What are some opportunities to collaborate with other entities? Should our methodology for outreaching people with disabilities change in a post-COVID world?

**MEDIA** - How does the community currently associate with the Adventist brand in ministering with people who have disabilities? How is your church maximizing the power of media? How can our church entities tell a bigger, better story encouraging people with disabilities to participate? How can we encourage our members to use their social media accounts as evangelistic outreach tools?

**MENTORSHIP** - How can our church engage young people in activities to attract and prepare them for leadership roles for ministering with people who have disabilities? How can our church equip young people with mentorship experiences to grow interest in becoming advocates for people with disabilities?