



Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Free Training for Christian Communities

Creating a More Inclusive and Welcoming Environment

Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40 KJV

What?

A free 1-hour training offered virtually or in-person for your faith community to learn more about the needs of people with disabilities and how to best serve them.

Why?

Among people in Maine under age 65, 11.6 percent have a disability — a rate of 1.3 times the national average of 8.7 percent (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018).

The [University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies](#) is Maine's [University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities \(UCEDD\)](#). We specialize in evidence-based best practices across the lifespan.

Who Should Attend?

This training is appropriate for clergy and lay people with and without disabilities; guardians, family members, and allies of people with disabilities; and anyone who is interested in creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone.

When?

This training course can be scheduled at a convenient time for your group between now and December 31, 2024.

Some steps to help promote inclusion and fuller participation of people with disabilities in your faith community:

- Modify the worship setting to create a more welcoming environment for everyone.
- Encourage and support those with learning differences to take a more active role in the rituals and routines of your house of worship.
- Look for the strengths in and respect the sensory differences of people who are neurodiverse (on the autism spectrum, ADHD).

Contact

Kimberly Mills, Ph.D., BCBA-D

International expert in developmental disabilities, educational training, and program development.

srbehavioralhealth@gmail.com (352) 201-6322 (V)

This training was developed by Dr. Kimberly Mills in partnership with the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies through the 2023/2024 "Innovation Pilots – RFP to Stimulate Independence Promoting Innovation" initiative. This project was funded through the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)/ American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) under Section 9817 Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). All products of this initiative are freely available for public use.

