

### What does the Bible say?

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?...” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me.” **(Matthew 25:37-40)**



I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. **(Psalm 139:14)**

Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. **(Galatians 6:2)**

The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable. **(1 Corinthians 12:22)**

### What does the United Methodist Church say?

We call United Methodist around the world to new birth of awareness of the need to accept, include, receive the gifts of, and respond to the concerns of persons with intellectual, developmental, physical, mental, and/or neurological disabilities, including their families. **(Book of Resolutions, #4286, The Church and Disability)**



We condemn all attempts to deny individuals their basic rights or freedoms or to strip human beings of inherent dignity and worth **(Social Principles, Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedoms)**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

# DISABILITY RIGHTS

### What do the facts say?

- Over 42.5 million Americans live with a disability—about 13% of the population. (CDC, 2023)
- People with disabilities are twice as likely to be unemployed as those without disabilities. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023)
- 1 in 4 U.S. adults has a disability, yet many churches and public spaces remain physically and socially inaccessible. (CDC)
- Disability intersects with race, poverty, and gender—people of color with disabilities experience higher rates of discrimination and barriers to healthcare and education. (National Disability Rights Network)
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed in 1990, prohibits discrimination but is still not fully enforced or implemented across all sectors.



### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Audit** your church or community space for accessibility—physical, sensory, and attitudinal—and make improvements where needed.
- **Advocate** for stronger enforcement of the ADA and support inclusive education, employment, and transportation policies.
- **Partner** with organizations led by and for people with disabilities to learn, serve, and support.
- **Celebrate** Disability Awareness Sunday in your church and affirm the gifts of people of all abilities.



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