

Ministries

Meeting the challenge:

disabilities ministries goals

Accessibility: Disabilities ministries assists the church in learning how to make all structures, buildings, and programs easily available to all people. By elimination existing structural barriers and by learning to design accessible programs, your church will become a place where everyone feels welcome. There should be no barriers to the cross of Christ!

Accommodation: Disabilities ministries assists the church in including all as members of the family of God. An example may be providing Braille or recorded information for people who are blind, or creating a meaningful Sabbath School experience for people with various learning challenges. The goal is to help God's family be truly inclusive.

Encouragement: disabilities ministries assists church members in developing a truly supportive environment that ensures the inclusion of all people in every area of church life.

Employment: disabilities ministries assists the church in utilizing and employing the many talents of all individuals within the work of the church.

To accomplish these goals, there must be a *disabilities ministries* leader:

**in each union
in each conference
in each church**



What could **You** do

Experienced leaders are available to help you begin a *Disabilities Ministries* outreach in your church. These leaders can:

- Help you develop informative **awareness programs** and interactive learning sessions
- Help you evaluate the current physical structures and programs within your church in order to **improve accessibility**
- Share established techniques for effective **evangelism outreach**
- Assist you in **tailoring a ministry** to meet the specific needs of your church and community
- Put you in touch with other educational and **informative resources**.

What could **You** do?



Disabilities Ministries

*Strengthening the church
Making disciples of all people*

**Southern Union Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists**

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Disabilities Ministries

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Making disciples of **all** people

What could you do,

if you, or someone you love, was faced with a physical, mental or emotional disability?

Estimates show that more than **20 %** of the world's population has at least one type of disability, whether physical or mental.

Disabilities Ministries will equip you and your local church to reach out to the many people in your community who are part of the 20 percent.

Disabilities Ministries is a ministry to help every church member-including you! Our mission is to include all and exclude none.

It is common for non-disabled people to be unsure of how to act around a person with a disability. Maybe you have wondered,

“What should I say?”

“What should I do?”

“What if I offend someone?”

Through the **Disabilities Ministries** program, you can learn how to comfortably interact with someone with a disability.

Disabilities Ministries will help you create a church family where everyone feels welcome.

What is meant by “disabled?”

Individual who are disabled may:

- Be blind or have **visual** challenges.
- Be deaf or have difficulty **hearing**.
- Uses wheelchairs, braces, or have other **mobility** challenges.
- Require alternate **learning** methods.
- Require support to meet specific **mental** or emotional needs.
- Have difficulties with **speech**.
- Have daily life **limitations** that cannot be outwardly seen.



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