

رافقتكم السلامة Go in Peace צאתכם לשלום
Access to Faith Communities

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**Helping people with disabilities connect to
synagogues, churches and mosques.**

2011 Session Dates:

Sunday, May 15, 1:00-6:00 PM
Thursday, May 19, 6-8 PM
Thursday, May 26, 6-8 PM
Thursday, June 2, 6-8 PM
Thursday, June 9, 6-8 PM
Sunday, June 12, 1:00-6:00 PM

Lansing, MI
Location to be determined.

Project Summary

People with disabilities want to be part of their communities. They want meaningful activities and social networks. They want to belong to community groups. But it isn't always easy to get access to community life.

Mosques, churches and synagogues are an important part of life for many people. Faith communities offer more than spiritual growth, worship, faith and purpose in life. Members find activities, friends, social support and genuine relationships.

But there are barriers that can make it difficult for people with disabilities. "Access to Faith Communities" will help find ways to overcome the barriers.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.

Workshops

The project will hold a series of 6 workshops. 20 to 30 people with disabilities, their allies and faith community members will meet weekly from May 15 to June 12. People will be expected to attend all sessions.

Together the group will:

- Hear all participants' stories, struggles, and successes in inclusion and finding meaningful roles for people with disabilities in faith communities.
- Explore disability culture and the disability rights movement.
- Learn about ableism and exclusion, and how those are often experienced in faith communities.
- Share tools and practical ways to promote inclusion, access and participation.
- Explore interpretations of disability in theology, sacred texts and congregation practices.
- Develop strategies for working together after the workshops to promote inclusion.

Registration

Registration starts **March 1, 2011** and tentatively closes **May 1, 2011**, or whenever we confirm 20-30 participants, whichever comes first. Given the nature of the workshops, preference is given to those who register early, but special attention will also be paid to promoting diversity, both in ability and religious background.

You will be notified both when your application is received and again when it has been confirmed. In the event that we receive too many registrations, a waitlist will be created.

The registration fee is \$40. Please include a check made out to United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan. Registration forms without a check will not be counted until payment is made. Scholarships are available.

To register, you may visit our website Access2Faith.blogspot.com, email your registration to Access2Faith@gmail.com, or simply fill out the form below and mail it back to UCP Michigan:

ATTN: Access to Faith Communities Project
United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan
4970 Northwind Dr. Suite 102
East Lansing, MI 48823

Name (First, Last): _____

Congregation (if applicable): _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number: (____) ____ --- _____

Email address: _____

Best way to contact you (circle one): Mail Phone Email

Please describe why you'd like to participate: _____

How did you heard about the workshops? _____

Any accommodations: _____
