Blessed is the congregation that invites all worshipers—including those which our cultures may label in different ways as “disabled”—to full, conscious, and active participation in corporate worship, engaging heart, soul, and mind in devotion to God, deeply aware of how their own personal worship participates in a much larger chorus of praise to God.

Wise are congregations that invite and challenge believers of all ages and abilities to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

from Worshipping the Triune God

available in 14 languages at worship.calvin.edu
UNIVERSAL DESIGN for WORSHIP

Shaping worship for people of all abilities.

“Universal design” is now standard for architecture: we don’t want to retrofit buildings to make them accessible, we want to build them that way from the start. What would it look like for this vision to be extended to the worship services we plan and lead and for all ministries of the church? What if we didn’t need to retrofit our planning to be accommodating to persons with a wide range of abilities and disabilities, but planned them that way from the start?

When ‘universal design’ elements are in place, many more people can find a home in worship. In fact, the worshiping community as a whole will benefit from the changes and additions, making them ‘universally’ helpful. At times, additional adaptations are needed to strengthen the contributions of individuals with particular needs or challenges. It’s good to ask them: How can we best welcome and serve you?

September 13, 2016

This day-long seminar at the Prince Conference Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is for congregations and worshiping communities who want practical ways to implement universal design in worship.

SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.–12 p.m.
Opening Psalm and Prayer
Pink and Green Puzzle Pieces: Plan A for Universal Design for Worship
Barbara J. Newman
Catching the vision of universal design for worship.

What’s Your Plan A for Universal Design?
Panel of church leaders
Common themes for embracing universal design.

Living Out the Vision of Universal Design for Worship
Round table discussion
Creating your one-page plan.

12:00 p.m.  Lunch together

1:00–3:30 p.m.
What’s Your Plan B?
Barbara J. Newman
Adaptive accommodations for living out the opportunities and challenges with universal design for worship.

Receiving Universal Design for Worship Into the Long-Arc of Christian Living
Panel of church leaders
Moving beyond a list of check boxes or ‘add-on’ mentality.

Opportunities for Sustained Learning
• Site visit
• Applying for a grant
• Training opportunities
• Starting a regional book group

Closing Psalm and Prayer

COST

We encourage you to attend with a group. The cost includes lunch and a resource bag for all.

$15 Group rate (per person) 2 or more members from a church or worshipping community

$30 Individual rate

REGISTRATION

Please register online via the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship home page.

worship.calvin.edu

A separate but related event this same day:
Ministry Leadership Training
6–9:15 p.m., Calvin College Chapel
Sponsored by Congregational and Ministry Studies Department at Calvin College, Volunteers In Service, and Christian Reformed Home Missions. Registration link also at worship.calvin.edu