

CERTIFICATE IN ACCESSIBLE MINISTRY

Building communities of belonging with people of all abilities.

Certificate Description:

“Everyone welcome!” many of our church signs proclaim. As people involved in ministry, or students looking to serve in ministry, we know that all-too-often this is not the reality for all. People with disabilities and their families are often marginalized and excluded due to the physical, communicative, or attitudinal barriers they face. Developed in collaboration with Christian Horizons, this certificate program will equip people to foster belonging in all aspects of ministry and outreach with people living with a disability and their families. Engaging modules address practical, theological, and relational aspects of being the Body of Christ as people of unique abilities – together.



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Module One:

Introduction to Disability and the Church

Saturday September 16, 2017

This course provides an overview of ways in which disability has been received and interpreted through history, in society, and in the church. It explores problematic and redemptive images of disability through scripture and then points the way toward communities of belonging, where every member of church communities experiences an environment where their God-given gifts are valued and respected.

Facilitators: **Dr. Neil Cudney** **Andrea Foster**

Dr. Cudney serves as Director of Organizational and Spiritual Life with Christian Horizons, the largest provider of developmental services in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Cudney holds BA's in Sociology and Social Work along with a Masters of Theology and a Doctorate of Ministry. He has worked in the field of social services for over 30 years. Dr. Cudney's extensive experience working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and Direct Support Professionals, together with his academic work, give him a holistic perspective when addressing issues relating to disability, theology, and organizational culture.



Andrea is a speaker, writer, and stay at home mom of four teenagers. Her two youngest, are 13-year-old twin girls diagnosed with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex at five months old resulting in further diagnoses of epilepsy, autism and global development delay. Andrea and her husband, Kirk face daily challenges as they raise children with disabilities but also experience joy in their circumstance. Andrea holds her Master of Science in Education-Disability Studies, (Hon.), BTh. and her ECE (Hon.). Her articles have been published in Testimony magazine, Alliance.ca, ChristianWeek and Huffpost. Andrea is passionate about equipping leaders for ministry with people with disabilities.

WELCOME

9:00

- Introduce presenter, participants
- Outcomes of certificate
- Course objectives

Questions:

- What drew you to this course?
- What are you hoping to learn today?

SESSION 1: DISABILITY AND SOCIETY

9:15

- What is a disability?
- Models of disability
- Disability through history

Activity: "Which model?"

Participants are given texts or images reflecting various perspectives of disability, which they bring to appropriate model posted on the wall.

10:30 BREAK

SESSION 2: DISABILITY AND THE BIBLE

11:00

Disability in the Old and New Testaments

- Problematic images
- Redemptive images

Activity: "Through another's eyes"

In groups, participants examine passages related to disability and seek to draw out potentially problematic or redemptive images they might find in them.

12:30 LUNCH

SESSION 3: CHURCHES OF BELONGING

1:30

- Examples of ways the church has excluded people with disabilities in the past
- Examples of ways the church has welcomed people with disabilities
- Toward a new model: *Communities of Belonging*

Activity: "What is belonging?"

Participants think of a time or place that they have experienced belonging and attempt to identify the factors that contributed to this experience.

Video: Brian Doerksen

3:00 END

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Module Two:

Understanding Accessibility

Saturday October 21, 2017

Christ died for everyone. As we seek to live out that truth, what does it really look like in our churches? Do we know how to love and support people with disabilities in both practical and Christ-like ways? This module explores common barriers to people with disabilities being welcomed into Christian community, and legislation that promotes accessibility. At the end of this session participants will have a greater appreciation for the barriers people with disabilities encounter and be equipped with tools for their faith communities to be places of welcome for people of *all* abilities.

Facilitator: **Sarah Chaudhery, O.T.**

Sarah Chaudhery, M.Sc. (O.T.) is a registered occupational therapist with a passion for helping people of all abilities excel in everyday activities. She is committed to helping organizations ensure they never have to turn people away because of lack of supportive programming, training or facilities. Sarah's experience includes development of inclusive camps and programs, as well as providing consultation for organizations through Plan to Protect®. Sarah served as Director of Operations for the *More Than Gold* campaign through Scripture Union Canada as part of the 2015 Pan Am games in Toronto.



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SESSION 1: DISABLED BY ATTITUDES

9:15

What does disability look like?

- Demography of disability in Canada
- Common attitudes and assumptions
- Steps to overcoming attitudinal, sociological and physical barriers

Activity: "Scavenger hunt"

Participants gain perspective on what it might feel like to navigate buildings and spaces with a disability.

10:30 BREAK

SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

11:00

History and legislation: *Students will explore legislation in Canada and around the world that protects the rights of people with disabilities.*

Panel: Living with a disability

A discussion where guests with disabilities share their experiences in the church and vision for change.

12:30 LUNCH

SESSION 3: AODA

1:30

Participants will receive necessary training in the AODA, including:

- Customer Service Standard
- Information and Communication Standard
- Employment Standard

Activity: "Addressing access"

Groups explore one issue related to accessibility and legislative standards and present their findings to the class.

3:00 END

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Module Three:

Belonging and the Body

Saturday November 18, 2017

Do we have bodies, or *are* we bodies? How we relate to our body, in all of its strength and vulnerability, plays a role in how we engage with those who have different embodied experiences. When the *Word became flesh*, Christ shows us a new way to be human and a new way to love ourselves and people of all abilities around us, many of whom have been marginalized due to how their bodies are perceived by others. From philosophical and theological insights to experiential learning, this module will encourage you to think in new ways about your own body and what it means to be the body of Christ on earth.

Facilitator: **Keith Dow**

Keith has served people with exceptional needs through the work of Christian Horizons for just over a decade, currently as Manager of Organizational and Spiritual Life. He lives just outside of Ottawa with his wife and three children. Keith is currently completing his PhD in Theological Ethics under Hans Reinders at VU University, Amsterdam, and previously obtained a M.A. Phil for his work on Søren Kierkegaard. He is fascinated by the role that perceptions and projections play in our ethical lives and in the life of the body of Christ as we seek to be a place of hospitality and welcome for *every* body.



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SESSION 1: BODY CAPITAL AND EXCLUSION

9:15

- Thomas Reynolds and body capital
- Nancy Eiesland and the Disabled God
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty "I am my body"
- Freakery, Goffman and Stigma (re: Yong)

Activity:

Mapping one's body: How does privilege or lack thereof 'mark' me as a body?

10:30 BREAK

SESSION 2: THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

11:00

This session points to several key passages for a holistic biblical notion of the body, as it relates to anthropology and the body of Christ. Jean Paul II's theology of the body will also be explored.

Video:

Portion of John Swinton's "Every-Body has a Place: A Practical Theology of Hospitality, Community and Belonging" (2015)

12:30 LUNCH

SESSION 3: EVERY BODY BELONGS

1:30

What would our churches look like if they refused to operate according to the cult of normalcy, and instead recognized "the margins" as the centre of God's work in the world?

Special Guest: What would it look like to experience the world through someone else's body?

3:00 END

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Module Four:

Ministering with Families with Disabilities

Saturday January 13, 2018

As a church, you desire to meet the needs of families in your community who experience disability but aren't sure where to start. Should you start with a program? Should you start with accessibility? Stephen Bedard is a pastor and a parent of children with disabilities who will provide first-hand experiences and practical tools as part of this interactive seminar. You will leave this module with renewed motivation, equipped to minister with families who experience disability.

Facilitator: **Stephen J. Bedard**

Stephen Bedard lives in St. Catharines, Ontario where he pastors at Queen Street Baptist Church. Steve has taught courses at Emmanuel Bible College and Tyndale University College & Seminary. He holds a Master of Arts in Christian Studies from McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton and is currently completing a Doctorate in Ministry through Acadia Divinity College. He has written articles on autism for Autism Parenting Magazine, Kaleidoscope Magazine and ChristianWeek. He recently found out that he has autism, after parenting two children with autism for many years. Steve hosts his own blog on autism and another on apologetics.



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SESSION 1: THE FAMILY EXPERIENCE OF DISABILITY

9:15

- Presenting the big picture, including research on the need for disability ministry
- Dynamics of receiving a diagnosis, including stages of grief
- Physical disabilities, developmental disabilities and mental illness
- Effects of disability on the rest of the family

Story and video:

Presenter will share his personal story.
Videos of different families' experiences of disability.

10:30 BREAK

SESSION 2: ACCESSIBLE MINISTRY AND THE CHURCH

11:00

- The role of the church in accessible ministry
- Models and examples of disability ministry
- Holistic ministry that takes in the needs of the entire families

Video:

Highlights of various church disability ministries.

12:30 LUNCH

SESSION 3: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

1:30

- Discussion of what this looks like in practice
- Summary of all the material

Activity: Case studies for students to work through:
How would you minister to these families?

3:00 END

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Module Five:

Disability and Theology in the Christian Tradition

Saturday February 10, 2018

Long a neglected field of theological inquiry, the intersection of disability and faith has in recent years become the ground of fruitful research and writing. From yearly institutes on theology and disability to a growing number of books on the topic, this module explores at a practical and interactive level some of the key themes and insights of influential theologians and authors. You will leave this day with a renewed appreciation for theology of the human condition and an awareness of directions for future investigation.

Facilitators: **Dr. Neil Cudney** **Peter Wyngaarden**

Dr. Cudney serves as Director of Organizational and Spiritual Life with Christian Horizons, the largest provider of developmental services in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Cudney holds BA's in Sociology and Social Work along with a Masters of Theology and a Doctorate of Ministry. He has worked in the field of social services for over 30 years. Dr. Cudney's extensive experience working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and Direct Support Professionals, together with his academic work, give him a holistic perspective when addressing issues relating to disability, theology, and organizational culture.



Peter serves as Director of Research and Clinical Services with Christian Horizons. He holds a Bachelor of Arts & Science and a Masters of Science (Psychology) from McMaster University. He has worked with persons with disabilities for over 35 years in a variety of direct care, vocational, research and clinical settings. He has worked as a therapist working with children and adults with autism, developmental disabilities and dual diagnoses and also co-developed and ran a support group for siblings of persons with developmental disabilities. Peter has also developed and presented courses and workshops for academic and professional settings on a variety of topics related to developmental disability and service provision.

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SESSION 1: WHY THEOLOGY?

9:15

- Anthropology and action: What we believe about people affects how we act.
- Bioethics and anthropology
 - Mary-Anne Warren
 - Michael Tooley
 - Peter Singer
- The impact on societal beliefs and expectations

Video: "What makes us human?"

Short, relevant clip on the human/android or human/animal distinctives

Activity: "Who said it?"

In groups, students examine brief passages/quotations from bioethicists and theologians and line them up with their anthropologic principles.

10:30 BREAK

SESSION 2: THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE IMAGO DEI

11:00

How does being created in the *image of God* change the way humans are viewed in all of our limitation and vulnerability? This section draws from key theologians to explore.

Video:

Students watch a half-hour clip from the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability, recording contrasts with the bioethicists in Session 1.

12:30 LUNCH

SESSION 3: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

1:30

What are the future challenges that the church faces at the intersection of disability and faith? How do the insights of disability theologians prepare us to respond to issues such as assisted dying and disability-selective abortion? What is the pastoral response?

Activity: What does it mean to be human?

Students work in groups to come up with a brief statement on what it means to be a human being.

Resource: Articles, books, and videos to dive deeper

3:00 END

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Module Six:

Disability, Suffering, and the Pastoral Imagination

Saturday March 24, 2018

Disability and suffering share a complicated and convoluted history. Too often, it is assumed that people with disabilities are *suffering* their disability, and yet for many people disability is more closely related to who they are as a person than to suffering. Hear first-hand perspectives of multiple ways to relate to suffering, and come away from this module with a renewed appreciation for theologies and pastoral practices that leave space for suffering and yet always practice gracious presence with people with disabilities *and* those that suffer.

Facilitator: **Chantal Huinink**

Chantal Huinink is a motivational speaker, author, and social justice advocate who lives with cerebral palsy. Chantal is completing a double-masters in Divinity and Social Work through Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. She holds a BA in Psychology and Human Development from the University of Guelph and a certificate in Disability Ministry from the International Disability Center in California. Chantal currently serves as Coordinator of Organizational and Spiritual Life with Christian Horizons, and is a certified trainer of Joni and Friends *Beyond Suffering* curriculum. Chantal is especially passionate about fostering the faith development of people with 'disabilities' because of the impact faith has had on her life.



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SESSION 1: THE TENSIONS OF DISABILITY AND SUFFERING

9:15

- Grief, loss, and the experience of disability
- "If you've met one person..." Theologies and practices that *listen*.

Video:

Disability from the point of view of disability as suffering

10:30 BREAK

SESSION 2: BEYOND SUFFERING

11:00

Drawing insight from Joni and Friends, this session explores potential reasons why disability and suffering happens, and appropriate responses to people who experience disability and suffering.

Personal exercise:

Participants reflect on their own personal journeys through suffering and its relation to the human condition.

12:30 LUNCH

SESSION 3: RENEWING THE PASTORAL IMAGINATION

1:30

What could it mean for disability to *not* primarily relate to suffering but to the limits each person experiences as a part of being a human being created in the image of God?

Activity: Becoming human

Participants get into groups to explore human limitation, vulnerability, and the gifts that come from these.

Video: Jean Vanier

3:00 END