

MY FAITH, MY WAY



everyone matters.

evergreen

LIFE SERVICES

Faith Based Organization - Core Values

- ❖ Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church since 1959
- ❖ Spirituality is a primary focus of services provided at Evergreen
- ❖ Spirituality has proven to be an important aspect of life
- ❖ People have the right to choose their own level of spirituality
- ❖ Commitment to supporting people to have the level of spirituality they choose
- ❖ Commitment to working with faith communities to welcome and include people

Do people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the right to choose their own expressions of spirituality?

Do they also have a right to choose not to participate in religious or spiritual activity?

What we have found is.....

Spiritual resources and faith communities are an underused resource in the IDD community.

How do we help with this?

- 
- Respect a person's history, tradition and current preferences.
The choice not to participate.
 - Embracing Spirituality as an important part of human experience and expressed uniquely by every person.
 - Ensuring transportation and easy-to-read materials are provided as needed to facilitate the individual's full participation.
 - Supports and programs should be age-appropriate and inclusive;
 - Faith communities should be encouraged to build their capacity to support and welcome individuals with IDD and their families, and should be assisted in such efforts

WHAT IS FAITH?

according
to

Michael



According
to
Hadley





Lets talk about a personal
kind of spirituality.





Meet Roberto



Limited ability to speak used gestures and vocalizations.

Attended St Phillips Presbyterian Church.

Always had a Bible with him.

Transcribed every page of his Bible to notebooks.

He filled 100s of notebooks.

From Assessment to Participation

Supporting Individual
Preferences to Find Their
Faith Community



Evergreen's Spiritual Life Program

- † Policy
- † Assessment
- † Person Centered Planning
- † Outcome Measure

Policy

- Spirituality - Integral part of person centered plan
- People given assistance to participate but not coerced
- Religious study materials made available
- Individual and corporate prayer encouraged
- Supports provided in conjunction with the faith community to assist people to exercise special rites or sacraments of the faith community
- Transportation provided or arranged to services and other activities of the faith community
- Executive Directors responsible for policy implementation

Assessment

- ★ Administered upon entrance to Evergreen and annually thereafter
- ★ Faith preference
- ★ Level of participation
- ★ More information and supports to participate
- ★ Assistance in practicing the traditions of chosen faith
- ★ Assistance with communication
- ★ Visit different places of worship
- ★ Assistance with transportation
- ★ Other faith based activities to participate in

Person Centered Planning

Data from assessment and outcome interview included in person centered plan

Individual supports developed to assist with and increase people's level of participation in their chosen faith community

Outcome Measurement Sample Questions

Are you religious?

What religion are you?

Do you attend church/mosque/temple/mass?

Is it up to you where you attend?

Are you involved in any groups or activities there?

Do you get to attend when you want?

What kind of assistance do you need, if desired, to practice your faith at home?





What Support Looks Like

Attending place of worship of their choice

Assisting with prayer and study in their home

Active participation in congregation: usher, choir, potlucks, plays, prison ministry

Watching live stream of their place of worship

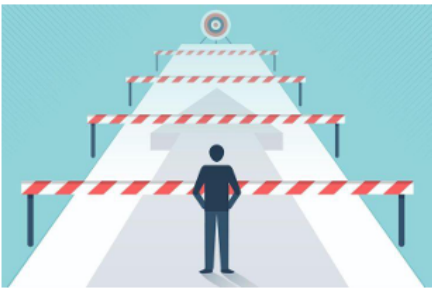
Television broadcasts of churches

Religious Apps/Streaming

Gospel music

Exposure

Rites and traditions of their faith community



BARRIERS

Staffing
Transportation

Accessibility
Communication

Community perception

- People with IDD bring their own unique spiritual gifts and benefits to spiritual and religious communities, just as people without disabilities do.
 - a. ushers
 - b. participation in productions
 - c. choir member
 - d. nursery worker
 - e. children ministry volunteer
 - f. participating in potlucks
 - g. telling their story

IF WE DO NOTHING

Individuals possess spirituality in spite of our process.

- ▶ Individuals possess spirituality in spite of our process.
- ▶ Those that cannot voice their choice, inherently participate in their choice.











The tomb is empty
HE IS RISEN







LORETTA



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evergreen

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