

Abstract

Title: Christian ministry with people who have disabilities. How can the Armagh Diocese of the Church of Ireland promote a best practice of ministry with people who have disabilities, in order to reflect the Church's ethos of being a welcoming community?

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The Church has a requisite to reflect the Apostle Paul's perception of the Church as a welcoming community. Paul wrote: *'Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.'* (Romans 15:7)

This dissertation investigates the current practice of ministry with people with disabilities¹ in Armagh Diocese of the Church of Ireland,² in an attempt to develop easily accessible models of good practice. It is necessary to research the extent to which the ADOCI has achieved a best practice of ministry. Moreover, is the Church's moral belief in being a welcoming community hindered by visible and/or invisible barriers, which prevent full inclusion of PWD. This research will include assessing how physical, theological, linguistic, attitudinal, hermeneutical, and liturgical barriers, impede the welcoming of people who are somehow different from the normative expectation

In conclusion, having explored the historical and societal influences on the Church's current practice of ministry with PWD, the question of how to promote a best practice of ministry with PWD can be answered, and suggestions for best practice developed.

¹ PWD

² ADOCI