



# Making your church a disability inclusive community

Book disability training for your church or Christian organisation. Our workshops are run by specialists in disability theology and ministry with a lived experience of disability.

Developed in partnership with people living with disability, Our Place's workshops are aimed at helping churches become places of belonging for people living with disability. We want to help you support people with disability to become active and participating members of your church community. Online or in-person.

Each workshop is comprised of teaching content, small group discussions, and practical tips to help your church ensure that people with disability can be:

- Safe and known
- Connected and growing
- Celebrated and loved
- Blessing and being blessed

Participants receive a printed and digital copy of a workbook, as well as additional practical resources.

**\$20**  
pp

includes  
3.5 hours of  
disability training  
plus workbook

To book a workshop contact us at [ministryleader@ourplacecc.org.au](mailto:ministryleader@ourplacecc.org.au) or visit [bit.ly/BookingsAndInquiries](https://bit.ly/BookingsAndInquiries)

## Belonging Workshop: Making your Church a Disability Inclusive Community

Our Belonging workshop aims at giving churches a biblical foundation for creating disability inclusive churches. The workshop will help your church better understand what disability is, the barriers that exist that prevent people with disability being able to participate, and what you can do to remove those barriers and become a disability inclusive community.

## Ministry & Discipleship with Adults with Autism and/or Intellectual Disability

How can we help support adults with autism or intellectual disability to grow in their faith and become active members of our church communities? This workshop will guide you through some of the barriers that exist for adults with autism or intellectual disability to belonging in a church community and ways we can help remove those barriers. We'll also focus on creating mixed-ability environments which serve the needs of all.

## Disability & Housing: A Model of Christian Discipleship and Community

As pastors, family, and friends of people with disability, we seek a home for each where they belong – a place they are safe and known, connected and growing, celebrated and loved. Be part of developing a housing model of Christian discipleship for people with disability. This workshop is designed for churches looking to partner with Hope Christian Homes and Our Place Christian Communities in creating Christian housing options for adults with disability.



## Rev Dr Kirk Patston & Lisa Patston

Kirk is the Director of the Centre for Preaching and Pastoral Ministry and Lecturer in Old Testament and Practical Theology at Sydney Missionary & Bible College. His research degrees include the interaction of disability studies with the theme of otherness in Job. He has lived experience of disability as a father and professional experience as a former speech pathologist.

Lisa has qualifications in education and ministry and lived experience of disability as a parent. She has also been a community visitor with the ombudsman's office, giving her firsthand experience of life for people with disability in institutions and group homes.

## Workshop costs for participants

- Participants - \$20 per person
- Concession card holders/NDIS recipients - \$10 per person
- Carers accompanying a person with disability – Free
- Your staff and church members assisting on the day (such as with technology, tea and coffee, sharing their story on stage, etc) – Free

Our \$20 fee for participants helps us cover the cost of staff and workbooks. This will be charged at the time of registration. We encourage attendees to pre-register for the workshop, but if there is still room available, we can take walk-ins who can pay prior to the start of the event.

# What Our Place will provide your church

## Our team

We have a small team of staff and volunteers who will be involved with running the Belonging workshop. This team are either people with lived experience of disability and/or have theological and practical experience in disability. All our team have completed Safe Ministry training (or equivalent in their denomination/Christian organisation) and have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC).

The Our Place team will aim to arrive at least half an hour prior to ensure our technology is set up and ready to go. Please ensure you have someone on site to meet us at your church to give us access to the space we will be using. This includes access to technology so we can ensure our PowerPoint slides and videos will be able to play.

## Registrations for workshop participants

Our Place will oversee registrations for the event through our Eventbrite page. You can direct people to our website, [ourplacecc.org.au/belonging](http://ourplacecc.org.au/belonging). We will keep you updated on the number of registrations. When participants register to attend, we will ask about participant's accessibility needs and advise you about any participants who make any particular access requests (e.g., large-print workbooks, seating with armrests, etc).

## Marketing and resources for your church

We will promote your Belonging workshop through our communications channels including on our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn), and through our mailing list. This means it is possible people from outside your church may also attend the workshop.

We will give you access to digital resources you can use to promote your Belonging workshop; this includes printable versions of advertising material for you to promote your event widely. You can use these to promote the event in your church services, newsletter, social media and on your website. If you have any issues with using these resources, please contact Our Place at [admin@ourplacecc.org.au](mailto:admin@ourplacecc.org.au).

While Our Place will be promoting your Belonging Workshop on our website, social media, and in our network, **nothing quite matches personal invitations and word of mouth!**

**Please promote your workshop within your church and local area.**

**Here are some things you can do to get started:**

- Use the digital resources we have provided to print flyers and posters for your church grounds, and ask local businesses for permission to put them up (such as a local café)
- Use Our Place digital graphics on your social media channels, your church newsletter (including your e-newsletter) and your church's website
- Contact other churches in your area and let them know you will be hosting this event - and ask them to promote it too (and consider coming along!).

## Workbooks

Our Place has created a workbook for participants to use as part of the workshop. We'll provide enough printed and digital copies of this workbook. (Our digital copies are in PDF and Word format. The Word version can be edited, for the convenience of participants who wish to type notes.) We can also provide large-print copies for anyone who requests it.

## Small bookstall

We will bring with us a small number of disability and ministry related resources available for attendees to purchase. We will oversee sales before the morning starts, during afternoon tea, and after the conclusion of the workshop.

## Debriefing and implementing workshop learning

After the workshop, we are happy to arrange a time to debrief and discuss the workshop if that is helpful. We are also happy to work with you to help implement any of the ideas we presented, such as sending out a congregational survey or starting an Inclusion Committee.

## Partnership and consultations

We offer churches the opportunity to partner with us as Our Place Church Partners and support us in our disability mission and ministry work. As a partner, your church would receive ongoing support for a period of 12 months. This includes assistance with running a congregational survey, launching an Inclusion Committee, advice on running inclusive programs, and consultancy on individual needs. You can opt to become an Our Place Church Partner with a \$1000 donation to Our Place Christian Communities, and you can continue to partner with us each year to receiving ongoing support.

**Thank you for your interest in Our Place's disability ministry workshops!**



**Book a workshop**



**Get a free prayer guide**



**Read Everyone Welcome: Accessible Church For All by Dr Louise Gosbell**



**Support Our Place's ministry**