



# Disability Justice and Mental Health

Our Faith Our Vote: Issue Education Resource

## Where Does the UCC Stand on Disability Justice and Mental Health Justice?

The United Church of Christ affirms that God calls us to create a just world for all people living with disabilities and mental health challenges. God calls us to the work of justice for people experiencing stigma, invisibility, and marginalization by church and society. We are called to ensure that church reduces the stigma faced by those living with disabilities and mental health challenges and makes room at the table through education, advocacy and partnerships.

The General Synod of the UCC has passed many resolutions over the decades calling for both congregational inclusion and systemic advocacy: urging churches to welcome people with disabilities and mental illness into full leadership and life of the church, while also advocating for equitable access to services and policy reform. Key milestones include the 2005 “Called to Wholeness in Christ” resolution on accessibility, the 2015 WISE Congregation resolution encouraging churches to become welcoming and stigma-free spaces for people with mental health challenges, and the 2017 “Toward Disability Justice” resolution which reframed accessibility as a broader justice issue.

The United Church of Christ calls on our elected officials and members of the judiciary to ensure that all people in the US, regardless of immigration status, are treated with respect and dignity; that everyone, including immigrants in detention, be screened for and have access to effective, culturally responsive medical care, including care for mental health needs; that arrest and detention are used as a last resort only when public safety is at risk; and that we stop the detention of children based on immigration status.

## Prayer

*God of Love, we pray today in the Spirit of inclusion, accessibility, and belonging. We celebrate the divinity present in the diversity of Creation, including disabled people. Thank you for making our bodies and minds unique, different, and good. Help our community prioritize the needs of people with disabilities and mental health realities. Guide our policy and advocacy efforts to center the access to accommodations making it possible for equal rights for all. Empower and bless us as we advocate for disability and mental health justice as God given rights. Amen.*

## Questions for Candidates

- What are you doing to ensure equal rights and political participation, including ensuring voters with disabilities and mental health challenges are accommodated?
- What are your priorities for addressing disabilities and mental health justice?
- How will you work to ensure that people with disabilities have quality, comprehensive, and affordable healthcare?

## Take Additional Action

Educate yourself on the intersections between disability rights and voting rights through this [UCC resource](#) authored by Rev. Sarah Lund.

Learn more through [UCC Disabilities Ministries](#), including exploring how to become an [Accessible2All](#) congregation

Learn more through [UCC Mental Health Network](#) including exploring how to become a [WISE](#) (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) congregation.

## Want to learn more?

Contact Rev. Sarah Lund, Minister for Disability and Mental Health Justice, [lunds@ucc.org](mailto:lunds@ucc.org)