Theological Education and Disability in the USA and Canada: A Snapshot

* More seminaries offering some kind of course or curriculum offering related to disability, with some infusion into other courses. Still a minority. See some of the curricula on the Collaborative website: <http://faithanddisability.org/resources/resources-for-seminaries/>
* Association of Theological Schools has a voluntary policy on disability, with recommendations for curriculum as well as accessibility and student supports. <http://www.ats.edu/search/gss/disability> An excellent article published in the ATS journal from a national study is on the Collaborative website above.
* The Summer Institute on Theology and Disability is gradually building an online library of videos and recordings of plenary sessions. One of the goals is to address disability from all of the theological disciplines, i.e., infuse disability in varied parts of the curriculum more so than a “set-aside” course. The Institute also moves around the country, inviting seminaries to be hosts. <http://faithanddisability.org/projects/summer-institute/>
* There are more students with disabilities in seminaries. The Summer Institute has attracted many of them, as well as participants for a Ph.D. Symposium.
* A couple of seminaries are beginning to offer certificate programs in disability and ministry. One is Western Theological Seminary, under the director of Dr. Benjamin Conner. Candler Theological School has initiated a Nancy Eiesland Lecture.
* Western Theological Seminary was also the site of the first Friendship House, a residential program in which seminary students live with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. <http://friendshiphousepartners.com> Duke Divinity School and Vanderbilt have followed suit, with others being planned.
* With the support of The Ruderman Family Foundation, and other Jewish organizations, there is significant work being done in rabbinical schools and other forms of training and education. See, for example, <http://disabilitiesinclusion.org>. Jewish organizations collaborate on a Jewish Disability Awareness Month, February, and have developed multiple resources and initiatives: [www.JDAIM.org](http://www.JDAIM.org)
* Joni and Friends has worked with a number of evangelical seminaries and Bible colleges to sponsor their course/curriculum: ***Beyond Suffering.*** <http://www.joniandfriends.org/education-and-training/>
* Through the work of the University Centers of Excellence in the Collaborative, a number of joint projects with seminaries have been initiated, including summer courses, placement of seminary students in interdisciplinary training programs, collaborative conferences, and more.
* The Kennedy Center in Nashville, which houses the Collaborative website, has been involved in a significant number of research projects under the guidance of Erik Carter and projects, such as the Putting Faith to Work Initiative (developing a model for congregations to be involved in helping people with disabilities get jobs. The Collaborative website is also collecting articles that have been published in any form of journal as a research and resource base. **(If you have published an article in this area in a journal, please go to the Collaborative website and submit an entry.)**
* The Journal of Disability and Religion continues to grow in impact. Issues this year include collections from theological projects in Africa. <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wrdh21>
* Other theological journals and magazines have had issues dedicated to disability. Example: May, 2016 issue of The Baptist Review and Expositor <http://rae.sagepub.com/content/113/2.toc>l
* The number of books related to theology, ministry, and disability has grown exponentially. One example is that Baylor University Press has begun a Studies in Religion, Theology and Disability, with @4 books published and more in the pipeline. [http://www.baylorpress.com/en/Series/16/Studies%20in%20Religion,%20Theology,%20and%20Disability](http://www.baylorpress.com/en/Series/16/Studies%20in%20Religion%2C%20Theology%2C%20and%20Disability)
* The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education recently hosted a three-part webinar series on pastoral care with persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, archived on their site as well as under Webinars on the Collaborative website. (See footer, previous page)

This list is very North American focused and we are still learning about and connecting with other initiatives and networks around the world, including:

* The European Society for the Study of Theology and Disability. They have periodic conferences. One of the centers of study in this area is the University of Aberdeen, where John Swinton, Brian Brock, and others are located. They have an international listserv: DISABILITY-AND-SPIRITUALITY@JISCMAIL.AC.UK
* EDAN, of the World Council of Churches, has done significant work under the leadership of Sam Kabue on theological education and disability in many parts of the world, including Asia and Africa. <http://www.edan-wcc.org>
* Australia and New Zealand: Both have networks that sponsor periodic conferences and training projects related to seminaries and clergy education.