


# TEN YEARS/TEN LESSONS

*Examining the top ten lessons learned in the development of Faith Inclusion Network, a regional interfaith networking organization*



Faith Inclusion Network  
FIN OF HAMPTON ROADS

## FIN's Mission and Vision

Our **mission** is to promote awareness of and provide support for the inclusion of people with disabilities and their families into faith communities.




Our **vision** is a world where all people affected by disability are accepted, included and celebrated in our faith communities.




### Faith Inclusion Network

An interfaith network creates a way to connect congregations with disability related services, businesses and organizations in the community




## Ten Lessons

1. Knocking on Doors
2. Meeting Faith Communities Where They Are
3. Learning about Disability
4. Developing Interfaith Connections
5. The Importance of Events
6. Money????
7. Patience... and More Patience
8. Partnering with Other Organizations
9. Learning from Passionate Leaders
10. The "Faith" in Faith Inclusion Network



### #1 Knocking on Doors

- Necessary but extremely time consuming
- Learning to be more efficient
- Still figuratively knocking on doors ten years later



### #2 Meeting Faith Communities Where They Are

- Recognizing disability ministry efforts, even if they are more segregated than inclusive.
- Sharing new ideas, resources in a respectful way.
- Giving congregations time to absorb and respond to new ideas



### #3 Learning about Disability



### #4 Developing Interfaith Connections

- Holding events in a variety of places of worship
- Taking time to learn about and understand different faith traditions
- Developing personal relationships with faith community leaders



### #5 The Importance of Events

- The value of meeting with people in person
- Opportunity to share knowledge
- Businesses like to support events
- Needed for event planning; attention to detail and vision



### #6 Money???-Lessons in Funding

#### Sponsors and Donations

- Started by getting sponsors for events
- The importance of donations in-kind
- Held first Membership Drive and Membership Reception in January, 2017

#### Membership



### #7 Patience...and more Patience

- Faith Communities can be VERY slow to make any changes
- Not unusual to speak at a faith community and not hear back with any updates for a year or more.
- Change in a congregation's attitude can also take a lot of patience.



### #8 Partnering with other organizations

- Almost all events we do now we partner with other organizations
- We also collaborate on projects with other groups. (i.e. Let's Share a Journey- Raven's Way Foundation)
- Partnering does not just mean sharing financial costs



### #9 Learning from Passionate Leaders



### #10 The "Faith" in Faith Inclusion Network

- Members of our organization are people of faith
- We often pray for direction, ideas and financial support
- Although belief systems may differ among our members, our underlying passion for inclusion is fueled by our faith and our love for those who are affected by disability



### How to reach us!

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 Facebook TAMW Conference: <https://www.facebook.com/ThatAllMayWorship/>  
**ACCEPT. INCLUDE. CELEBRATE.**

