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Universal Design for Worship in Action: Cultural, Curricular, and Personal Application

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 LaTonya McIver Penny
 Kevin Timpe
 Herbert T. Tsang
 Moderated by Barbara J. Newman
 Calvin Symposium on Worship 2020
S20 “Universal Design” in Action:
Cultural, Curricular, and Personal Applications

Introduction

Universal Design: definition and examples (Barbara Newman, Moderator)

Example of Universal Design features from Fourth Reformed Church (Grand Rapids, MI):



FOURTH REFORMED CHURCH

**UNIVERSAL DESIGN
IN WORSHIP**

At Fourth Reformed Church we strive to make worship universal. Here are some ways we’ve done this so far:

- Added a computer screen and formatted music in a way that a seeing impaired individual can play guitar with the worship team.
- Have a woman who is blind read the scripture for the morning worship from her Braille Bible from time to time.
- Provide bulletins for the readers and non readers. The non reader version has pictures and words rather than just words.
- Provide a fidget basket of fidgets to borrow so those who have a harder time paying attention can override their restlessness and take in more of the service.
- Made a video with our inclusion team’s theme verse— 1 Corinthians 12:12-27—and used that in worship during Disability Awareness Month
- Implemented using “Please Rise in Body or in Spirit” vocally for those who hear and on the screen for the deaf.
- Included universal design to our upcoming stage redesign and sanctuary updating (It’s 50+ years old). If we can raise the money— this will be a reality!

Visual Order of Worship (bulletin):

This Morning in Worship
 November 24, 2019

<i>Prelude</i> Be Still	<i>Welcome</i> Pastor Eric	<i>Call to Worship</i> Pastor Eric	<i>Sing</i> Praise the Lord Sing Hallelujah	<i>Sing</i> For the Beauty Of the Earth	<i>Sing</i> What the Lord Has Done in Me
<i>Offering</i> Here I Am, Lord	<i>Prayer</i> Pastor Eric	<i>Sermon</i> Pastor Eric	<i>Sing</i> The Servant Song	<i>The Blessing</i> Pastor Eric	<i>Postlude</i> Make Me a Blessing

Panel Discussion