**Dignity**

Treating people with dignity is more than just ensuring that no-one is excluded. It is about the quality of treatment people receive. If people’s physical needs are met, but in a way that leads to feeling like a burden or marked as different from a perceived norm, then people are not being treated with dignity. We are called to recognise the image of God in one another. We accept one another on their own terms, without expecting each other to conform to our assumptions.

“Just as you did to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me.”

Matthew 25:40

*Example:*

*A church trained their welcome team to ask people if they wanted large print books, rather than waiting for people to ask for them. A younger adult arriving at the church for the first time commented that at other churches, when they’d asked for a large print text, they were challenged as to why they needed one, because they needed to be saved for older people. So to be offered one without having to ask made them feel valued and welcomed for the first time.*

*Example:*

*A minister conducted a funeral for someone who was non-binary. The death certificate recorded their legal sex, which had to be the same as their birth certificate. However, the language used during the service reflected their non-binary gender identity. The legal requirements did not prevent the service from treating the person who had died with dignity.*

**Self-assessment checklist**

* **Have you completed a hospitality audit?4**
* **What training do you provide to welcome stewards? Does it include training in Unconscious Bias or Equality, Diversity and Inclusion?5**
* **Do you have microphones? Do you insist that they are used?**
* **If there is projection, *c*an people see the screen? Are the font and background legible, not just on the computer but once projected?6**
* **Do you have large print text resources available?6**
* **Is inclusive language used?7**
* **Is it ok to interrupt the worship to inform that you can’t see or hear clearly? How is this done? During worship, who is responsible for checking audio-visual resources are working effectively?**
* **Is there physical access to buildings for those who have mobility issues?8**

Want to know more?

* 4The Methodist Church has published a Hospitality Audit: [First Impressions Count - Methodist Church](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/welcome-and-invitation/first-impressions-count/)
* 5The Methodist Church has published free training on Unconscious Bias and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion on its online learning platform MCBX: [MCBX (theologyx.com)](https://mcb.theologyx.com/)
* 6The Methodist Church has published guidance on improving the accessibility of documents and resources: [How to create accessible resources (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/the-inclusive-methodist-church/accessibility/how-to-create-accessible-resources/)
* 7The Methodist Church has published an Inclusive Language Guide: [The Methodist Inclusive Language Guide](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/the-inclusive-methodist-church/resources-events-and-support/resources/the-methodist-inclusive-language-guide/)
* 8The Methodist Church has published guidance on completing an access audit: [A-Z Property Guidance (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/a-z-property-guidance/).
* 8The Methodist Church has also published an example access audit as part of the EDI Toolkit on Disability and Impairment: [edi-toolkit-4-0923.pdf (d1yuutt686hfi0.cloudfront.net)](https://d1yuutt686hfi0.cloudfront.net/media/documents/edi-toolkit-4-0923.pdf).
* 8The Methodist Church has also published comprehensive further guidance on access to church buildings: [Widening the Eye of the Needle: Access to Church Buildings for People with Disabilities](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Widening-Eye-Needle-Buildings-Disabilities/dp/0715140612)