

Exceptional Teaching Online – A Training Venue For Ministries of All Sizes

A Large Formalized Program

As the director of a large church disability ministry, it is challenging to train over 120 volunteers to work in different programs. We live in the busy Western suburbs of Chicago and arranging training meetings that fit the needs and schedules of all of our volunteers has been difficult. A few years ago, I was introduced to the excellent disability training program that Exceptional Teaching Online offers. I have benefited from it personally, not only from the video clips and modules, but from the excellent database and links to other resources. It is great to have all of that information in one place rather than searching through different websites.

I desired to have this available to all of our volunteers as well and contacted CCFH and asked if they would consider providing me with a group license so that I could share this wonderful resource with all of my ministry and volunteer staff without access limits. Since the question had not been posed before, they did some checking with their online support team. As is characteristic of CCFH, they found a way to meet this request for a very reasonable fee—much less than it would have cost for me to hold a training workshop. At our training kick-off in the fall, I was able to share this information with our volunteers and have been encouraged by their response. Now our volunteers are being trained in their homes at a time that is convenient for them.

Recently, I was discussing training issues with a member of our prayer team and a man responded, "We just need to have more training like the online program you introduced in the fall." I hope Jim Pierson and his team will continue to develop more online training resources and that many churches will take advantage of this group licensure option. Thanks for making my job easier, Jim!"

Dawn Clark, Director of Disabilities Ministries, College Church, Wheaton, Illinois

A Smaller Formulating Program

After some evaluation, Park Chapel Christian Church realized that we have a minimum six special needs children and five special need adults. So, we felt God was leading us to a Special Needs Ministry. We proposed a plan to our elders and recruited a steering team. We use the teaching videos from the CCFH website as a tool for our steering team. Our membership allows for us to share our code with other team members so they can watch individually prior to our meetings from their personal computer.

At our meetings, we stream the videos and watch them collectively; we then discuss how we might implement the teaching and discuss specific needs of individuals. Our

membership also allows us to use the resource guide for definitions and teaching ideas for specific disabilities.

These tools have helped us tremendously and we are very thankful for the resource. They are easy to use and helpful to every size church. As a parent of a child with special needs, I highly recommend *Exceptional Teaching Online* available through the CCFH website.

Don Crane <http://donaldcrane.blogspot.com>, Fine Arts Minister, Park Chapel Christian Church, Greenfield, Indiana

Use WWW.CCFH.ORG to Enrich Your Training

The centerpiece of www.ccfh.org is *Exceptional Teaching Online*, a six-module program complete with video segments, interactive exercises, and additional resources that provides the core training materials. Specifically the modules discuss:

1. Steps for Beginning a Disability Ministry
2. Designing a Christian Education Component
3. Creating a Classroom Environment to Accommodate a Disability Ministry
4. Planning to Include People with Disabilities in the Life of the Church
5. Planning a Ministry with the Family Experiencing Disability
6. Planning for Community Outreach

The descriptions of more than 75 diagnoses and techniques for teachers and other volunteers to use with them are available. We have also included a list of churches that have disability ministry programs, along with a number of other resources for starting, growing, and maintaining a disability ministry.

Our hope is that this site will continue to be an ever-growing resource for developing materials and information. The Blog is a user-generated resource where good ideas and information for disability ministries are presented, needs are shared, and churches make their disability ministries known.

CCFH now offers a group membership fee. Yes, many of our full membership users share their access information with others in their group. However this only affords limited access concurrently. The group membership is ideal for allowing multiple users unlimited access at all times.

Do you need help training disability ministry volunteers and staff? Give *Exceptional Teaching Online* a try. Consider the group membership option to allow maximum usage. Remember, this option can take the place of hiring a consultant for training.

CCFH Ministries' staff members are available for speaking engagements and always willing to answer specific questions.

Do you have a question for us? Email to info@ccfh.org and receive a personal reply.

Information in this CCFH **Connections** newsletter compiled by Sylvia Hemphill, Director of Administrative Functions and Resource Materials.

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