

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfil their purpose. (See the *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.

<b>Interest Network:</b>	<b>Religion and Spirituality</b>
<b>Lead Contact Person:</b>	Deborah Fisher
<b>2022-2023 Report</b> For the year that <b>just ended</b> (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.	
<b>Broaden Outreach</b> The over-arching goal was achieved as evidenced by the increased numbers of people who participated in our monthly meetings, attended our webinars, and have signed up for the pre-Conference Forum presentation and registered to attend our dinner. We are pleased to have engaged in some important discussions about the important role that faith plays in the lives of people with IDD, and we look forward to continuing these discussions. We collaborated with the Creative Arts, Community and Technology Interest Networks in the webinars and in our monthly meetings. We have been working to expand collaboration with a more diverse group of faith and spiritual leaders and practitioners. In collaboration with RespectAbility, we held 4 webinars which brought a record audience. Each webinar had over 140 registrants with 40-70 attendees, on average.  We continue to expand and refine our social media presence and have been increasing the number of archived materials through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Online presence:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Continued Social Media (Facebook.com/aaidreligion) posts and resources</li><li>○ Beginning to expand the Information and Resources Tab on website (aaidreligion.org) (\$44.41 of IN funds)</li><li>○ Sent out eNewsletter with links to archived materials and upcoming events</li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>DSP Religion and Spirituality Education and Support</b> This was a focus of our webinars, as well as the Forum focus on Trauma-Informed awareness when dealing with religious and faith or spiritual activities and settings. We were mindful of both the interests and experiences of people supported and the DSPs providing the support, and their possible history of trauma in those settings or activities.	
<b>Monthly Meetings</b> Most of the monthly meetings brought in 10-12 active participants, some of whom are new to the group. These attendees actively participated and contributed to the IN's programs and discussions.	
<b>CQL Spirituality Guidelines</b>	

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Contact was made with CQL's leadership.

## Annual Events

- Reimagining Spirituality Leadership Awardee. We received a record number of nominations this year. Karen Jackson, Founder of the Faith Inclusion Network was selected. The plaque that was given to Ms. Jackson was affixed to a piece of art created by one of the people who is supported by the Stone Belt Arc in Indiana. (*\$109.73 was spent on the award*)
- Annual Meeting Events. The Forum was scheduled during the pre-Conference afternoon. The speaker was Karyn Harvey, Ph.D. Reconnecting with Community and Self: A Trauma Informed Approach. Off-site dinner brought out over 20 conference attendees, more than half of whom were new to our IN. (*expenditures for renting room and AV equipment; dinner was self-funded, except for our Awardee and Forum speaker*) Planning began early and frequent reminders were sent out. A flyer with the schedule of IN activities taking place during the conference was distributed in the conference registration materials.

## 2023-2024 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

### Continue to Broaden Interest

The ongoing goal is to inform, educate and collaborate with all stakeholders who are involved in supporting self-determined, meaningful lives for people with IDD.

- Focus on facilitating connections between providers and faith congregations
- Train and educate providers and DSPs about what involvement with faith communities and/or activities is and is not.
- Increase representation of diverse religious, faith and spiritual practitioners and leaders
- Continue to expand resources on our website. (Costs will be approximately \$50/year)
- Continue to stay connected to members:
  - eNewsletter
  - Monthly steering committee meetings, inviting all members of IN and sending out agenda and meeting minutes to keep members informed
  - Social media, Facebook, Linked In, website use for promoting webinars and other IN events
  - Webinar Series, hopefully continued collaboration with RespectAbility (no cost)

### Explore R&S Certification

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Explore possibility of creating a Religion and Spirituality credential. Will use the curriculum developed for chaplains over 10 years ago, along with the webinars and other IN activities to determine feasibility.

## **CQL Spirituality Guidelines**

We will focus on educating CQL on the evidence-based data and research that is available to inform these guidelines. Our goal is to promote networks and providers to include them in evaluating the quality of supports people receive.

## **Annual Events**

- Reimagining Spirituality Leadership Award nominee solicitation started early and had extensive publicity. We will continue to promote this important way to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of people who are doing this work in the same way we did last year.
  
- Annual Meeting activities are back on track. Planning should begin as early as possible. (costs for room and a/v equipment, as needed from IN funds. Dinner is self-funded.)
  - Give Leadership Award during the Forum.
  - Schedule Forum during the pre-Conference Leadership activities to maximize attendance.
  - Follow Award presentation and Forum with dinner.
  - Provide plenty of notification to members, early and often
  - Attempt to find a local organization to serve as a host or even sponsor