

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report: 2020

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.)

## Interest Network:

Religion and Spirituality Interest Network

## Lead Contact Person:

Sarah Hall, Ph.D., FAAIDD

[hall1964@umn.edu](mailto:hall1964@umn.edu)

402-613-2543

## Annual Report

For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used.

- Objective 1 – Develop a communication plan designed to promote R&S Network and build collaborative relationships with Faith and Culture Networks including Disability Studies programs, Faith Based Agencies, Disability Ministry/Advocacy groups: Ideas for a communication plan were discussed by the Steering Committee. Additional members of the Interest Network will need to be involved to successfully implement a more robust communication plan.
- Objective 2 – Evaluate the viability of the Spiritual Support Professional certification program through the R&S Network: We were unable to send out a survey to assess the need and direction of the program. We will look into how to use this information to develop a certification for direct support professionals in the upcoming year.
- Objective 3 – Increase membership involvement: Our membership numbers have remained relatively even for the past year. The Steering Committee reached out to the members of the Interest Network and involved three additional people in the review committee for the Nouwen Award.
- Objective 4 – Present 2020 Henri J.M. Nouwen Award: Since the AAIDD Conference was cancelled for 2020, we presented the award virtually. The 1-hour presentation included information about the interest network, a guest speaker, and time for the winner to talk about his journey.
- Objective 5 – Develop and execute plan for leadership transition within the division: Nominations were held for the vice president. The previous vice president began service as president and the previous president began service as past-president in June 2020. Meetings were held virtually on a monthly basis.
- Objective 6 – Develop proposal for 2020 AAIDD Conference: Members of the Steering Committee had proposals accepted for the 2020 AAIDD Conference.
- We did not have any new Spiritual Support Professional certifications in 2019/2020. The current action plan includes a reimagining of the program for direct support professionals.
- Expenses: As a network, our expenditures were generally confined to costs related to the production and presentation of the Henri Nouwen Award.

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## **Annual Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies**

For the coming year (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds.

**Goal 1: Provide information and resources to people with disabilities and their families, service providers, and faith communities to advance the practice of inclusion of people with disabilities in faith communities.**

Website: Update the website to provide information and resources as well as promote the events and activities of the Network.

- Identify who will be responsible for webhosting and the method for making payments.
- Update the website (e.g., content, Wordpress, web hosting).
- Projected expenditure: \$20/year domain registration for aaiddreligion.org, \$60/year for hosting (funds are currently being donated)

Social Media: Develop and implement a social media plan to highlight resources, stories, and current events of the Network.

- Develop a social media plan to identify content, timelines, and processes disseminating information on Facebook and Twitter.
- Create a social media sub-committee to implement and revise the plan.

Webinars: Collaborate with other Interest Networks and organizations to host webinars about the inclusion of people with disabilities in faith communities.

- Co-host 1-2 webinars with other Interest Networks on interrelated topics that involve the inclusion of people with disabilities in faith communities.
- Host 1 webinar about racial equity and inclusion in faith communities.

Journal of Disability & Religion: Promote the journal to influence the inclusion of people with disabilities in faith communities.

- Promote the journal through social media (e.g., highlight current articles).

Online Education: Explore options to educate direct support providers using online modules about the inclusion of people with disabilities in faith communities.

- Identify how the curriculum from the current certification may be used for a DSP certification.
- Explore platforms to provide training for a DSP certification.

**Goal 2: Update the internal processes of the Religion and Spirituality Interest Network to support growth and sustainability.**

Update The Book of AAIDD Religion and Spirituality Interest Network Presidential Instruction to include additional processes and subcommittees for the Interest Network's current activities.

**Goal 3: Promote membership and involvement in the Religion and Spirituality Interest Network.**

Henri Nouwen Award: Present the Henri Nouwen Award at the AAIDD Conference.

- Promote, review submissions, and present the award during the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Projected expenditures: \$1,300 for travel, conference registration, and award production

Increase Involvement: Identify and employ strategies to increase the involvement of AAIDD members in the activities of the Interest Network.

- The Steering Committee will identify and record strategies that are effectively used throughout the year.