



# withone worship

Creating Worship Experiences Where Every Child Belongs



INFORMATION PACKET

## A Note Before You Apply



At With Ministries, we believe every child should have the opportunity to encounter God and belong in worship—just as they are. Through the WithOne Worship Cohort (WOW Cohort), we invite churches and children’s ministry teams to reimagine what inclusive worship can look like in their context, equipping leaders to create environments where all kids can participate, connect, and grow in faith.

As you begin this application, please know there are no “right” answers—only honest reflections about where your church is today. Every church is on its own journey of inclusion, and we value the diversity of stories, sizes, and ministry settings represented in this work.

Your responses will help us learn more about your church and discern together whether this cohort is the right fit for your team at this time. We recognize that participating requires both time and financial investment, and we want to steward that well by welcoming churches ready to learn and grow alongside others.

Thank you for your heart to build a church where every child is seen, valued, and included. We’re honored to partner with you in this Kingdom vision.

For questions about the application process, contact: [kristinlangford@withministries.org](mailto:kristinlangford@withministries.org)

## About WithOne Worship

WOW Cohort is a project of With Ministries designed to help churches create worship experiences where all children can participate and belong.

Grounded in the research of Dr. Erik Carter’s *Toward Accessible Worship*, the cohort introduces a new framework for designing accessible worship that meaningfully engages children with disabilities and their families—both within church gatherings and in their faith life at home.

In addition to reimagining how worship can be more inclusive and participatory, the cohort equips parents with tools and resources to nurture their child’s spiritual growth between Sundays.

The goal is to move beyond simple inclusion toward a model of worship that reflects the fullness of God’s image in every person. Churches participating in the WOW Cohort will learn, experiment, and grow together—discovering practical ways to make worship more accessible and to strengthen belonging in every setting where faith is formed.

“The goal is to move beyond simple inclusion toward a model of worship that reflects the fullness of God’s image in every person.”



## Cohort Experience

Fifteen churches will participate together in a 12-month cohort designed for both learning and practical application. Each church will form a core reflection team of at least four members.

The journey begins with a half-day Vision Casting and Team Workday, introducing the foundational elements of Toward Accessible Worship and creating space for teams to set shared goals and commitments.

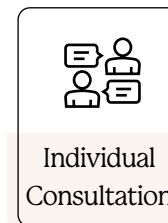
In the months that follow, churches will gather for every-other-month training sessions focused on tangible, practical changes within both children's ministry environments and corporate worship services.

Between sessions, teams will have access to:

- Open office hours for additional coaching and collaboration
- Individual consultation opportunities to help each church address its unique context and ministry goals

Even after the cohort concludes, churches retain full access to all resources to continue using and adapting them over time.

### Cohort Experience



## Starter Kit Resources

At the beginning of the WOW Cohort, each church team will receive a Starter Kit to help them begin implementing accessible worship practices right away.

The kit includes:

- Initial resources to support the foundational elements of Toward Accessible Worship introduced during the Vision Casting and Team Workday.
- Sensory tools designed to help children with disabilities engage more fully in worship and children's ministry activities.

Throughout the 12-month cohort, teams will receive additional resources at each training that align with the content for that period. These resources are designed to help teams implement practical changes in both worship services and children's ministry spaces while continuing to equip parents to nurture faith at home.

The Starter Kit and ongoing resources ensure that each church has both the guidance and the tools needed to make inclusive worship a tangible reality from the very start of the cohort.

### The Kit



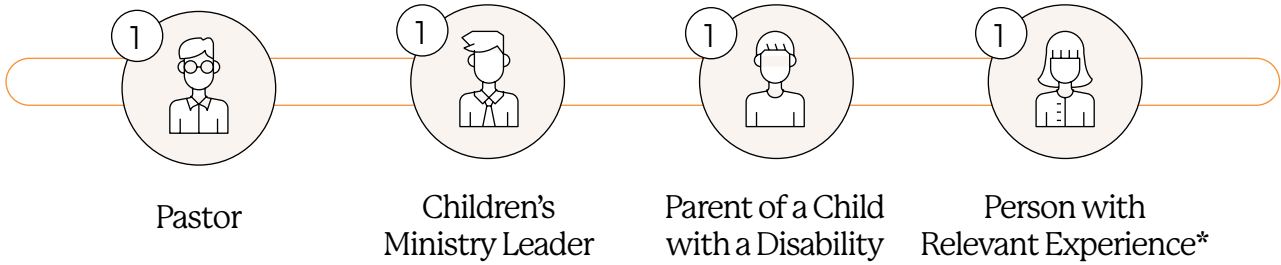
RESOURCES



SENSORY  
TOOLS

# Core Team

Before applying, churches should consider who might serve on their Core Team. Team members do not need to be named until after acceptance. Each Core Team should include representation from key roles:



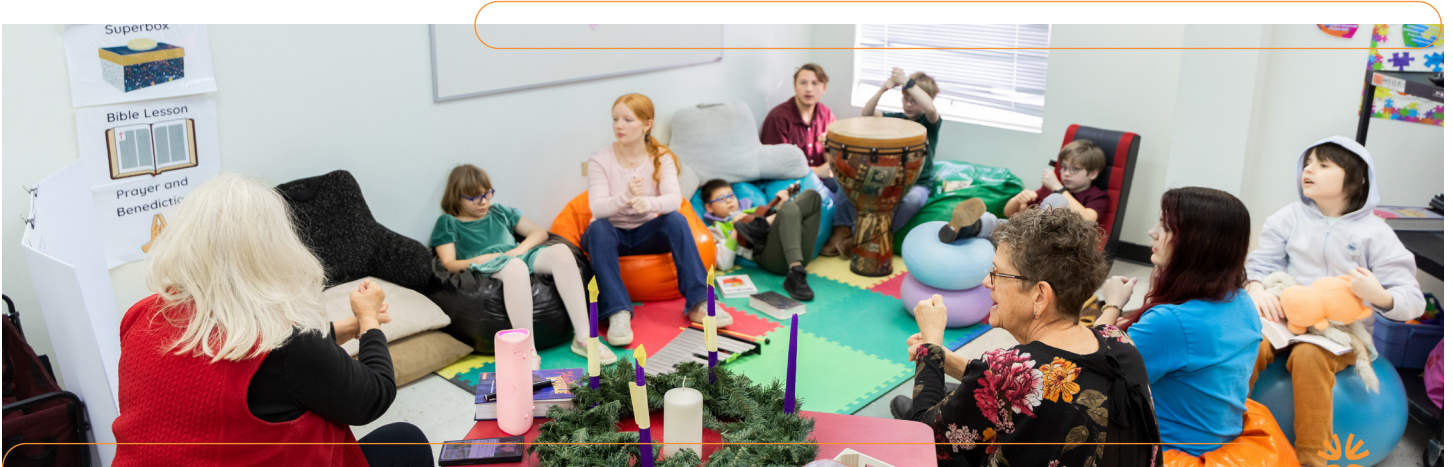
*\*Relevant experience: a special educator, disability ministry leader, occupational therapist, or similar*

The Core Team will serve as the church's primary leaders in the cohort. All Core Team members are required to attend the initial half-day Vision Casting and Team Workday, which introduces foundational elements of Toward Accessible Worship.

“Churches experience the most success when team members are able to work together over an extended period.”

Teams are encouraged to meet regularly (recommended monthly) to pray, reflect, and implement the resources provided through the program. These meetings create a space for learning, collaboration, and consistent progress toward more accessible and inclusive worship practices. Because shared learning is central to the cohort experience, at least one member from each Core Team is expected to attend all cohort training sessions held every other month to ensure consistent engagement and connection.

We recognize that Core Team members may need to change over time due to scheduling conflicts, life circumstances, or other reasons. While flexibility is important, we have found that churches experience the most success when team members are able to work together over an extended period. Sustained engagement allows the team to build trust, deepen learning, and see meaningful transformation in both worship and family faith formation.



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# What's Included in the Cohort Experience

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## Registration Fees

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The total cost to participate in the 12-month WOW Cohort is \$3,000.

After your church has been accepted and confirmed its participation in the cohort, a \$1000 non-refundable deposit will be due. The remaining balance is due prior to the cohort launch on Sept 26.

We recognize that this program represents a meaningful investment of time and resources, and we don't want cost to keep any church from participating. If the program fee is a barrier, or if you need to spread payments across fiscal years, please reach out to [kristinlangford@withministries.org](mailto:kristinlangford@withministries.org) so we can explore options together.

We are *grateful* for your willingness to invest in creating worship experiences that are truly accessible, inclusive, and welcoming for all children.

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# Frequently Asked Questions

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These FAQs are designed to help you understand what to expect as your church considers joining the WOW Cohort.

## **When will the application open?**

The application will be available on [withministries.org/wowcohort](https://withministries.org/wowcohort) beginning Friday, May 1.

## **When are applications due?**

For priority consideration, please submit your application to [kristinlangford@withministries.org](mailto:kristinlangford@withministries.org) no later than Sunday, May 31. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space remains.

## **When will churches be notified of selection?**

We expect to notify all churches of their application status by the end of June.

## **How long does the program last?**

The WOW Cohort is a 12-month commitment.

- **Training & Implementation (10 months):** Church teams participate in virtual trainings and one-on-one consultations while actively applying the tools and strategies in their worship and children's ministry. Teams actively apply tools and strategies throughout the training period, integrating changes gradually and sustainably.
- **Reflection & Support (2 months):** After the formal training period, teams continue applying what they've learned with ongoing access to cohort staff for guidance, questions, and coaching. Even after the 12-month cohort concludes, churches retain full access to all resources, so they can continue using and adapting the tools over time.

## **Will any of the meetings require in-person attendance?**

No. All cohort trainings are held virtually via Zoom to make participation accessible for churches in a variety of locations.

For the initial Vision Casting and Team Workday on September 26, 2026, With Ministries will lead the session virtually, but church teams are encouraged to meet together in person at their church or another local space. This allows teams to collaborate, plan, and engage hands-on with the resources provided during the session.

As part of the cohort, each church will also receive two complimentary tickets to our half-day Worship as One Summit, a training event for pastors and church staff. Attendees are responsible for their own travel to the summit. Participation is optional but provides an excellent opportunity to connect with other church leaders and continue learning from our team.

## **Will you come visit our church?**

On-site visits are not included as part of the standard cohort program. However, we can facilitate an on-site visit per request as an optional add-on for \$1000 plus travel expenses, designed to provide personalized coaching and encouragement specific to your church's context.

## **Does my church need to belong to a particular denomination to participate?**

No, there is no denominational requirement for participation. We are happy to welcome applications from any church that affirms our core values and is committed to inclusion for children of all abilities.

## **Will our church be asked to change parts of our worship service?**

No, we do not prescribe specific changes for your church, as we recognize that every church context is unique.

Instead, the cohort provides practical and creative strategies to include all children, which your team can implement in ways that make sense for your ministry. Our goal is to provide ideas for change that are both attainable and sustainable, helping your church grow in inclusion without feeling overwhelming.

## **What topics will be covered in the trainings?**

Training sessions are designed to equip churches with both theological foundations and practical tools for creating worship environments where every child can fully participate.

### **Topics will include:**

- Theology of Children and Disability
- Postures of Flexibility in Worship
- Creating a Culture of Belonging
- Reframing Expectations
- Improving Communication and Understanding
- Designing Sensory-Friendly Environments
- Having Challenging Conversations with Grace
- Supports for Challenging Behaviors
- Promoting Your Ministry (website and communication strategies)
- Recruiting and Training Volunteers

Each session will offer practical next steps, real-life examples, and time for church teams to reflect on how to apply these ideas within their unique ministry context.

## **How many people from my church can participate?**

Each church will form a Core Team of at least four members:

- One pastor
- One children's ministry leader
- One parent of a child with a disability
- One person with relevant experience (special educator, disability ministry leader, occupational therapist, etc.)

You are welcome to invite more than one person to fill each role. However, if your team is expected to grow larger than eight people, please reach out to us before applying. Teams that are too large can make it challenging to implement ideas effectively and maintain consistent collaboration.

## Do you have the dates for the meetings already set?

Yes. The WOW Cohort includes:

- **Initial Vision Casting and Team Workday:**

Date: Sept 26, 2026 | 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM Central Time

Purpose: Introduces foundational elements of Toward Accessible Worship and allows team planning and goal setting

- **Recurring Cohort Trainings:**

Schedule: 3rd Wednesday of every other month starting in Oct

Date: October 21, December 16, February 17, April 21, June 16 | Time: 10:00 — 11:30 AM Central Time

Purpose: Focused on practical strategies to implement accessible worship and children's ministry changes, with opportunities for discussion, coaching, and peer learning

- **Open Office Hours:**

Schedule: 1st Wednesday of every month

Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, Jun 2, July 7, Aug 6, Sept 1

Time: 10am — 11:30am Central Time

Purpose: Optional time for teams to ask questions, seek guidance, or discuss challenges

- **Individual Church Consultations:**

We recognize that each church context is unique and want to provide personalized support throughout the year. Our team is available for individual meetings as needed, but we have also set aside dedicated times for these one-on-one sessions.

Available Months: November, January, March, May, July, Sept

Purpose: To provide tailored guidance and consultation specific to each church's ministry and goals

## When do I need to pay the registration fee?

\$1000 deposit due upon confirming participation. Balance due before Sept 26.

## Will you offer the cohort program again next year?

Yes! We plan to offer the WOW Cohort program annually.

## Our church isn't able to participate in the cohort this year. Are there other ways to get support from With Ministries?

Absolutely! Even if your church is not able to participate in the WOW Cohort, there are many ways to learn and grow in welcoming children and families impacted by disability.

With Ministries offers a variety of resources, including:

- **Access & Access Premier** | Monthly training resources, tools, and an interactive website course to guide your church on accessibility.
- **Transform Coaching** | A 12-month coaching journey to help your congregation become a place where everyone flourishes.
- **With Faith** | Updated discipleship resource to engage people with disabilities in meaningful conversations about salvation, baptism, and belonging
- **Accessible KidMin Kit** | Practical tools to support disability inclusion and strengthen your children's ministry
- And more

You can explore all of these options and find additional resources here: [With Ministries Resources](#)

**HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION NOT ANSWERED HERE?**

Please email me at [kristinlangford@withministries.org](mailto:kristinlangford@withministries.org)  
and we'll be happy to help!

## Before You Submit Your Application

- Carefully review all information included in this application packet.
- Read our Core Values.
- Discuss your application with appropriate church leadership and identify a pastor/elder sponsor.
- Start identifying 3–4 potential core team members.

We're deeply encouraged by churches like yours who are taking steps toward greater inclusion in worship. We look forward to walking alongside you as, together, we make space for every child to know and worship God.

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# Application

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Please complete all fields and save the document as a PDF as follows: **[Church Name] 2026 WOW Cohort Application.**

For priority consideration, return your completed application to **kristinlangford@withministries.org** by **May 31, 2026.**

## Basic Information:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Application Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Church Was Established: \_\_\_\_\_ Average Weekly Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of your knowledge, approximately how many children (birth - 12 years) in the church experience disability?: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us a little about how children participate in worship at your church. *(Do they stay for the full service, start in worship and leave for children's church, or have a separate program?)*

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# Application

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## Tell Us About Your Church

What types of support (formal or informal) does your church currently offer for children or families impacted by disability?

What challenges does your church face in welcoming children and families impacted by disability?

What led your church to apply to be part of WithOne Worship?

What does your church hope to gain through participating in this program?

Is your church leadership aware that you are applying for this program and supportive of you participating in the project?

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

### **Thank you for your interest in Worship As One!**

We will confirm receipt of your application. If you do not receive confirmation within two business days, please follow up to ensure your application was received. All applications will be carefully reviewed by our team. We expect to notify churches of their application status by end of June.

A \$1000 deposit is due once your church has been accepted and confirmed its participation in the cohort. Even after the cohort concludes, your church will retain access to all resources provided during the program. If we receive more applications than available spots, we will maintain a waitlist and notify churches accordingly.