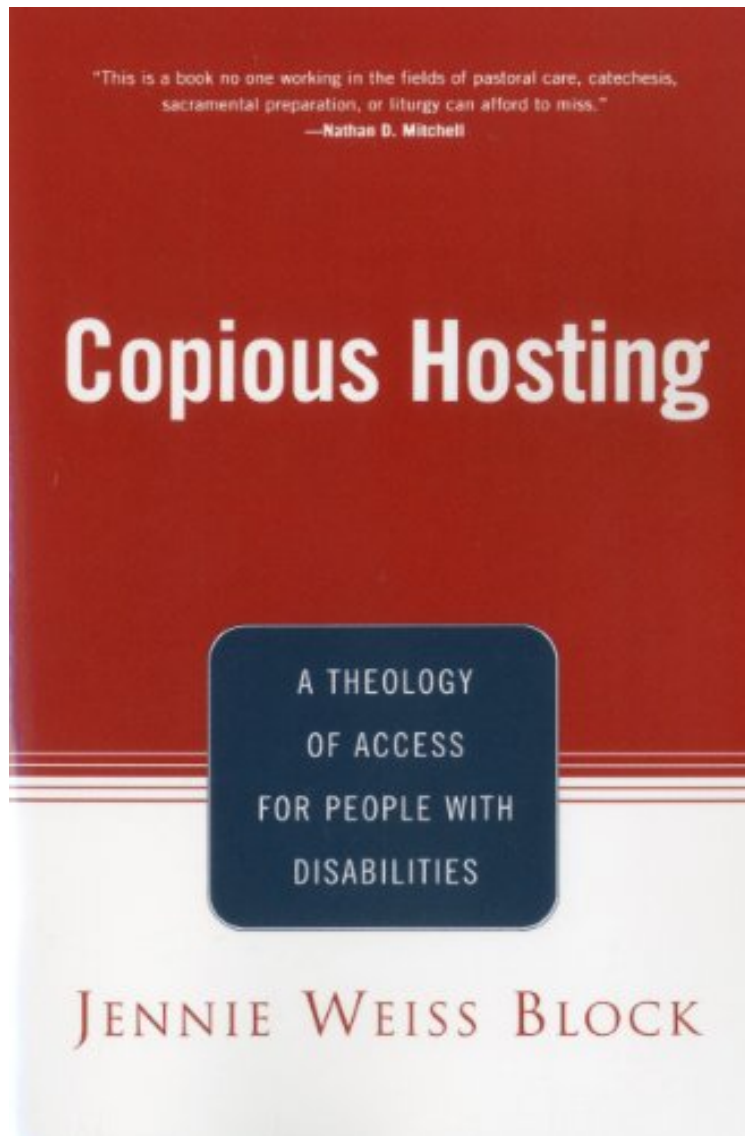


# Copious Hosting: A Theology of Access for People with Disabilities

*Jennie Weiss Block*

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#500684 in Books Jennie Weiss Block 2002-01-17 2002-01-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 228.60 x .39 x 6.00l, .56 #File Name: 0826413498184 pagesCopious Hosting | File size: 52.Mb

**Jennie Weiss Block : Copious Hosting: A Theology of Access for People with Disabilities** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Copious Hosting: A Theology of Access for People with Disabilities:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fairly sensitive book on accessibilityBy DandelionA fairly through book on providing accessibility - emotionally and psychological to those who have disabilities. While no one book can possibly cover all the issues and considerations Ms. Block does a fairly decent job. I should know. I was an Access

Coordinator for a disability organization and studied over 16 churches for two conferences. I have a few issues with the book.

1. Because Ms. Block is Catholic, all her language is in terms of being Catholic traditions - receiving the sacraments, confession, etc.. There is no attempt to note other religious practices and beliefs, especially those outside the Christian faith.
2. Ms. Block is not disabled. She did have a brother who was quite disabled, who taught her a great deal, but nevertheless she does live the life of a disabled person. She has worked for a number of providers to persons with a disability. She has seen very poor services given to those with severe disabilities and tells some interesting stories. However her writing can be a bit patronizing and preachy when she writes about what "we" can do or should do.
3. Has some judgmental statements that were a bit alarming such as stating that copious hosting... should be available "even and especially when it may not be deserved". I would like to ask - why would anyone without a disability ever have the right to say it may not be deserved?

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A college book

By Jerry L. Taylor  
This book was for my daughters college class. The book arrived on time and in good condition. Some of the subjects they study in college does not make sense to me, but what do I know... I'm just a father.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A good Beginner's Guide to Disability Awareness

By Randall R. Rice  
My original intent in buying a couple of copies of the book was to address the architectural aspect of disabilities within the Church. I was pleased, delighted and enlightened by what I learned about my own blindness and insensitivity towards the Disability movement in general.

Jennie Block's sensitivity and ability to both "tell a good story" as well as teach awareness is a good beginning in this area. Her vision is bold of what the Church, and Society could be, if others shared this vision and awareness. She offers a "relational Christology" and uses the stories of healing and miracles in the Bible to good advantage. She even confronts traditional Christian concepts about "healing" today and in past years. As a first step, this is a wonderful, and accessible read. For someone investigating the field of interest, she will open your eyes to other adjacent areas. She gives a good history of the Disability Movement, and her analysis of liberation theology is comprehensible and used to good effect. Personally, she made me aware of areas within myself that need work and for that I'm grateful.

It is estimated that there are 43 million Americans with one or more physical or mental disabilities. Over the past several decades, the disability movement has grown in strength and sophistication, attaining maturity with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This landmark civil rights legislation ushered in a new era for people with disabilities. Many religious people, however well meaning, are unfamiliar with the language and philosophy of the disability movement. They unintentionally give offense by language and actions that reflect a by-gone era. This book aims to do two things: to acquaint church and synagogue leaders with the history and philosophy of the disability movement and to provide resources from scripture and theology for thinking and preaching about disability in a new way.

From Library Journal  
Block, a theologically trained caregiver, offers a "theology of liberation" for the disabled, arguing passionately for more inclusiveness in ministry and liturgy. Her intention is to make ministers more aware of the hurt that results from inconsiderate language and noninclusive spaces and liturgies. After treating the history and philosophy of the disability movement, Block offers a critique of the Christian tradition from the perspective of the disabled, examining, for example, the images used in Christian hymns. Finally, she presents a theology of access, with suggestions for making the disabled feel more welcome in the church. While one may not agree entirely with Block's arguments, she does a good job of raising the consciousness of the nondisabled. Recommended, especially for libraries serving ministers and those preparing for ministry.

Augustine J. Curley, Newark Abbey, NJ  
Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "Copious Hosting smartly explores disability and theology in wonderfully contemporary terms. Jennie Weiss Block confesses not to speak for people with disabilities, acknowledging that she herself is not disabled; yet this thoroughly researched study masterfully examines the breadth and depth of the diverse disability community, relates this body of knowledge to sometimes conservative theological tenets, and provides an agenda for change and a rationale to support it."

John D. Kemp, attorney and nationally acclaimed keynote speaker on disability issues  
"Copious Hosting invites us to view the lives of disabled persons through the lens of dignity. We realize, through Jennie Block's sensitive and informative treatment, that the church sustains a tremendous void when it loses sight of the immeasurable contributions that are lost whenever disabled persons are denied full inclusion in the church. Jennie Block has provided the nondisabled population with a unique opportunity to listen and learn from those who best know the gifts and challenges of living with disabilities."

Rev. Sharon Austin, Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church  
"Jennie Weiss Block offers not only a primer on the pastoral care of people with disabilities but a systematic theology of access and advocacy that draws on both David Tracy's method of critical correlation and Gustavo Gutierrez's theology of liberation. Moving from a critique of basic Christian texts—Scripture, liturgy, the sacraments she explores the vibrant Trinitarian roots of a new ecclesiology that sees the church as an inclusive model for accessible community."

Nathan D. Mitchell, associate director for research, Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy  
"Recommended, especially for libraries serving ministers, and those preparing for ministry."

Augustine J. Curley, Library Journal, March 2002  
"Ms. Block is well equipped to write this book.... I like the book. The writing is

easy to understand and it offers both the context and a theology of disability. I rate this books as a 8.5 out of 10."Thomas St. James O'Connor, ThD, Journal of Relilgion"Religious groups need remedial help on being inclusive of people with disabilities. This book is a good primer." - WATERwheel