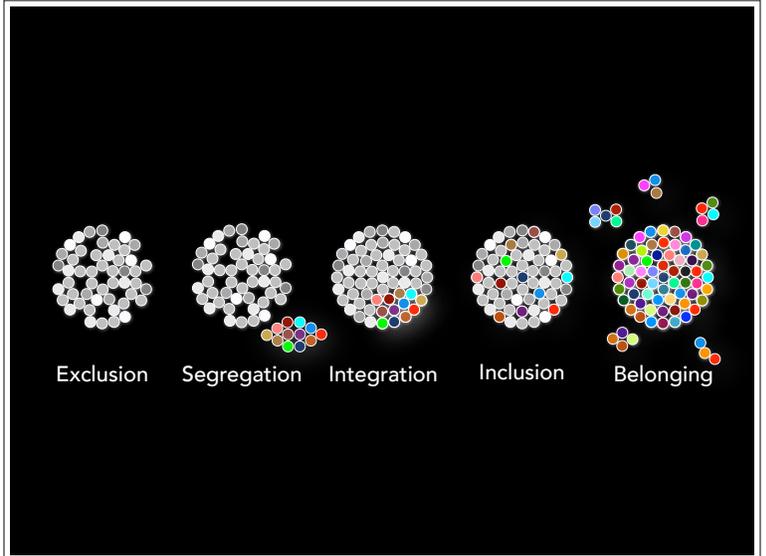


FROM BARRIERS TO BELONGING THE INCLUSIVE CHURCH

ERIK CARTER
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
www.erikcarter.com

1



2

What does it mean to be
a community of belonging?



3



4

1. TO BE
PRESENT

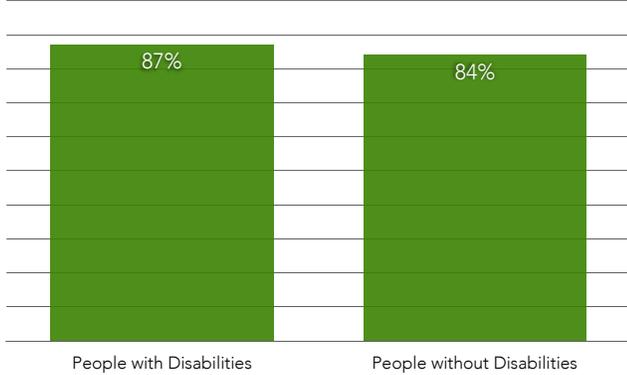
5

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?



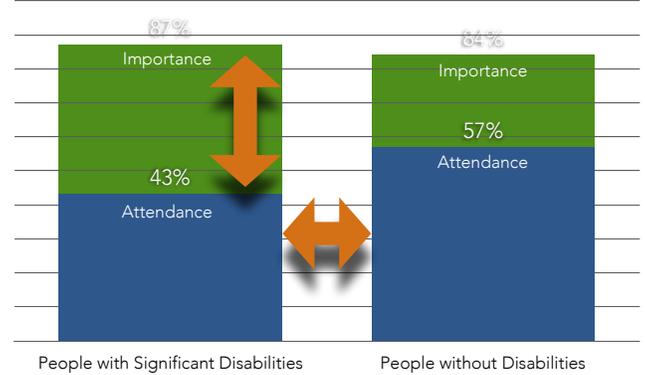
6

MY FAITH IS "SOMEWHAT" TO "VERY IMPORTANT"



7

ATTENDS WORSHIP SERVICES AT LEAST ONCE PER MONTH



8

"It's not that we deliberately excluded them. In fact, we weren't deliberate at all. *That was the problem.*"

-A PASTOR

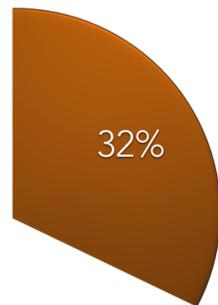
2. TO BE INVITED

9

10



11



Parents who changed their place of worship because their child with a disability was not included or welcomed.

Source: Ault, Collins, & Carter (2013)

12

GRACE CHAPEL

AN O MINISTRY
SERVING AND TRAINING THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY

Welcome to the Can Do Ministry! This ministry exists to equip and serve the special needs community.

We invite you and your family to worship with us on Sunday morning. We offer classes during both services (9 and 11:11) for children. In addition, the Can Do Ministry offers quarterly "Grace Nights", which is our parents-night-out respite event!

In order to provide quality care for your child with special needs, we ask that you follow our procedures and protocol for Sunday morning.

Procedures and Protocol for Can Do Ministry

- Upon your initial visit to Grace Chapel, you will be asked to remain with your child in their class. The purpose is twofold: This allows Grace Chapel staff and volunteers to learn from you and your interactions with your child, and for you to make sure the assigned class

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Special Needs

SPECIAL NEEDS ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Because we follow Jesus, first and foremost above all other things, children and adults with special

Brentwood Baptist

SPECIAL NEEDS

SPECIAL NEEDS

The Special Needs Ministry here at Brentwood Baptist Church seeks to serve families in individuals affected by disability. We serve in a variety of capacities. Regardless of race, the family bond and provide support for parents. The Special Needs Ministry here is a community that nurtures and empowers you. We are here to help you find your way to a better life for you and your family. We are here to help you find your way to a better life for you and your family. We are here to help you find your way to a better life for you and your family.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Currently, we provide a team of adult leaders to assist in all aspects of the congregation or children's ministry. We support their capacity to meet special education needs. We have a team of leaders for the 18-24 age group in Sunday morning. We have a team of leaders for the 18-24 age group in Sunday morning. We have a team of leaders for the 18-24 age group in Sunday morning.

13

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disability Ministry

GET INVOLVED
VIDEOS & LINKS

It's about Jesus for all people.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ARE VALUED AND INVITED TO TAKE PART.

CALL EMAIL MAP HOURS

CALVARY CHURCH

Bridge Disability Ministries

Bridge desires to see each person and family integrated in Calvary life in order to build relationships, grow in their faith, and serve in the church and community.

We seek members to fill various roles in our Bridge Disability Ministries. We are currently seeking members to fill various roles in our Bridge Disability Ministries. We are currently seeking members to fill various roles in our Bridge Disability Ministries. We are currently seeking members to fill various roles in our Bridge Disability Ministries.

LAFAYETTE FEDERATED CHURCH

ONE BODY MANY PARTS

Supporting those with special needs

- **Special Needs Ministry**
A place for families with special needs children to worship together during our Sunday services. This special ministry is a caring congregation for children who are struggling to find their way in the world.
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14

3. TO BE WELCOMED

15

"We felt like we were wanted."
-A PARENT

16

FOLKS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Friendship Ministries
www.friendship.org
- Young Life Capernaum
www.younglife.org/foreverykid/capernaum
- Joni & Friends
www.joniandfriends.org
- Bethesda Institute
www.bethesdalc.org
- Key Ministry
www.keyministry.org
- All Belong
www.allbelong.org



17

4. TO BE KNOWN

18

Intellectual disability is “characterized by **SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS** both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills.”

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (2010)

Autism is characterized by...

- **DEFICITS** in social-emotional reciprocity; ranging from abnormal social approach and failure of normal back and forth conversation through reduced sharing of interests, emotions, and affect and response to total lack of initiation of social interaction,
- **DEFICITS** in nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction; ranging from poorly integrated- verbal and nonverbal communication, through abnormalities in eye contact and body-language, or deficits in understanding and use of nonverbal communication, to total lack of facial expression or gestures.
- **DEFICITS** in developing and maintaining relationships, appropriate to developmental level (beyond those with caregivers); ranging from difficulties adjusting behavior to suit different social contexts through difficulties in sharing imaginative play and in making friends to an apparent absence of interest in people

American Psychological Association (2012)



INCLUSION AWARENESS ACTIVITIES ACCESS SUNDAY CELEBRATING INCLUSION

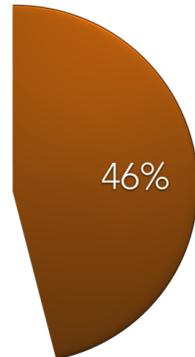


5. TO BE

ACCEPTED

6. TO BE

SUPPORTED

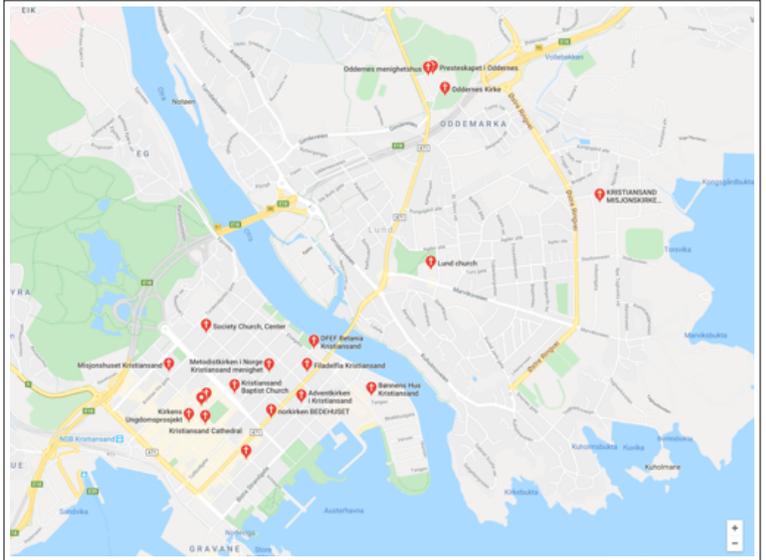


Parents who say they have been asked about the best way to include their child in religious activities.

Source: Ault, Collins, & Carter (2013)

7. TO BE
CARED FOR

25



26

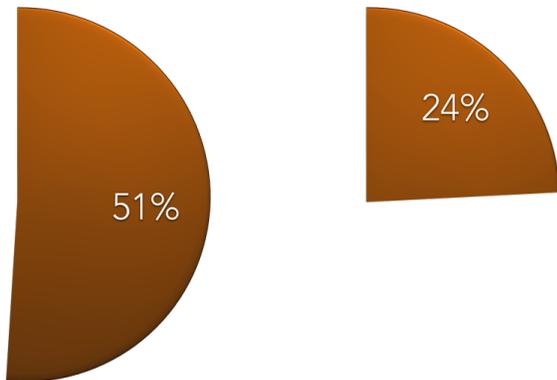
8. TO BE
BEFRIENDED

27

“... alone we are poor,
together we are rich.”

–SUE MOSTELLER

28

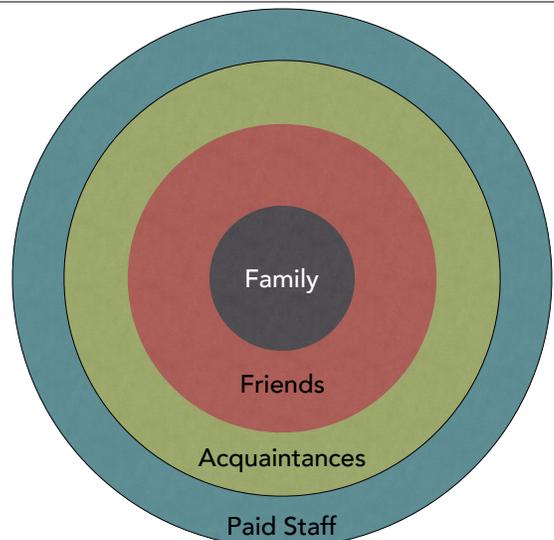


Never invited to a social activity with peers

Have **no** friends outside of staff and family

Source: www.nlts2.org and www.nationalcoreindicators.org

29



Family

Friends

Acquaintances

Paid Staff

30

9. TO BE

NEEDED

31



32

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church:

every part dependent on every other part,
the parts we mention and the parts we don't,
the parts we see and the parts we don't.

If one part hurts,
every other part is involved in the hurt,
and in the healing.

If one part flourishes,
every other part enters into exuberance.

1 Corinthians 12: 12, 25-26 (the Message)

33

10. TO BE

LOVED

34

REFLECTING ON OUR COMMUNITIES

- What are we doing **well** right now?
- What could we be doing **better** or **more of**?
- What should we be doing **entirely differently**?
- What should we begin doing **next**?



35