

*May all the peoples praise you. - Ps 67:3*

# Creating Belongingness For People With Disabilities In Churches



## When Adults With Developmental Disabilities Belong

At AbleLight, we believe in a world where all people with developmental disabilities are loved, secure, and flourishing in their communities. We are committed to empowering individuals by partnering with local churches to foster a sense of belonging. **Imagine the Impact!**

**Research shows people with disabilities feel they belong when these ten markers are experienced at church:**

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| ♥ Present  | ♥ Supported  |
| ♥ Invited  | ♥ Cared For  |
| ♥ Welcomed | ♥ Befriended |
| ♥ Known    | ♥ Needed     |
| ♥ Accepted | ♥ Loved      |

## The Benefits of Providing Belonging

Research also shows churches experience benefits when they provide belongingness to those with developmental disabilities, such as increased:\*

- ↑ **Accessibility** – Creating spaces that welcomes everyone.
- ↑ **Membership** – Growing the church community.
- ↑ **Compassion** – Deepening Christ-like love and empathy.
- ↑ **Sense of Community** – Building stronger, more connected congregations.
- ↑ **Diversity** – Celebrating the beauty of God's diverse creation.
- ↑ **Understanding** – Fostering a culture of acceptance and love.

When these experiences happen, lives are transformed. Individuals gain confidence, a sense of purpose, and a supportive faith community. At the same time, your church becomes a place of richer diversity, deeper compassion, and stronger community bonds.

**This is the power of belonging!**

\*Research insights compiled by Erik Carter, PhD, Baylor University

## Let's Build Community Together!

Connect with us to explore ways we can partner in creating an environment of belongingness for people with disabilities! **Contact AbleLight today for a free collaborative phone discussion, on-site workshop, and partnership planning!**

### Contact Information: Faith Integration Team

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