

BELONGING AUDIT

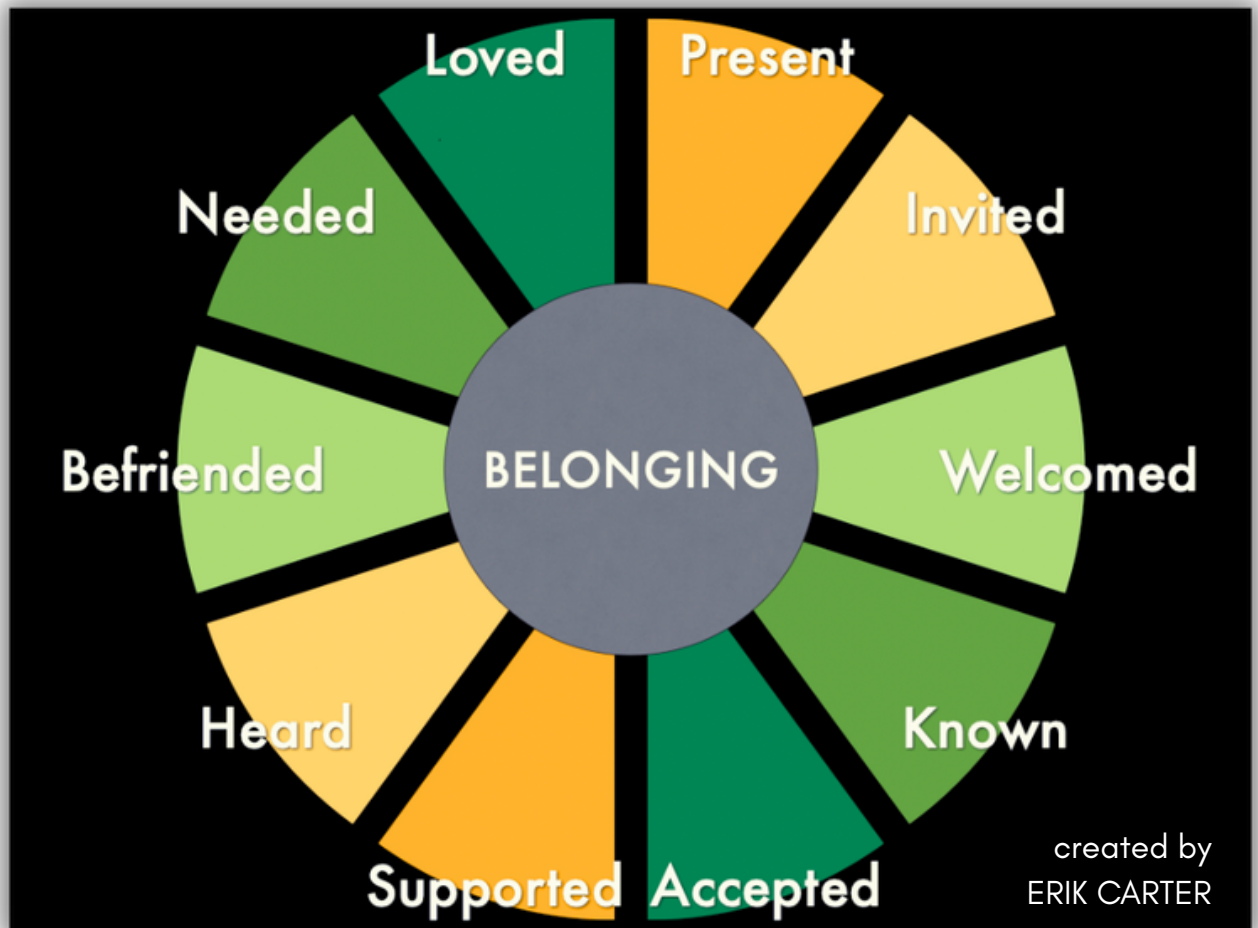
Helping churches become places
where everyone truly belongs



AMY JULIA BECKER

belonging

DIMENSIONS OF BELONGING



Most churches think they are places of welcome for people with disabilities and their families, and yet the majority of families affected by disability report experiences of exclusion in church settings. This Belonging Audit helps

congregational leaders and lay people consider how they can become more welcoming. Using the Dimensions of Belonging, created by Professor Erik Carter, this series of questions invites every congregation to become communities of welcome.

Belonging Audit

PRESENT

Are there adults with disabilities in your community? Children?

Do they attend/participate regularly?

INVITED

Have you reached out—individually or collectively—to people with disabilities to let them know they are welcome?



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WELCOMED

When people with disabilities enter your building/space, what type of welcome do they receive?

What does the architecture of your space communicate about who is welcome?

What do your programs assume about ability?

What does the teaching/preaching communicate about disability?



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KNOWN

Are people with disabilities in your community known by name?

Do they serve in ministry or leadership roles?

ACCEPTED

Are people with disabilities expected to conform to social norms?

Are there accommodations you could make to communicate greater acceptance?



Hope Heals • Photo by Bryan Johnson



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SUPPORTED

What are the needs of the people with disabilities in your community? Financial, social, spiritual, physical?

Are they supported in receiving what they need both in your community and in their daily lives?

HEARD

Do people with disabilities have a voice in the decisions you are making as a community?



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BEFRIENDED

Do people with disabilities have meaningful and reciprocal friendships within your community?



NEEDED

Do people with disabilities contribute to your community?



Would you notice if they were not present?



What would be missing?

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LOVED

Do people with disabilities have relationships of mutual care, of giving and receiving, with opportunities both to minister to others and to receive care?

MORE RESOURCES

Go to <https://amyjuliabecker.com/disability-resources-for-churches/> for more resources!



Reflection

Take a few minutes to look back through your answers and identify:

01

One area of strength within your community for which you can give thanks:

02

One (or more) areas where you want to change/grow within your community:



ABOUT AMY JULIA

Amy Julia Becker helps people reimagine the good life through her writing and speaking on disability, faith, and culture. Join the conversation at amyjuliabecker.com/subscribe/

REIMAGINING FAMILY LIFE WITH DISABILITY **WORKSHOP**

Explore together how to:

- ✓ take delight in our children
- ✓ connect to community
- ✓ take steps toward a good future

Find out more!

amyjuliabecker.com/workshop/



Photo by Joshua De Leon

NEW



TAKE THE NEXT STEP PODCAST

A podcast, created in partnership with Hope Heals, for families experiencing disability

Every week, Amy Julia talks with fellow parents, therapists, and advocates about **practical ways to cultivate a thriving future** for the whole family.

 amyjuliabecker.com/step/