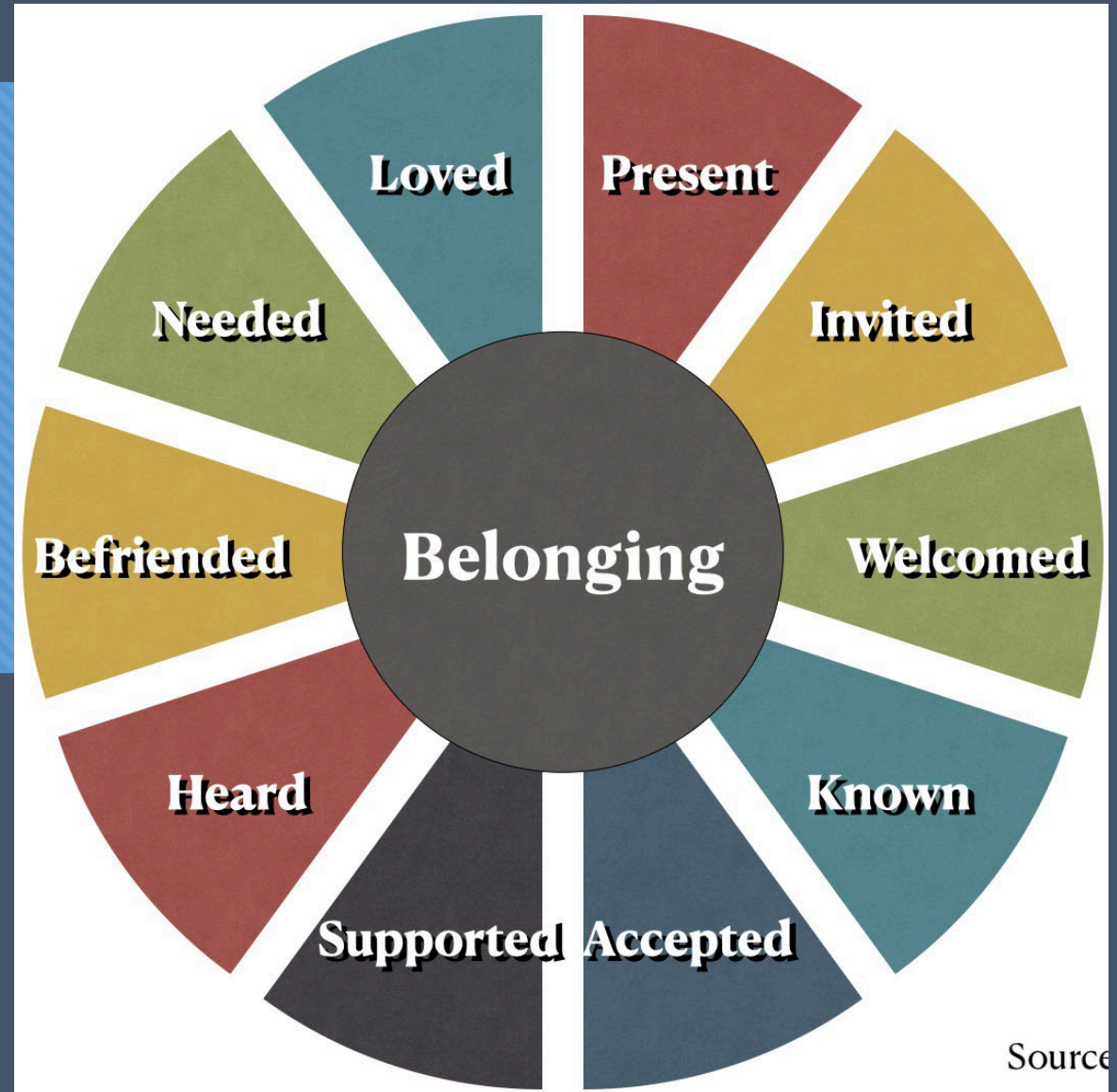


# PCUSA Community Circle: How You Can Support People with Disabilities in Faith Communities

Sarah McKenney, D.Min., M.Div.

# Belonging Wheel

Erick Carter, Ph.D.



Source

# Transportation

## Individual and Service Provider Barriers

- Many (not all) people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) are unable to drive.
- Staff shortage
- Sharing staff support
- Public transportation
- Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) may have historical religious trauma

## Congregation Barriers

- Fear and anxiety of unknown expectations and needs
- Misconception that people with I/DD and other disabilities can NOT be there with peer support and without staff.
- General lack of motivation when the person isn't a known and needed member of the congregation yet.

# Accessibility Communication Card

Below please list any accessibility and support needs you may have in order to participate.



 Transportation   Worship Partner

 Hearing Loop   Restroom Assistance  LARGE PRINT

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## Accessibility Communication Card

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

*Congregational  
Contact Info Here*

*Description of process and expected turn around time once this card is turned in.*

*(ie. This card will go to our secretary who will follow-up with this request. You will be contacted in the next 7 days.)*

# TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURE

HOW ARE YOU ADVERTISING AND COLLECTING REQUESTS?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Table
<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Announcements	<input type="checkbox"/> Website Ad. - email or call
<input type="checkbox"/> Email Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Email in Requests
<input type="checkbox"/> Greeters/Ushers doc requests	<input type="checkbox"/> Call in Requests (who?)
WHO DO THESE REQUESTS GO TO? HOW?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Team/Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Designated Person _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy
<input type="checkbox"/> Staff Member _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
WHO/HOW DO REQUESTS GET FILLED?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Call people who live close	<input type="checkbox"/> Call congregants upon request
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Volunteer Team	<input type="checkbox"/> Mass email to congregation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
TURN AROUND TIME GOAL	
Our goal to meet transportation requests, from the time we receive the request to the time transportation is given is: __ days	
WHAT ELEMENTS OF THE ABOVE PLAN NEED TO BE WORKED ON BEFORE PROCEEDURE IS ACTIVE?	

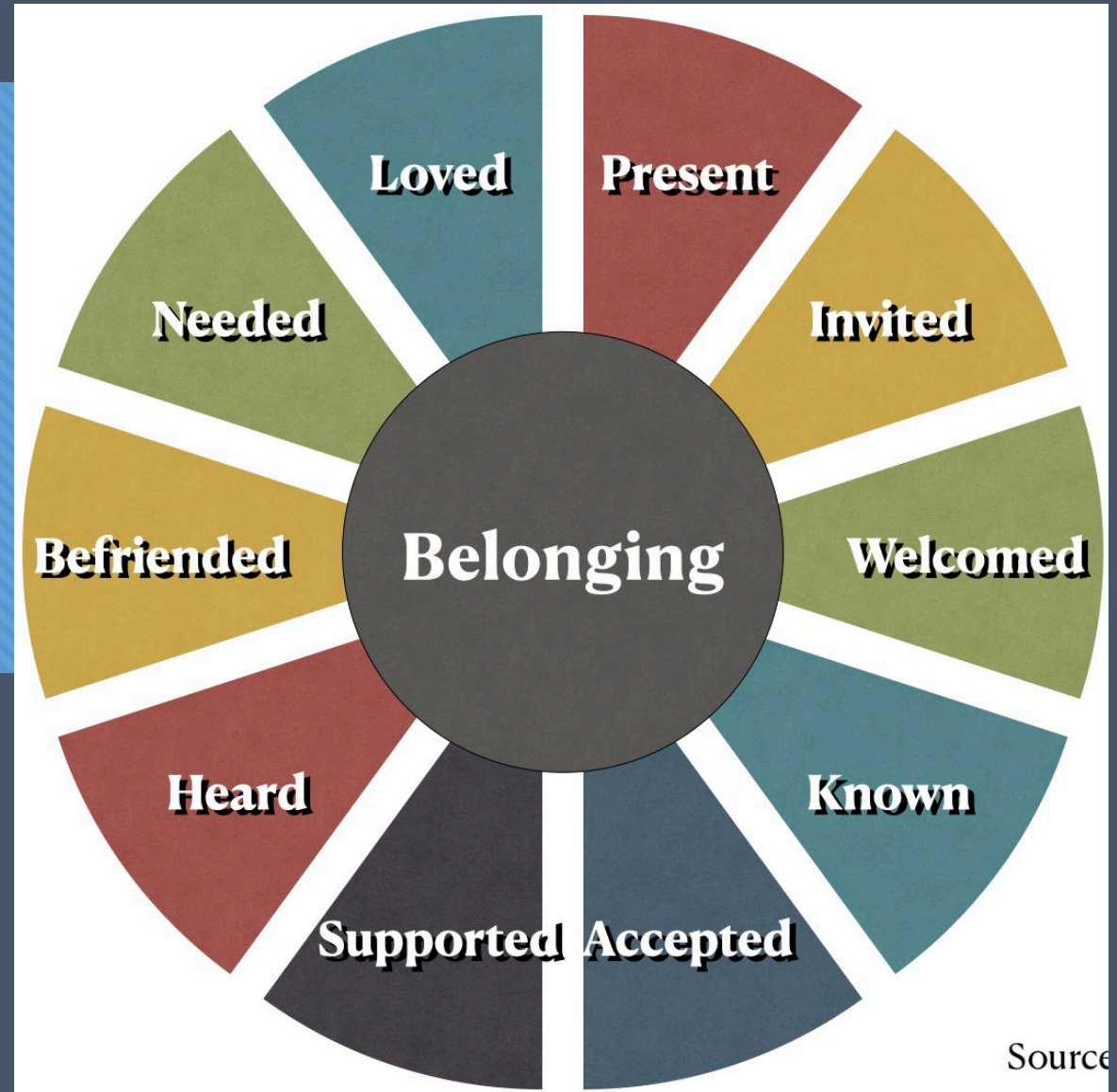
# TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURE

ACTION PLAN TO PUT PROCEDURE IN PLACE	
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?	BY WHOM AND WHEN?
<b>-NOTES-</b>	



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Source

# Relationship Building

Get to know one another!

Learn about one another's interests, gifts, talents, etc.

Learn about one another's challenges and possible needs for support

HAVE FUN!

DO NOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS

A person may not need someone assigned to them to sit with (worship buddy)

Ask what THEY need for support. They may struggle to do something, but knows exactly what they need to support them. You do not have to decide what they need.

Remember: social barriers often reduce with time





# Building Relationships

## LET'S GET YOU CONNECTED:

FRIENDSHIP TIPS FROM PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



- ◆ "DON'T OVERTHINK IT!"
- ◆ "BE YOURSELF"
- ◆ "IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I CAN/CAN'T DO, ASK"
- ◆ "ASK ME WHAT MY HOBBIES ARE"
- ◆ "IF MY SPEECH IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, ASK ME TO REPEAT MYSELF"

- ◆ "YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN BEING ANXIOUS, IT CAN BE SCARY TO PUT YOURSELF OUT THERE"
- ◆ "SPEAK YOUR MIND"
- ◆ "IT'S NOT YOUR JOB TO PROTECT ME, WE ARE FRIENDS"
- ◆ "FRIENDSHIP TAKES TIME, SO TAKE YOUR TIME TO GET TO KNOW ME"

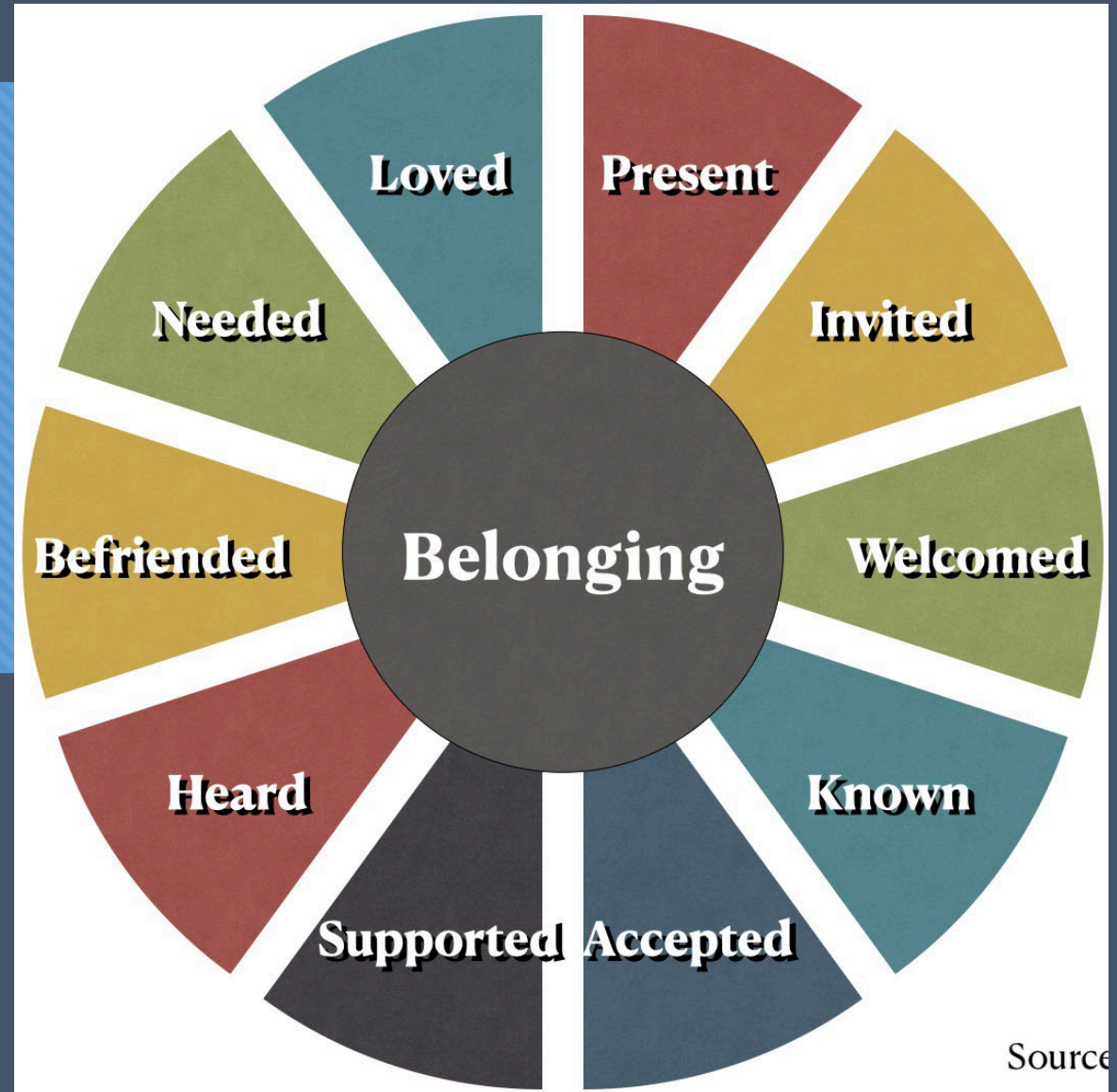


- ◆ "DON'T TRY TOO HARD"
- ◆ "SEE ME, NOT THE PERSON YOU THINK I AM"
- ◆ "WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER. YOU HELP ME, I'LL HELP YOU"
- ◆ "SEE ME FOR MORE THAN WHAT I CAN'T DO"
- ◆ "JUST CHILL"

**REMEMBER: YOU ARE BEFRIENDING A HUMAN, DON'T OVERTHINK IT!**

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Source

# The “HOW” Mindset

## CAN/CAN'T Mindset

Can she worship?

Can he get to church?

Can she acolyte?

Can he participate in Bible Study?

## HOW Mindset

How do you like to worship?

How can we support you in getting to church?

How can we support you in acolyting?

How can we support you in Bible Study?

