

Webinar Series Invitation

Black Lives with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Faith Communities

aaidd Religion &
Spirituality
Interest Network

ICI INSTITUTE on
COMMUNITY
INTEGRATION

Register:

aaiddreligion.org/series

Visit this link to learn more!

**November 10, 2020
3:00 PM EST**



***Dr. Luchara
Wallace***

Associate Professor of
Special Education &
Director of the Lewis Walker
Institute for the Study of
Race and Ethnic Relations

**December 1, 2020
3:00 PM EST**



***Rev. Dr.
LaTonya
Penny***

Senior Pastor of New
Mount Zion Baptist
Church & Executive
Director of Family
Abuse Services

**January 5, 2021
3:00 PM EST**



***Dr. Lamar
Hardwick***

Author, Lead Pastor at
Tri-Cities Church in
East Point, Georgia
autismpastor.com

CLOSING PANEL: FEBRUARY 2, 2021 AT 3:00 PM EST

Black lives with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their faith communities:

A discussion of the role of church communities in the lives of black and brown people with IDD and their families

AAIDD Religion & Spirituality Interest Network

<https://aaiddreigion.org/>

Using Zoom

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- Use the chat icon for questions or comments.
- You may use Reactions such as “thumbs up” throughout the webinar.
- Closed captioning is available.



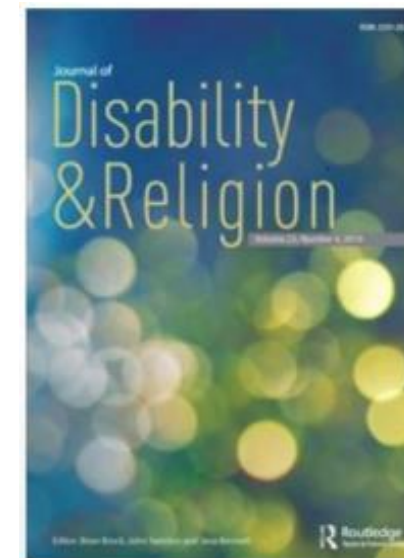
AAIDD Religion & Spirituality Interest Network

Interfaith, interdisciplinary association that advocates for the inclusion of people with IDD in faith communities of their choice

- Members have access to the *Journal of Disability and Religion*

Activities:


- Events at the AAIDD Annual Meeting
- Henri Nouwen Award
- Webinars
- Website, Facebook, Twitter



Roles of Church Communities in the Lives of Black People with IDD

Dr. LaTonya Penny, Senior Pastor of New Mount Zion Baptist Church in Roxboro, NC and the Executive Director for Family Abuse Services, a domestic violence service provider and Church Consultant for All Belong, Inc.





The Role of Church Communities in the Life of Black People with IDD

DR. LATONYA MCIVER PENNY

My Why...

Hunter 1.7lbs

+

Taylor 1.6lbs

=

PRICELESS & PERFECT



Genesis
1:27

²⁷ So God
created mankind in his
own image,
in the image of
God he created them;
male and female he
created them.

II Corinthians 12:22-25

²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.





The Job of the Church...

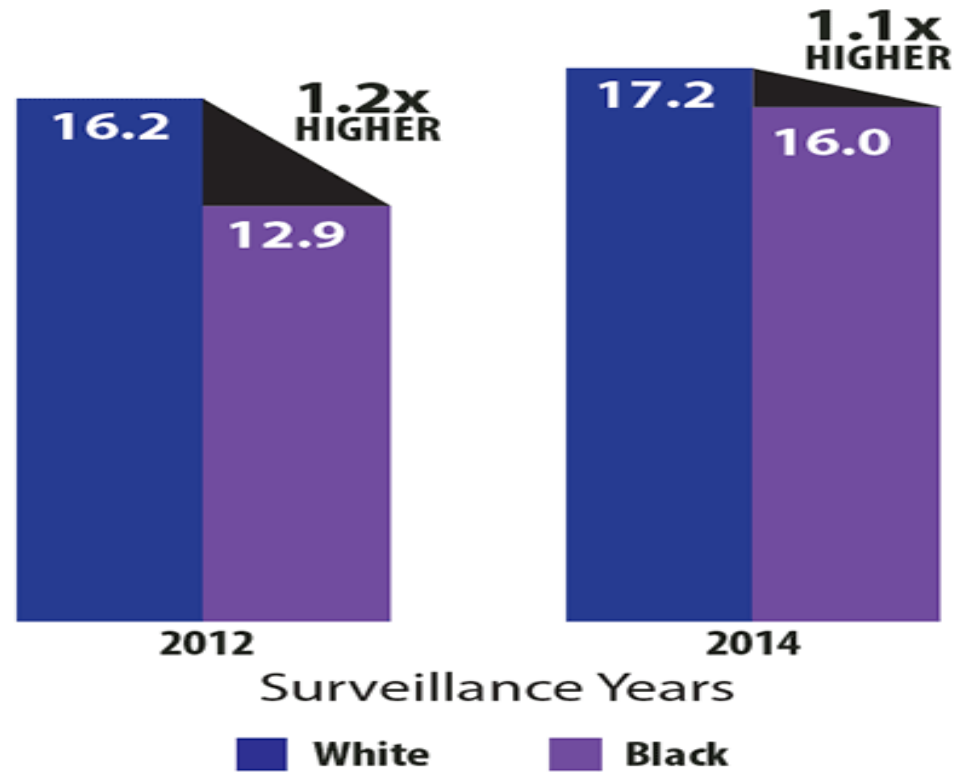
Accessibility

BELONGING



Historical Response to Barriers

Prevalence Ratio



Shame and Hiding

- ▶ Plantation journals indicate that slaves with physical or sensory impairments were expected to work as long as they were able. In some cases, becoming disabled from work could lead to removal from the community of slaves, with elderly or disabled slaves being sent to live alone in the woods and fend for themselves. Some African American slaves with disabilities were sold or hired out for medical research.
- ▶ The beginning of hiding and shame.

David M. Turner (2014) African American slavery and disability: bodies, property, and power in the Antebellum South, 1800–1860, *Disability & Society*, 29:9, 1505-1506, DOI: 10.1080/09687599.2014.931652 To link to this article: <https://doi.org/>



The Jesus Encounter

Focus: Luke 5: 17-26

- ▶ ¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.
- ▶ ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."
- ▶ ²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

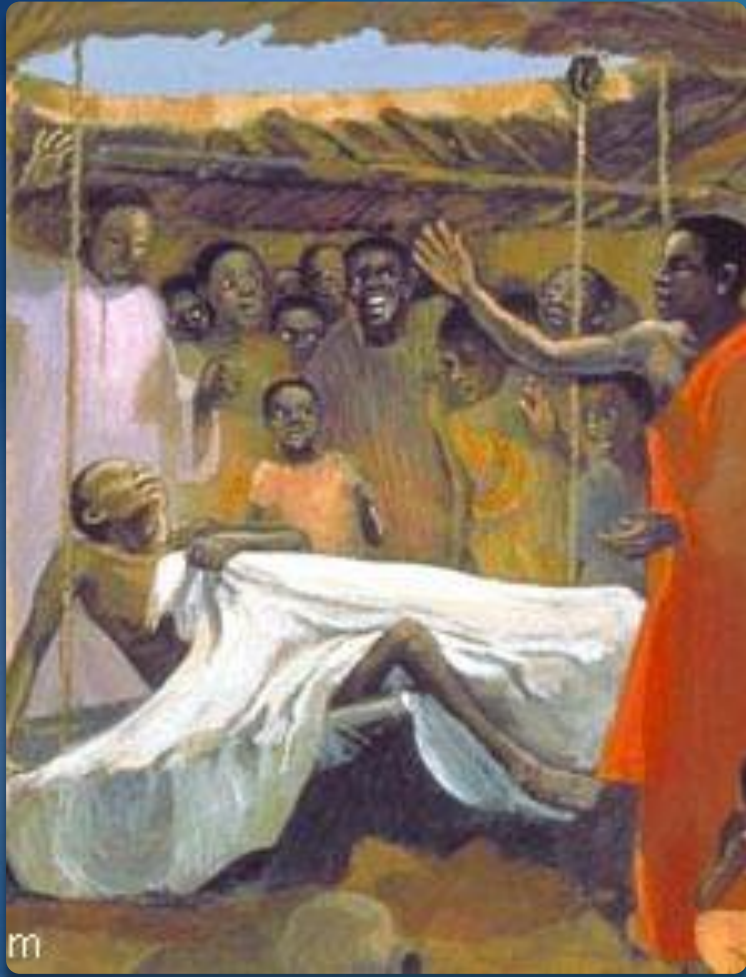
Focus: Luke 5:17-26

- ▶ ²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”



Problem In the Text

BARRIERS



Solution to the Problem



Sin and Disability

DISABILITY IS NOT CONNECTED TO SIN OF MAN OR OTHERS. JESUS PROVES THIS BY ADDRESSING SIN FIRST THEN HEALING THE MAN.



Actions of the 4
directly relates to the
healing of the 1.



Healing vs. Cure

**HEALING IS A SPIRITUAL ACT OF TRANSFORMATION. CURE IS
A MEDICAL ACT AND CANNOT BE EQUATED.**

What does the text teach us?

1

Even in religious moments barriers are present.

2

We are called to remove barriers.

3

We are called to actively be involved with others (1 of the 4)

4

We are called to walk by faith with all.

How do You Remove Barriers?

- ▶ Take away the shame and guilt
- ▶ Choose to be 1 of the 4
- ▶ See the person not the disability
- ▶ Universal Design
- ▶ Responsive Design





Universal Design

Equal Access

We may be thinking but it for a few people,
but many will benefit from it

Accessibility



Watch your wording

“Please stand”

vs.

“Please rise in body or in spirit if
you are able”



Responsive Design

What is it?

- ▶ Responsive Design is adaptations responding to a particular person with particular needs. Similar to a school's IEP (Individualized Education Plan)

How Does it Work?

- ▶ Work with parent, individual, and team to create a plan that works for them to learn and grow in their faith formation.



Buddy System/ Partner with Older Trained Teens



How Can the Church Support Families of those with Disabilities

- ▶ Get to know the family.
- ▶ Help during the church services.
- ▶ Pray and ask for prayer request.
- ▶ Be an advocate for the person especially in the job place for adults and extracurricular activities.
- ▶ Provide respite care.



Conversation & Questions

- For questions about today's presentation, contact LaTonya Penny at lpenny@allbelong.org
- For questions about the webinar series, contact Deborah Fisher at deborahmfisher@gmail.com

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Thank you!

Join the AAIDD Religion & Spirituality Interest Network today!

- Website: <https://aaiddreigion.org/>
- Facebook: Religion and Spirituality Division of the AAIDD
- Twitter: Aaiddreigion
- To stay connected and learn about future events, go to <https://aaiddreigion.org/contact/> and click on “Newsletter Sign-up.”

