



April 24, 2008

Dear Parent,

Researchers in the Special Education Departments at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Kentucky are conducting a **survey of parents of children with disabilities and their experiences with their faith communities** such as their church, synagogue, mosque, or temple. We are interested in finding out the factors that influence parents' participation—or lack of involvement—in a faith community as it relates to their child with a disability.

We invite you to contribute to this project by taking the time to fill out the linked survey. If you decide to participate, your answers will remain completely **anonymous**. Your name will not be known unless you choose to participate in a follow-up telephone interview that will occur at a later time.

Your participation in this survey is entirely **voluntary** and you may withdraw or refuse to participate at any time. There are no serious risks involved in participating in this study. No identifying information will be included in any written or verbal report of the survey. We will use the results to report to the field, which will hopefully lead to improved participation of persons with disabilities in faith communities.

The project is being conducted by Erik Carter (Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison), Belva Collins (Professor, University of Kentucky), and Melinda Jones Ault (Doctoral Student, University of Kentucky). If you have any questions or comments, you can contact Erik Carter at 608-263-5750 or e-mail him at ewcarter@wisc.edu. If you have further questions or concerns about your involvement in this research, you can contact the University of Wisconsin's Social and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board at (608) 263-2320.

Thank you very much for your time and support. **Please note that by completing the survey, you are giving your consent to participate in the survey** and you are giving us permission to use the results in written or oral presentations.

Please start the survey by clicking on the link: www.faithsurvey.org. It should take you about 15-20 minutes to complete.

Regards,

Erik Carter, Ph.D.