BELONGING

Strengthening congregational relationships through **Sabbath School, Prayer Meeting, and Health Ministry.**

BELONGING DOES NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT

A welcoming church is not necessarily a place where everyone feels known or connected. CARES equips congregations to bring greater listening, sharing, and Consideration into ministries they already have, so fellowship becomes a more intentional part of church life.

THREE EXISTING MINISTRIES. THREE STRENGTHS.

SABBATH SCHOOL

Move beyond one-way instruction by making room for thoughtful participation, listening, and relational discovery while keeping Scripture central.

PRAYER MEETING

Make room for presence, shared experience, and prayerful support without pressure to disclose, fix, or give advice.

HEALTH MINISTRY

Connect whole-person wellness education with relationships, mutual encouragement, and meaningful community support.

FIVE EXPERIENCES OF BELONGING

The initiative asks whether people are experiencing more than attendance. Do they feel:

WELCOMED	KNOWN	INCLUDED	SUPPORTED	CONNECTED

These five experiences guide conversations about ministry culture, participation, belonging, and follow-through. They are goals to pursue and assess, not outcomes CARES can promise in advance.

THE CARES FOUNDATION: CONSIDERATION

"The conscious regard for the needs, values, and dignity of others, especially when making decisions."

Guiding principle: Relationships grow through being heard and considered, not simply through adding another activity to the calendar.

A practical entry point for your congregation

CARES helps a church strengthen belonging within existing ministry gatherings. The starting format is a 2.5-hour introductory experience; further learning and support can be scoped to fit church size and readiness.

PROGRAM PATHWAY & POTENTIAL DELIVERABLES

01 LISTEN + PREPARE

Identify ministry priorities and hear how participants experience welcome, voice, and connection.

02 INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

A 2.5-hour experience on belonging, relational care, and intentional listening and sharing.

03 PREPARE MINISTRY TEAMS

Optional guided learning, approved facilitation practice, and planning for ministry application.

04 REVIEW + SUSTAIN

Optional coaching, feedback, and follow-up resources to support ongoing relational habits.

WHAT THE CHURCH CAN EXPECT

Depending on scope: a ministry readiness conversation, the introductory workshop, identified ministry champions, practical integration ideas for Sabbath School, Prayer Meeting, and Health Ministry, and agreed follow-up. A six-lesson learning pathway and companion outlines may be included when specifically contracted.

WHAT CHURCH LEADERS MUST COMMIT TO

Sponsor the initiative; identify leaders from all three ministries; make space for participation, preparation, and feedback; and support consistent follow-through. The purpose is not to replace Bible study, prayer, or health education, but to strengthen the relational experience within each.

RESPONSIBLE RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

Listening circles build relationships through sharing, listening, and Consideration. They are **not** problem-solving sessions, therapy, or mediation. A public brief does not qualify someone to facilitate circles; training, readiness, voluntary participation, and safeguards matter.

INVESTMENT & FUNDING

Pricing: customized proposal based on church size, delivery format, training depth, follow-up, and travel. Potential funding includes church ministry budgets, district/conference partnerships, designated gifts, and sponsorships.

NEXT STEP • Request a fit-and-scope conversation: careslp.org/contact/