**Friendship Ministries “Old, Old Story…” text only document**

**Slide #1**

**“The Old, Old Story in a New, New Way”** Tom VanWingerden

**Slide #2**

**Who am I?**

Tom Van Wingerden

Executive Director

Friendship Ministries

**Slide #3**

**Our Vision**

People with and without intellectual disabilities grow deeper in their relationship with God and with each other in community together.

**Slides #4-6**

**What We Believe**

Our Core Values:

Everyone is created in God’s image and deserves love and justice – both in our society and in our churches.

Redemption is a gift from God that is not dependent on a certain level of intelligence.

The church is complete only when it includes everyone, and when all people are celebrated – in God’s eyes and in our own eyes.

**Slides #7-10**

**Who We Serve**

More than 75 denominations worldwide

More than 25 countries, on every continent (except Antarctica)

English and Spanish

All generations

**Slide #11**

**Our Traditional Program Model**

**Friendship Groups**

Nurture spiritual growth

1:1 relationships

**Program Structure**

Singing

Prayer

Bible Lesson

1:1 time

Fellowship

**Slide #12-14**

**Why Disability Ministry?**

There are more than 70 million people in the US and Canada with a disability – 20% of the population. Approximately 9.5 million have Intellectual Disability.

Those of us who do not currently have a disability probably will at some point in our life.

Instead of thinking about “us” and “them,” we need to remember that we are all bearers of God’s image, equally loved by Him, and equally called to serve Him.

**Slide #15-18**

**Including People with Disabilities…Why?**

To grow the Christian community in love and acceptance of all people, with or without disabilities

To remind us that Christ came for all of us

So that people with disabilities will experience the joy and peace of knowing that they are loved by God and His people

So that the Body of Christ is complete

**Slide #19**

**The Ryan and Barb Story**

Pain, Beauty and Grace.

**Slide #20**

**I Corinthians 12:18, 27**
God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be…

Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it.

**Slide #21**

**Friendship**

The Bible teaches us that there is no “us” and “them”. The body of Christ is just “us”.

God brings many people into his body, including those with disabilities. We all benefit as we grow in friendship together.

**Slide #22**

**Co-Laborers**

Since God calls each of us to serve and praise him, churches need to encourage all people to use their gifts in collaborative ministry.

Together, we who live with and without disabilities encourage and equip each other to work side-by-side in every good work.

**Slide #23**

**The Aha!**

Another little story

**Slide #24**

**Time for Something New**

Why not?

**Slide #25**

**An Introduction Video to:**

Together

**Slide #26**

**The Unveiling:**

Together

**Slide #27**

**Features and Highlights of**

Together

**Slide #28**

**Photo**

Faith. Friendships. Belonging

**Slide #29**

**For more information, visit
www.friendship.org**