

Accessibility Survey

This survey is a tool to help congregations assess how accessible they are. All items are important. There are different barriers to different disabilities. A person who is blind can negotiate stairs, and a person who uses a wheelchair may not have problems reading the bulletin. Many of us already have poor vision. Many of us will lose some hearing. Some of us have hidden disabilities like diabetes, eating disorders, chronic pain, mental problems, etc.

The first step is to recognize the importance of respecting those with disabilities and a commitment to do all that is possible to make your church truly accessible to ALL. Over half of the items listed below cost little or no money. Please take some time to think and plan for making our buildings and services more welcoming to all people.

FOR PERSONS WITH PROBLEMS IN HEARING, SEEING, MOBILITY, OR OTHER DIFFICULTIES, MY CONGREGATION HAS:

Entrances

- A well-marked "drop-off" area
- Convenient, adequate spaces for reserved parking; close to accessible entrances
- Power assist door
- Percentage of doors in building with easy open levers instead of knobs
- Long handle on outside exit doors
- Accessible classroom for each age group
- Ramp(s) permanent or temporary
- Access to Sanctuary for all disabilities
- Elevator(s)
- Signage, e.g., indicating alternate access if main entrance has steps, etc.
- Brightly colored, textured strips marking tops of steps

Worship

- Worship area(s) with available space for wheelchair users, etc. encouraging participation in leading Worship (flat area, ramp, etc.)
- Choir location that allows persons with accessibility issues to participate
- Sign language interpreter
- Hearing assistive devices available
- Large print bulletins and music easily available (Task Force can help with this)
- Large print school materials available
- Adequate lighting for interpreter and for people with visual disabilities
- Places for wheelchair users other than at the very front or very back
- Sound system that meets needs of those with high-frequency hearing loss
- Persons with disabilities included in Worship and teaching

General access

- Office desk or table raised for wheelchair users
- Paper cup dispenser near water fountains

- ___ Fire alarm system light and sound cued
- ___ Literature available to help people become aware of the needs and frustrations of those persons with invisible disabilities, such as, chronic pain, diabetes, epilepsy
- ___ Library or shelf space section of resources on disabilities concerns
- ___ Accessible restroom(s) (stalls, mirrors, grab bars, faucets, soap, towels, etc.)
- ___ Assistance with transportation for people with diverse disabilities
- ___ Marketing that informs community of church accessibility, e.g., Marquee, newsletter, signs
- ___ Memorial gifts for accessibility projects encouraged
- ___ Information available to educate about environmental illness, including physical reactions to perfumes, colognes, after-shaves, etc.
- ___ Literature or persons available to educate about the nonarchitectural barriers to inclusiveness (attitudes)

Welcoming efforts and Program Initiatives

- ___ Bulletin board space for disability concerns
- ___ Participation in Meals-on-Wheels or other feeding programs for people in need
- ___ Facilities shared with organizations that serve persons with disabilities
- ___ Program ministering to persons in nursing homes (more than just Pastor)
- ___ Children involved in nursing home visits
- ___ “Accessibility issues” used instead of “handicap,” person-first language, etc.
- ___ Access Sunday Day or Celebration Event(s), e.g., awareness worship services and training session(s). The second weekend in October is suggested.
- ___ Care group assistance with diverse services—transportation, visitation, support groups, etc.
- ___ Inclusionary child care & youth education welcoming young people with disabilities
- ___ Food allergies and special diets respected at church meals
- ___ Respite Care available for caregivers in need.
- ___ Part-time nurse on staff for one-on-one visits on grounds and in homes
- ___ Care groups trained by nurse.
- ___ American Sign Language class
- ___ Ushers trained in special care needed by some worship attendees