

# Local Church Accessibility Survey

Is your church accessible and open to all persons? Are you concerned that you might inadvertently be keeping some people from fully participating in the spiritual and social life of your congregation?

This brief survey will help you identify your strengths and weaknesses. Take a few minutes and walk through your church building. What do you see?

*(Check all questions that apply to your local church facilities.)*

## Church Entrance and Halls:

- Is there a ramp or level entrance to the church door?  Yes  No
- Are the sides of ramps adequately protected with handrails?  Yes  No
- Are there directional signs which clearly direct persons to ramps and accessible entrances?  Yes  No
- Are there directional signs so people know where to go upon entering the church building?  Yes  No
- Is there a church directory to assist visitors in locating the church office, sanctuary, meeting rooms, restrooms, etc.?  Yes  No
- Are there handrails at the church entrance?  Yes  No
- Are there handrails in the church halls?  Yes  No
- Are Braille signs utilized and placed between 4'6" to 5'6" from floor?  Yes  No
- Are water fountains and bulletin boards, etc. at a height accessible to persons in wheelchairs?  Yes  No
- Are fire extinguishers and drinking fountains, etc. recessed into the wall so as not to create obstacles?  Yes  No
- Is snow and ice adequately removed from walkways during the winter months?  Yes  No
- Are ramps protected from rain and winter icing or snow?  Yes  No
- Are open stairs provided with a means of warning the blind, such as slightly raised abrasive strips?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parking:**

- Are there parking spaces marked, “Handicapped Parking” or “Senior Parking”?  Yes  No
- Do you provide valet parking service?  Yes  No
- Are handicapped parking spaces 1½ times the usual width?  Yes  No
- Is there a level approach to the church building from the parking area or the street?  Yes  No
- Is the parking lot well lighted at night?  Yes  No
- Is snow and ice adequately removed from parking areas during the winter months?  Yes  No
- Do you provide security patrol in the parking lot at night?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Restrooms:**

- Do restrooms (especially toilet areas) have handrails?  Yes  No
- Are restrooms wheelchair accessible?  Yes  No
- Are toilet stalls large enough to accommodate a wheelchair?  Yes  No
- Is the sink wheelchair accessible?  Yes  No
- Are faucet controls easy to operate, requiring no difficult finger or hand action?  Yes  No
- Are mirrors, soap, and towels accessible to persons in wheelchairs?  Yes  No
- Are restrooms accessible to church sanctuary?  Yes  No
- Are restrooms accessible to classrooms and meeting rooms?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Doors:**

- Are exterior and interior doors easy to open?  Yes  No
- Do church doors swing without conflict to wheelchairs?  Yes  No
- Are there vertical door handles or horizontal door bars rather than round door knobs?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Sanctuary:**

- Can the sanctuary accommodate wheelchairs?  Yes  No
- Are several places for wheelchairs provided so that wheelchair users have a choice of seating?  Yes  No
- Is there adequate lighting on speaker's face to facilitate speech/lip reading?  Yes  No
- Is there adequate lighting for reading in all pews?  Yes  No
- Are large print Bibles available?  Yes  No
- Are large print Hymnals or Song Books available?  Yes  No
- Are large print worship materials (bulletins, etc.) available?  Yes  No
- Is the sound system of good quality and without dead spots?  Yes  No
- Is there a sound amplification system for the hard of hearing?  Yes  No
- Are individual hearing devices for the hearing impaired available?  Yes  No
- Is sign language provided during worship services?  Yes  No
- Are pews cushioned for added comfort?  Yes  No
- Are guide dogs permitted in the church sanctuary?  Yes  No
- Is there a temperature controlled heating and cooling system?  Yes  No
- Is the altar and chancel area open and without steps for persons receiving the sacrament of holy communion?  Yes  No
- Is the altar and chancel area open and without steps for persons receiving the sacrament of holy baptism?  Yes  No
- Is the altar and chancel area accessible for all leadership during the worship service?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Elevators:**

- Is there an elevator or chair lift in the building?  Yes  No
- Does the elevator have buttons low enough for wheelchair reach?  Yes  No
- Does the elevator have Braille along with buttons for easy access?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Transportation:

- Does the church provide transportation for worship and church-related activities?  Yes  No
- Does the church have a van capable of transporting persons in wheelchairs?  Yes  No
- Does the church have arrangements with any agency to help transport persons with disabilities?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Church Administration, Leadership, Worship & Church School:

- Do persons with disabilities participate in and provide leadership for any of the following:
  - Church Council?  Yes  No
  - Committees and Boards?  Yes  No
- Does your church take seriously the following:
  - Time of day in planning programs and meetings?  Yes  No
  - Effective communication techniques?  Yes  No
  - Style of program presentation and content of material?  Yes  No
  - Accessibility issues when holding a program or meeting?  Yes  No
- Are worship services and other special events taped and provided for the use of homebound and other members?  Yes  No
- Do persons with disabilities participate in worship and church school as:
  - Greeters and Ushers?  Yes  No
  - Liturgists or lay readers?  Yes  No
  - Choir members/soloists?  Yes  No
  - Lay servant ministries?  Yes  No
  - Church school teachers?  Yes  No
  - Class officers/leaders?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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