
LOCAL CHURCH ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

This Survey form is made available by the Property, Casualty, Directors and Officers Insurance Committee for use by your trustees.

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 survey form 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:

	Yes	No
• Is there a ramp or level entrance to the church door?		
• Are the sides of ramps adequately protected with handrails?		
• Are there directional signs which clearly direct persons to ramps and accessible entrances?		
• Are there directional signs so people know where to go upon entering the church building?		
• Is there a church directory to assist visitors in locating the church office, Sanctuary, meeting rooms, etc.?		
• Are there handrails at the church entrance?		
• Are there handrails in the church halls?		
• Are Braille signs and textured doorknobs provided at appropriate places?		
• Are water fountains, coin telephones, bulletin boards, etc. at a height accessible to persons in a wheelchair?		
• Are fire extinguishers, drinking fountains, telephones, etc. recessed into the wall so as not to create obstacles?		
• Is snow and ice adequately removed from walkways during the winter months?		

Comments _____

PARKING:

	Yes	No
• Are there parking spaces marked, "Handicapped Parking?"		
• Do you provide valet parking service?		
• Are handicapped parking spaces 1 1/2 times the usual space?		
• Is there a level approach to the church building from the parking area or the street?		
• Is the parking lot well lighted at night?		
• Is snow and ice adequately removed from parking areas during the winter months?		
• Do you provide security patrol in the parking lot at night? Comments		

Comments _____

RESTROOMS:

	Yes	No
• Do restrooms (especially toilet areas) have handrails?		
• Are restrooms wheelchair accessible?		
• Are toilet stalls large enough for a wheelchair?		
• Is the sink wheelchair accessible?		
• Are mirrors, soap, and towels accessible to persons in wheelchairs?		
• Are restrooms accessible to church sanctuary?		
• Are restrooms accessible to classrooms and meeting rooms?		

Comments _____

DOORS:

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

Comments _____

SANCTUARY:

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

Comments _____

ELEVATORS:

	Yes	No
• Is there an elevator or chairlift in the building?		
• Does the elevator have buttons low enough for persons in a wheelchair to reach?		
• Are Braille signs utilized and placed between 4'6" and 5'6" from the floor?		

Comments _____

TRANSPORTATION:

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

Comments _____

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION, LEADERSHIP, WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL:

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

Comments _____
