

# Brief Accessibility Checklist

This brief checklist is a starting point for measuring your church's barrier-free access. Consider using this or a more detailed audit tool annually. For more comprehensive audit guides, see our website ([www.adnetonline.org](http://www.adnetonline.org)).

## Barriers of attitude:

- People with disabilities and their caregivers have been asked whether they feel welcome in worship, leadership, and church programs.
- Our church is intentional about engaging people with disabilities in all aspects of church life. People with disabilities serve on church committees or in other leadership roles.
- Our church has a church disability advocate and/or committee.
- Ushers, teachers, and youth leaders/mentors have been instructed regarding appropriate ways to greet and respond to the needs of people with disabilities.
- Worship and other church functions are "fragrance free" and participants are urged to refrain from wearing perfume and aftershave. Unscented candles, soaps, detergents, cleaning supplies, air fresheners, and facial tissue are used exclusively.
- Transportation is offered for people with disabilities who cannot drive.
- Our church has adopted a Church Policy on Disabilities.
- Church leaders work with people with disabilities and caregivers so that needs are addressed, including pastoral care.

## Barriers of communication:

- Our church has assistive listening devices (infrared, hearing loop, FM) available for people with hearing impairments.
- Sign-language interpretation is provided when prior arrangements have been made.
- Overall lighting is adequate for signing and speech reading, or for individuals with low vision.
- Songbooks, Bibles, bulletins, newsletters, and handouts are available in alternative formats such as large print, audio, and digital (also Braille, when requested in advance), and information about them is prominently displayed and readily accessible.
- Copies of the day's sermon and spoken elements of worship are available for people with impaired hearing, and captioning is used with visual projection.

## Barriers of facilities and architecture:

- Accessible parking is provided.
- Entrances and hallways are free from barriers that can impede a wheelchair (door bases, grates, thick mats).
- Door handles are lever style on all inside doors.
- A ramp (with a slope no greater than a 1:12 rise) is available for access into the building.
- Doors to rooms, especially washrooms, are at least 36 inches (0.91 meters) in width.
- Proper handrails are installed in all toilet areas for assisting in transfer and standing. All rails are at hospital fixture height. All sink fixtures allow for knee access and have insulated pipes and lever-style handles.
- At least one toilet stall has a raised seat and space next to the toilet for side transfer, and has room to turn around a large, power wheelchair. Even better: an accessible, unisex bathroom is available.
- Coats racks can be accessed by all people.
- All levels of the building are accessible from the inside.
- People who use wheelchairs have choices in where to sit in the sanctuary (besides the front and back rows).
- The pulpit area is accessible.
- Church mailboxes are accessible.