



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 participating fully in the spiritual and social life of your congregation?

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



The Virginia Conference Vision Statement:

“We envision churches where all God’s people are welcomed at table,
nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.”

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, etc.? Yes No
- ❖ Are there handrails at the church entrance? Yes No
- ❖ Are there handrails in the church halls? Yes No
- ❖ Are Braille signs and textured doorknobs provided at appropriate places? Yes No
- ❖ Are water fountains, telephones, bulletin boards, etc. at a height accessible to persons in wheelchairs? Yes No
- ❖ Are fire extinguishers, 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:

- ❖ Is there level ground where those with disabilities may park – pavement or solid ground preferred? Yes No
- ❖ Are there clearly marked handicapped parking spaces? Yes No
- ❖ Do you provide valet parking service? Yes No
- ❖ Are handicapped parking spaces 1½ times the usual space? 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

Comments: _____

Restrooms:

- ❖ Is there at least one handicapped restroom? Yes No
- ❖ Do restrooms (especially toilet areas) have handrails? Yes No
- ❖ Are restrooms wheelchair accessible? Yes No
- ❖ Are toilet stalls large enough for a wheelchair? Yes No
- ❖ Is the sink wheelchair accessible? 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
- ❖ Are faucet controls easy to operate, requiring no difficult finger or hand action? Yes No

Comments: _____

Doors:

- ❖ Are exterior and interior doors easy to open? Yes No
- ❖ Are doorways wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs? Yes No
- ❖ Do church doors swing without conflict to wheelchairs? Yes No
- ❖ Are there vertical door handles or horizontal door bars rather than slippery round knobs? Yes No
- ❖ In case of an emergency, are there at least two exits that a person with a disability could use? 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 service animals 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 or is an accessible location available for use? 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
 - ❖ Are Braille signs utilized and placed between 4'6" to 5'6" from floor? 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: _____
-

Clergy Housing:

- ❖ Is there a garage or covered area for loading and unloading passengers? Yes No
- ❖ Is the housing accessible to persons with mobility difficulties? Yes No
- ❖ Is at least one bathroom accessible to all persons? Yes No
- ❖ In case of an emergency, are there at least two exits that a person with a disability could use? Yes No

- ❖ Is there one bedroom on the first floor that can be used to accommodate a person with a disability? 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? Yes No
 - Alternative communication techniques? Yes No
 - Style of program presentation and content of material? Yes No
 - Accessibility issues when holding a program or event? Yes No
- ❖ Are worship services and other special programs 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 Speaking Ministries? Yes No
 - Church school teachers? Yes No
 - Class officers/leaders? Yes No
- ❖ Does the church observe Disability Awareness Sunday? Yes No
 Comments: _____

Adapted for the Virginia Conference with permission from the Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries,
 General Board of Discipleship - UMC
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ACCESSIBILITY WORKSHEET

Put the total number of YES and NO responses answered in each category below.

YES NO

_____ _____ Church Entrance and Halls

_____ _____ Parking

_____ _____ Restrooms

_____ _____ Doors

_____ _____ Sanctuary

_____ _____ Elevators

_____ _____ Transportation

_____ _____ Clergy Housing

_____ _____ Church Administration

If you have more than two (2) NO answers in any category, you are not considered accessible in this area of your facility. In order to ensure greater access, we suggest that you complete the planning worksheet below.

Priority Areas for Future Planning:

Little to No Cost Accommodations or Modifications:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Moderate Cost (\$100 - \$2,500) Accommodations or Modifications:

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

List all deficiencies that will require a *large financial layout* (+\$2,500).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Name of Church: _____ District: _____

Pastor: _____ Date Audit Completed: _____

