# Fellowship

Congregational Worksheet on Accessibility

for greater inclusion for Disabled UU’s

Full participation in all aspects of congregational life for people with disabilities is the aspiration for UU congregations. This is a big undertaking and one that is ongoing. **Accessibility is only one part of this, but it is essential. Here, we cover one of the many areas within congregational accessibility.** As new technologies emerge, this list will change. Additionally, the brief accessibility checklist is not complete or specific to you. This checklist is meant to start the conversation. Your building, grounds, or policies are unique to your congregation. We encourage everyone to participate, either through a survey created for your congregation, or helping with or giving input, on accessibility projects.

Each worksheet has four sections and should be revisited for updates.

1. Links to EDUCATIONAL RESOURCESwith detailed information.
2. CHECKLIST:
   1. Check **Yes or No** as it applies at this moment even if you have plans to add this accessibility in the future.
   2. Mark **NA** if it does not nor ever will apply. For example, an elevator would never be installed in a single-story building with no basement.
   3. In the **Action** column, note what needs to happen next. Does another committee need to be involved? If so, what committee? Would this item be best handled by someone on the staff? Use the **Notes** for additional space.
3. SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER poses questions to start conversations on dismantling ableism in your congregation.
4. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES are articles, blog posts, activities, and other information that is current and will be revised every three months.

Fellowship

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| Educational Links: How to Include People with Disabilities <https://www.respectability.org/inclusive-philanthropy/how-to-include-people-with-disabilities/>  Creating Accessible and Inclusive Meetings or Events  <https://campus-climate.umn.edu/sites/campusclimate.umn.edu/files/accessmtgsfinal.pdf> | | | | |
| Checklist | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
| 1. Do we make an equal effort to get to know a disabled person as nondisabled person? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Do we encourage all members to wear their name tags? Are the names on the name tags printed in a large font? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. At congregational events with food, is assistance proactively provided to those who need it? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Is there broad awareness of how to appropriately interact with and accommodate service dogs? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Are chalice circles, youth groups, support groups, etc. inclusive for everyone so that there a safe and welcoming environment for persons to disclose and discuss their disability; physical, mental, invisible, etc.? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Do members maintain social relationships and sense of community through visits and phone calls to "members at home"? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Do we minister to the spiritual needs of people whose disabilities prevent them from attending church? |  |  |  |  |
| Notes: | | | | |
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Some things to consider:Have you ever spilled something on your clothes and had to talk to people for a length of time? How did you handle it? Would you have said that not having dirty clothes was a privilege? Able privilege is at the heart of disability inclusion and inclusion is a necessary building block for fellowship events. For examples of able privilege, read [*Autistic Hoya’s Brief Abled Privilege Checklist*](https://autistichoya.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/brief-abled-privilege-checklist-mar-2016.pdf)*.* NPR recently hosted a podcast with disability author Emily Ladau called, [*Don't be scared to talk about disabilities. Here's what to know and what to say*](https://www.npr.org/2022/02/18/1081713756/disability-disabled-people-offensive-better-word)*.* Click the title to listen to the podcast.

## Additional Resources:

How to Help People with Disabilities Feel Welcome <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/disability-in-motion/201812/how-help-people-disabilities-feel-welcome>

Tips for Making All Visitors Feel Welcome

<https://macaccess.org/rescources/working-document-of-best-practices-tips-for-making-all-visitors-feel-welcome/>

Why seeing Things Differently Doesn’t Mean One Person Is Wrong https://corrinagordonbarnes.com/seeing-things-differently/

Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (IDAC) <https://www.aapd.com/idac/>

Access Suggestions for Public Events <https://www.sinsinvalid.org/news-1/2020/6/8/access-suggestions-for-public-events>

We welcome your feedback and additions to this form: [aim@uua.org](mailto:aim@uua.org)