# Pastoral Care

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.

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| Educational Links: Disability and Health Inclusion Strategies <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-strategies.html>  ADA National Network Disability Law Handbook <https://adata.org/guide/ada-national-network-disability-law-handbook>  Engaging With Disabled People: An Event Planning Guide <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/housing-and-disabled-people-engaging-with-disabled-people-event-planning-guide.pdf> | | | | |
| Checklist | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
| 1. When planning congregational activities, do we systematically consider how to accommodate disabled people either by default or upon request? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Do we station greeters at main entrances to help people in-and-out of cars or para-transportation and in-and-out of buildings back to their transportation, as needed? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. If a member of our congregation has a disability, are we ready to be of assistance in locating needed government and community resources? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Do we refrain from expecting family members to take the lead in ministering to their family member with a disability? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Are we proactive in providing and offering practical and pastoral support for people whose family members have disabilities? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Do members serve as congregation companions/peer tutors to assist individuals with disabilities who need and request one-on-one assistance? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Are there educational resources on our various congregational bookshelves about disability awareness? |  |  |  |  |
| Notes: | | | | |
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Some things to consider:Have you or someone you know with a disability ever beensingled out for being angry? What was the response? What if people were afraid of you for no obvious reason? Read [*Fear is why you’re ableist*](https://leveller.ca/2018/10/fear-is-why-youre-ableist/)*.* Do agree that fear is the motivation behind the ‘demonization of disability’? Have you ever been under the impression that someone had your back and then you found out that wasn’t necessarily the case? Read [*During Disability Pride, Religious institutions still behind on accessibility*](https://religionnews.com/2021/07/30/for-disability-pride-religious-leaders-look-back-on-31-years-of-the-ada/)

## Additional Resources:

What Is The Difference Between Compassion for Those With Disabilities and Ableism? <https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/what-is-the-difference-between-compassion-for-those-with-disabilities-and-ableism/>

<https://crutchesandspice.com/2018/05/15/disabled-people-have-an-ally-problem-they-need-to-stop-talking-for-us/>

Disability Stereotypes in the Media <https://www.aruma.com.au/about-us/blog/run-forest-run-disability-stereotypes-in-the-media/>

DISABILITY| How You See Me <https://youtu.be/bwW6mYdJ7Xc>

Enhancing Your Interactions With People With Disabilities <https://www.apa.org/pi/disability/resources/publications/enhancing>

What’s So Scary About Disability? <https://themighty.com/2018/10/addressing-societys-fear-disability/>

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