# Sanctuary

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:Q&A on the ADA: The Church and the Americans With Disabilities Act <https://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/q-ada-church-and-americans-disabilities-act>Religious Entities Under the Americans With Disabilities Act <https://adata.org/factsheet/religious-entities-under-americans-disabilities-act> Accessible Faith <https://www.cob-net.org/church/freespring/docs/access/accessible-faith.pdf> |
| Checklist | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
| 1. Seating- Are there “pew cuts” for people with wheelchairs, scooters, service dogs, and/or walkers scattered throughout the sanctuary and classroom areas so that disabled people can sit with their family and friends?
 |[ ]  [ ]  | [ ]  |  |
| 1. Is there seating space available, with extra legroom, for people who have casts, use walkers, etc.
 |[ ] [ ]  [ ]  |  |
| 1. If the floor is sloped, is there a level area where people using wheelchairs or scooters can sit with their family and friends?
 |[ ] [ ]  [ ]  |  |
| 1. Is the chancel accessible?
 |[ ] [ ]  [ ]  |  |
| 1. Is the choir area accessible?
 |[ ] [ ]  [ ]  |  |
| 1. Are audio loops, captioning, or other accommodations available for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing?
 |[ ] [ ]  [ ]  |  |
| 1. Are large print hymnals and bulletins available?
 |[ ] [ ]  [ ]  |  |
| Notes |
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Some things to consider:Have you ever gone somewhere and were made to feel as if you didn’t belong there? This an example from [*Autistic Hoya’s Abled Privilege Checklist*](https://autistichoya.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/brief-abled-privilege-checklist-mar-2016.pdf): ‘I can choose to sit anywhere I want whenever I go out to any event, restaurant, movie theater, or religious service.’ Does this statement seem reasonable to you? Who would it not apply to and why? Universal Design is a concept for built environments to include everyone. Watch [*The 7 Principles of Universal Design | Ed Roberts Campus*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-tHuD7R8cs)to learn the history and techniques to implement in your sanctuary.

## Additional Resources:

Accessibility as a Civil Right <https://er.educause.edu/articles/2016/1/accessibility-as-a-civil-right>

Some Churches Are Slow To Embrace The ADA <https://www.braunability.com/us/en/blog/disability-rights/churches-are-slow-to-embrace-the-ada.html>

Making Churches Accessible <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1720912>

Accessibility Information <https://accessibility.cornell.edu/event-planning/accessible-meeting-and-event-checklist/>

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