# Ramps

Accessibility Worksheet for greater

inclusion of Disabled UUs in congregations

Full participation in all aspects of congregational life for disabled people 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, and/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 yearly.

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| Educational Links:U.S. Access Board Is my Ramp ADA Compliant? https://www.corada.com/videos/is-my-ramp-ada-compliant Where Ramps and Curbs are Required https://www.access-board.gov/ada/guides/chapter-4-ramps-and-curb-ramps/ADA RAMP https://www.ada-compliance.com/ada-compliance/ada-ramp |
| Checklist | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
| 1. Are the slopes of ramps no greater than 1:12?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| 1. Do ramps longer than 6 feet have railings on both sides?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| 1. Are railings sturdy, and between 34 and 38 inches high?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| 1. Is the width between railings or curbs at least 36 inches?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| 1. Is ramp non-slip?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| 1. Is there an unobstructed 5-foot-long level landing at every 30-foot horizontal length of ramp, at the top and bottom of ramps and at switchbacks?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| 1. Does the ramp rise no more than 30 inches between landings?
 |[ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| Notes: |
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Some things to consider:Have you ever stopped to consider who benefits when public spaces are accessible for everyone. Read *Accessibility for All: How Eliminating Barriers Benefits Everyone*. If anyone can use them, why aren’t ramps more common? Maybe your building is an historic landmark, and the thought is that it isn’t possible to make it accessible. There are right ways, and a lot of wrong ways, to make your buildings accessible regardless of their historical status. This article by the National Park Service, *Making Historic Properties Accessible,* discusses some options.

## Additional Resources:

History of Rampshttps://www.medplushealth.ca/blog/the-history-of-the-wheelchair-ramps/

How To Choose A Ramp https://www.ramps.org/choose-a-ramp.htm

Disabled people don’t need so many fancy new gadgets. We just need more ramps https://www.vox.com/first-person/2019/4/30/18523006/disabled-wheelchair-access-ramps-stair-climbing

Surprising Ways Poor Accessibility Affects Mental Health https://www.mhconn.org/depression/surprising-ways-poor-accessibility-affects-mental-health

**An example statement from** **Autistic Hoya’s** **Abled Privilege Checklist:**

‘If I am religious or spiritual, I can choose which place of worship to attend based on whether I like their worship style or agree with their beliefs and will not be forced to choose based on whether the services are interpreted for me or whether there is a ramp to the front door.’

Does this statement seem reasonable to you? Who would it not apply to and why?

We welcome your feedback and additions to this form: equualaccess@gmail.com