# Worship and Theology

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.

# Worship and Theology

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| Educational Links: Who is the God We Worship? Theologies of Disability; Challenges and New Possibilities [https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/content-images/Who\_is\_the\_God\_We\_Worship.pdf](about:blank)  Creating Theology Together: A Curriculum For Spiritual Leadership Development [https://uuwestport.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/CreatingTheologyTogetherV1\_1.pdf](about:blank) | | | | |
| Checklist | Yes | No | N/A | Action |
| 1. Is our lived theology inside and outside of worship consistent with treating disabled people as people with inherent worth and dignity? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Does the congregation consider work on disability issues to be spiritual work? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Is imagery taught and preached with sensitivity to disabled people and their family members? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. At least once a year does our Sunday Service focus on addressing disability-related issues and our intention to be a congregation where disabled people and their families find true inclusion and participation? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. When our congregation makes decisions about worship life, are disabled people included in decision making as to what will be best for their situation? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Are greeters and ushers instructed regarding how to interact with and anticipate the needs of disabled people? |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Are ushers trained in emergency procedures and do they know how to assist disabled people in case of evacuation? |  |  |  |  |
| Notes: | | | | |
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Some things to consider: Do you know what your congregation’s theology of disability is? Read [*Stop trying to 'heal' me*](about:blank). What do you think about God’s wheelchair? Have attitudes towards disabled people changed over time in your community? Read [[*It’s Time For Interfaith Leaders To Value Disabled Lives.*](about:blank)](about:blank)

Additional Resources:

Sin, Resurrection, and Disability [https://henrycenter.tiu.edu/2022/04/sin-resurrection-and-disability/](about:blank)

**Theologies of Disabilities** [https://network.crcna.org/disability-concerns/theologies-disabilities](about:blank)

**The Theology of Unitarian Universalists** [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/unitarian-universalist-theology\_b\_870528](about:blank)

**Theology** [https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening/theology](about:blank)

UPLIFT Access Blog [https://www.uua.org/accessibility/blog](about:blank)

We welcome your feedback and additions to this form: [equualaccess@gmail.com](about:blank)