

## ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

Based on the United Methodist Church's accessibility manual

With many thanks to the United Methodist Church, who permitted us to freely use material from their comprehensive accessibility manual:

### ***Accessibility Audit for Churches, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition***

edited by the Rev. Kathy N. Reeves.

**Remember, everyone whether they live with a disability or not, is unique. Therefore, it is impossible to make universal decisions about what accommodations will be completely welcoming to everyone. As with all reciprocal relationships, it is always important and appropriate to ask the people being welcomed what will work for them.**

## GETTING INTO CHURCH

### PARKING and UNLOADING

yes no

- 1. Is there an appropriate number of accessible parking spaces provided for the total capacity of the parking lot? (check your local regulations)
- 2. Are the accessible parking spaces at least 8 feet wide?
- 3. Are all accessible parking spaces paved?
- 4. Does each accessible parking space have a clearly marked adjacent access aisle for loading and unloading people?
- 5. Are the access aisles at least 5 feet wide for cars and 8 feet wide for vans? (Two accessible spaces can share one common aisle.)
- 6. Does every parking lot have at least one accessible parking space for vans?
- 7. Are all accessible parking spaces identified with a metal sign displaying the international Symbol of Accessibility, which can be seen when a vehicle is parked in the space?
- 8. Are all accessible parking spaces, access aisles, and the adjoining accessible route on one level surface without any curbs, steps, or

ramps?

- 9. Are all accessible parking spaces, access aisles, and the adjoining portions of the accessible route sloped not more than 1:50 (one in fifty) in any direction for drainage? Is the balance of the parking lot sloped for drainage not more than 1:20 (one in twenty) in all directions?
- 10. Are all accessible parking spaces located closest to the accessible building entrances?
- 11. Are all accessible parking spaces located on the building side of auto traffic, so that a person going from an accessible parking space to a building does not have to cross streets, drives, parking lot entrances, or cross any traffic path in the parking lot?
- 12. Are the accessible parking spaces and the accessible route to the building entrance brightly lit so that people with disabilities will feel safe and will be able to find their way easily?
- 13. Is a space provided where vehicles can pull up to the building's main accessible entrance to load and unload passengers?
- 14. Is the loading area access area at least 5 feet deep and 20 feet long?
- 15. Is the passenger loading zone at the building's main floor level (worship level)?
- 16. If the building has more than one floor, is an accessible entrance provided in the parking area serving each floor level?

## **PATHWAYS and ENTRANCEWAYS**

yes no

- 1. Are the accessible parking spaces and your accessible entranceways connected by an accessible pathway?
- 2. Is the accessible pathway paved and at least 5 feet wide with an even surface unbroken by steps or uneven sidewalk joints?
- 3. Is the accessible pathway free of drooping overhanging tree limbs or signs that project into the pathway?
- 4. Is the accessible pathway free of adjacent trees or shrubs that drop twigs, nuts, fruit, or seedpods on the pathway and plants growing

adjacent to the pathway that have spikes or thorns?

- 5. Do all parts of the accessible pathway have running slopes flatter than 1:20 (one in twenty) and cross slopes flatter than 1:50 (one in fifty)?
- 6. Are signs with the International Symbol of Accessibility posted to clearly point to wheelchair accessible entryways?
- 7. Are entryways free of mats, runners, and throw rugs that can slip, bunch up, or have edges that are tripping hazards?
- 8. If entryways have mats, runners, and throw rugs, are they less than ½ inch thick and have all exposed edges fastened to the floor?
- 9. Are all objects that protrude more than 4 inches into the accessible pathway detectable by a cane?
- 10. Is the main entrance to the building an accessible entrance?
- 11. If your church entrance has an airlock or weather vestibule (two doors in series) is the distance between the two doors at least 7 feet (check your local building codes)?
- 12. Are building entrance areas kept free of people smoking?
- 13. Is church property (particularly near building entrances kept free of herbicide or pesticide landscaping treatments?
- 14. If pesticides or herbicides are used outdoors, are notification signs prominently displayed on treated lawns or landscaped areas for a week after treatment?
- 15. If pesticides or herbicides are used indoors, is a sign prominently displayed (for a month after treatment) on all entrances to the building notifying people of the location and the date of application?

## **RAMPS and HANDRAILS**

yes no

- 1. Are any parts of the accessible pathway steeper than 1:20 (one in twenty)? These are classified as ramps. A ramp should not be steeper than 1:12 (one in twelve).
- 2. Is a level rest area provided at the top and bottom of all ramps?

- 3. Is a level rest area provided after each 30 feet of ramp length?
- 4. Is the ramp as flat as possible? (The preferred slope is 1:20 (one in twenty); maximum slope is 1:12 (one in twelve).)
- 5. Does the ramp have a cross slope or slant of no more than 1:50 (one in fifty)?
- 6. Does the inclined surface of a ramp have a contrasting color and a detectable non-slip surface?
- 7. Are all ramps a minimum of 36 inches wide?
- 8. Are open vertical edges of ramps protected by a curb at least 2 inches high on both sides of any ramp with a drop-off exceeding 6 inches to ground level or a horizontal run greater than 6 feet?
- 9. Are handrails provided on both sides of any ramp with a rise greater than 6 inches or a horizontal run greater than 6 feet?
- 10. Are handrails for children mounted 18-20 inches above the surface of the ramp?
- 11. Do handrails extend horizontally at least 12 inches beyond the top and bottom of the ramp?
- 12. Are handrails continuous and uninterrupted at all platforms or landings?
- 13. Is the minimum finger space distance between a handrail and the wall behind it 1-1/2 inches?
- 14. Is the finger space between handrail and wall free of any mounting blocks, obstructions, or sharp edges?
- 15. Do handrails contrast visually with the wall or material behind them?
- 16. Are guards designed so that a 4 inch diameter sphere will not pass through openings in the space from the floor up to the bottom of the handrail?
- 17. Are the ramps enclosed with solid guard walls or is a 42 inch high guardrail provided?

- 18. Is there an automatic door opener at your front entrance and any other ramped entrances?