

UCC DISABILITIES MINISTRIES CHURCH BUILDING AND PROGRAM AUDIT FOR ACCESSIBILITY



This audit is designed to examine the attitudinal and physical structures of your church for accessibility by persons with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities. The purpose is to make your faith community welcoming and inclusive of everyone into all aspects of the life of the church. This audit will help determine what work has already been done, what areas need to be improved, and what your congregation is willing to do for accessibility for all. The audit is a guide. It is not an all-inclusive list and some items may not apply to your setting. Be sure to check with a licensed contractor and state and federal ADA guidelines before making any structural changes. The audit does not imply expertise or advice by the UCCDM Board. It is meant to encourage discussion. Be sure to celebrate ALL works towards inclusion!

Congregational Information

Congregation's Name *(required)*:

Congregation's Mailing Address *(required)*:

Congregation's Phone Number *(required)*:

Congregation's Email Contact/Website *(required)*:

Conference to Which Congregation Belongs *(required)*:

Auditor Information

Name of Person Completing Audit *(required)*:

Title of Person Completing Audit *(required)*:

Email of Person Completing Audit *(required)*:

Phone Number of Person Completing Audit *(required)*:

Is your congregation also submitting an A2A checklist to be designated as A2A at this time?
(required):

Yes

No

We have already done this

We plan to do this in the near future, or we are thinking about ...

How this audit should be evaluated:

Each question counts as one (1) point to be totaled for the A2A Checklist. Each "Yes" answer is counted as one (1) point. Please keep track of your score.

Attitudinal Accessibility

Attitudes are often the biggest barriers people with disabilities face. Education, awareness and sensitivity training are crucial.

Are persons with disabilities being included in this audit? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is the congregation made aware that one in five people live with a disability and one in four people experience a mental health concern over a lifetime? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Does the church offer regular educational opportunities for congregants through newsletters, information sessions, sermons, and small group discussions aimed at awareness of the breadth of disabilities? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are members willing to thoughtfully include people with disabilities in leadership boards and committees, study, worship services, and recreational activities?

Yes

No

Do members acknowledge that inclusion is more than ramps and parking places? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is sensitivity training required for ushers, greeters, church staff, and others who come in contact with people with disabilities? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Communication

Are assistive listening devices, microphones, and sign language interpreters available upon request at all services and main congregational events, including Bible study? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are large print bulletins, hymnals, Bibles, including Braille, available? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are events and other services made available in multi-media or other accessible format? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is there signage and notice of availability of all assistive equipment? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are printed sermons available? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are large print bulletins, hymnals (or printed lyrics), and Bibles available? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are volunteers available to read bulletins, lyrics, and Bibles when needed if a Braille embosser is not available? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Leadership

Do the pastor and the church staff receive training in disability awareness? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are the pastor and pastoral visitors aware they should request an interpreter or communication materials when visiting persons with communication-based disabilities? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Do teachers receive sensitivity training for working with people with disabilities, including adapting materials? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are reimbursements available for additional expenses (e.g., accessible transportation, rental of mobility, audio, interpreting or other equipment) as needed for disabled people who represent the church at meetings, retreats, and conferences? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are reasonable accommodations made when people with disabilities are in any worship leadership capacity, e.g., choir members, readers, or musicians? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Physical Accessibility

Do all doors open completely? *(required):*

Yes

No

Are door thresholds no more than one half inch in height? *(required):*

Yes

No

Do doors have lever-type hardware, panic bars, or automatic door openers? *(required):*

Yes

No

Can doors be opened by exerting 5 pounds of pressure or less? *(required):*

Yes

No

Is there at least one accessible door with a 32 inches wide clear opening? *(required):*

Yes

No

Stairs

Are the edges of stairs and raised cracks in sidewalks' edges painted with a contrasting color (often yellow) so people with low vision can see and be safe? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have stairs

Do they have non-slip surfaces? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have stairs

Is there good lighting for stairways? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have stairs

Do they have non-slip surfaces? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have stairs

Is there good lighting for stairways? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have stairs

Are stairways at least 44 inches wide with handrails on both sides? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have stairs

Can handrails support at least 250 pounds? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have stairs

Do handrails on stairs extend one foot at the bottom and top of stairs? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have stairs

Ramps and Curb Cuts and Walk Ways

Are walkways and curb cuts clearly marked? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Do walkways and curb cuts have non-slip surfaces? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are ramps a minimum of 36 inches wide, extending one foot in length for every inch of rise (1':12" ratio), and have handrails on at least one side if over 6 feet long? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We have no spaces requiring ramps.

Is there a level rest platform at least 5 feet long for every 30 inches of ramp rise and a 5' x 5' platform at changes of direction? *(required):*

Yes

No

N/A - We have no spaces requiring ramps.

Parking

Are parking spaces at least 132 inches with a 60 inch aisle (universal guidelines)? *(required):*

Yes

No

Is accessible parking marked as reserved by the sign showing the accessible symbol? *(required):*

Yes

No

Are reserved spaces close to an accessible entrance? *(required):*

Yes

No

Is the parking level paved and well-lit? *(required):*

Yes

No

Is there clear, visible signage for access to walkways, ramps and parking areas? *(required):*

Yes

No

Elevator and Lifts

Is there an elevator or chair lift for access to the sanctuary and all major areas? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have multiple levels requiring a lift.

Are controls placed 54 inches or less from the floor and reachable from a wheelchair? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have multiple levels requiring a lift.

Are Braille plaques on elevator control panels? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A - We do not have multiple levels requiring a lift.

Restrooms

Is there at least one accessible restroom on each floor, which may be unisex? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is the restroom stall at least 60" x 60" to allow for wheelchair turning space, with two grab bars, one adjacent to the commode and one behind the commode? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is there no more than 34 inches of clearance from the floor to the sink? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are there lever-type faucet controls and hardware on the doors? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are soap and towel dispensers no higher than 40 inches from the floor? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Water fountain

Is there one water fountain or water cooler with front controls on each floor? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A

Is the top rim of the water fountain between 30–34 inches above the floor or is there a drinking cup dispenser no higher than 40 inches? *(required)*:

Yes

No

N/A

Worship Space

Are wheelchair areas integrated throughout seating spaces rather than only the front, back or in aisle ways? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is seating space with extra leg room available for those with crutches, braces, walkers, etc.? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are the chancel, choir, lectern, and altar areas accessible to wheelchair users? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is there adequate lighting in the sanctuary and other worship spaces? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is there equal access for everyone to receive communion? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are ushers familiar with special needs and willing to assist as needed? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Classrooms

Are door thresholds no higher than one half inch? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Is there excellent lighting in all areas? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Are the following available for children: soft blocks for children having behavioral issues; tactile signage on furniture, learning centers, doors, etc.; wheelchair lap table for a child in a wheelchair who cannot pull up to a child size table? *(required)*:

Yes

No

Comments/Questions

United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries

This accessibility and inclusion audit was compiled from several different audits from various resources such as Presbyterians for Disability Concerns Network, Candace Low of Independence Unlimited, Naomi Mitchum, and UCC Disabilities Ministries. It is one of many accessibility audits available for your use.