

Sanctuary Accessibility Audit

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Transportation to Services

How do you accommodate transportation needs for seniors?

Parking Lots, Curbs and Walkways

Are parking areas for people with mobility or disability issues near the main pedestrian entrance (within 30 feet)?

Are accessible parking areas adequately identified by signs and blue boundary lines?

Are parking spaces at least 96 inches wide and level with surface slopes?

Is there sufficient room in the parking space for loading and unloading wheelchairs?

Are there curb cuts and ramps with limited slopes to allow access?

Do you provide volunteers to help people get in and out of vehicles or to help those with canes and walkers to get from the vehicles to the church?

Are sidewalks and ramps a minimum of 36 inches wide?

Do you have the proper number of parking spaces for people with disabilities, as required by ADA?

Total Designated Parking Spaces

Accessible Parking Spaces

1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 300	7
301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9
501 to 1000	2 percent of total
1001 and over	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1000

Entryways and Exits

Are there steps or barriers of more than 1/2 inch into the sanctuary?

If so, are ramps with edge protection and/or handrails provided?

Are doorways and hallways into the sanctuary a minimum of 36 inches wide to accommodate wheelchairs?

Are door handles at a height easily accessible to people in wheelchairs (34 to 48 inches)?

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How often are doors lubricated and maintained for easy access (8.5 or less pounds of force)?

Are entrance areas and hallways short enough to not intimidate people with mobility or breathing difficulties?

Are signs to various areas of the church large and well-lit?

Are accessible areas identified by large, well-lit signs?

If gratings are located on walking surfaces, are openings 1/2 inch or less in width?

Multi-Level Sanctuaries

If the sanctuary has multiple levels, how are wheelchairs and walkers accommodated?

Sanctuary Seating

Does the church have seating areas for people with disabilities, with accommodations throughout the sanctuary?

Are sections that accommodate people with disabilities or mobility issues marked with signs?

Does the sanctuary allow for one percent ADA access?

Is the wheelchair-accessible area flat (no slope)?

Is there a slope to any seating areas that would create difficulty for a person who has problems standing on an inclined surface?

Is all flooring (entry and sanctuary) slip resistant?

Is carpeting firmly attached and with a maximum pile thickness of 1/2 inch?

Are throw rugs or mats a potential hazard for people with canes or walkers (more than 1/2 inch in thickness)?

Is the seating comfortable for individuals with pain and mobility issues?

Auditory and Visual

Is real-time, closed-captioning of songs, announcements, and sermon outlines projected on a video screen?

Is the screen positioned to avoid causing pain for people with neck problems?

Is the font used on screen large enough and bright enough for the visually impaired?

Is there an amplification system for people with hearing impairments but who are not deaf?

Is adequate lighting provided for reading materials?
Are large-print hymnals and bulletins provided?

Rituals

Do worship rituals, such as communion and baptism, accommodate people with mobility issues?
Can seniors with mobility issues participate in leadership roles on the front platform?
How are mobility issues addressed on the front platform (ramp, handrails, and so on)?
In what ways are seniors incorporated into the worship services?

Restrooms

Are restrooms accessible to people with disabilities and mobility issues?
Are doorways into the bathrooms and into stalls wide enough for access by wheelchairs?
Are handrails and grab bars included in stalls?
Are commodes high enough to accommodate people with disabilities?
Are commodes checked frequently to make sure seats are stable?
Are urinals, sinks, and towel dispensers accessible to people with disabilities?

Hazards & Emergency Procedures

Has the staff (paid or volunteer) received special instructions about the needs of persons with disabilities, particularly in how to respond to emergency needs (specifically, first-aid training)?
Are all emergency exit doors clearly marked, and do they have a minimum opening of 32 inches?
Are all audible alarms accompanied by visual alarms? Is an emergency first-aid kit available in or near the sanctuary?
Does the facility have a disaster plan, and are staff and volunteers trained on how to assist individuals with mobility or other impairment issues in the event of a disaster? (Note: Disaster plans are not required by ADA, but are an essential part of a church ministry's administration in order to ensure the safety of all attendees.)
—Marilyn L. Donnellan