



# Worship Accessibility Evaluation

With one of every five individuals having some type of disability (hearing, vision, physical, emotional, developmental or environmental), and considering all the family members of the church who are impacted by a

relative's disability, it becomes obvious that church/synagogue/temple\* accessibility, both attitudinal and architectural, is an important factor. It is an equally important factor in retaining members, for most of us may eventually have difficulty walking, seeing or hearing.

\* The word "church" is used in this document to reference to all places of worship.

Accommodations (such as ramps) for people with disabilities can also be a blessing for parents of small children and the elderly.

It will take approximately 30 minutes to complete this survey. You will need a tape measure, a notepad and pen/pencil. For questions or assistance, please contact Cheryl L. Killam, Accessibility Specialist; (603) 271-4177; Email: [cheryl.killam@nh.gov](mailto:cheryl.killam@nh.gov); NH Governor's Commission on Disability, 57 Regional Drive, Concord, NH 03301

<b>ATTITUDES - Are people with disabilities welcome to worship? How does the church indicate this?</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Comments - Concerns</b>
1. Does the church have an accessibility logo at the front door?			
2. Does the church have an accessibility logo on the church sign?			
3. Does the church have an accessibility logo in the church's printed and electronic communications?			
4. Are signs to accessible entrances provided at or before entrances that are not accessible?			
5. Are people with disabilities included on decision-making committees?			
6. Are people with disabilities included in leadership roles?			
7. Are the ushers instructed regarding the appropriate ways in which to greet and meet the needs of people with disabilities?			
8. Is there disability awareness or disability sensitivity training for the congregation?			
9. Is there disability awareness or disability sensitivity training for the staff?			
10. Is there disability awareness or disability sensitivity training for church school students?			
11. Is there a committee that deals with issues relevant to disabilities and accessibility? *This assures continuing progress and provides a comfortable way for people with disabilities to offer suggestions on how to reduce barriers and offer			

assistance, without being made to feel like complainers.			
12. Does the church library include resources about various disabilities?			
13. Does the Religious Education Program include materials about disabilities and activities that involve children and youth with disabilities?			
<b>EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION</b> - Are the methods of communication utilized effective for church members, staff and visitors? <b>Does the church provide:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Comments - Concerns</b>
1. Large print hymnals, Bibles or other religious readings, and worship bulletins?			
2. Adequate amplification of sound? *There are a variety of assistive listening systems available today at relatively low costs.			
3. Sign Language Interpreters?			
4. Oral Interpreters?			
5. CART-Communication Access Realtime Translation-Captioning services for larger groups?			
6. Printed sermons in both standard and large print versions?			
7. Taped sermons and/or services?			
8. Adequate lighting in both the congregation and the pulpit area?			

**PHYSICAL ACCESS** - This part of the survey addresses the physical accessibility of buildings.

<b>Getting to and into the building(s):</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Comments - Concerns</b>
1. Is transportation available for those who are disabled or elderly and cannot drive?			
1(a) If so, how is this advertised?			
2. Are there clearly marked accessible parking places located as close as possible to the entrance(s)? NOTE: The parking spaces should be designated by signs ("Reserved Parking") mounted on a post.			
3. Is there at least one accessible parking space that is 96 inches wide?			
4. Does this accessible parking space have an adjacent access aisle that is 96 inches wide? <i>*The access aisle should be designated by a "No Parking" sign.</i>			
5. Is there a clear and smooth path of travel from the parking space to the entrance that is 36 inches clear in width? <i>*Note any obstacles or protruding objects that should be removed and whether the grade of the approach to the entrance is level or steep.</i>			

<b>STAIRS AND RAMPS</b>			
6. Is there an entrance that does not have stairs? *If not, a ramp is needed in place of or in addition to the exterior stairs.			
7. If there is a ramp, does it have a slope no greater than one inch in rise for every 12 inches in length?			
8. Is the length of the inclined portion 30 feet or less?			
9. Is the clear width of the ramp at least 36 inches?			
10. Does the ramp have a smooth continuous handrail <b>on each side</b> that is mounted 34-38 inches above the ramp surface?			
11. Does the ramp have a level landing at the top that measures 5 feet in length?			
<b>DOORS</b>			
12. Do doorways have a clear opening of 32 inches or more?			
13. Are the approaches to doors on the level?			
14. Are the thresholds less than ¼ inch high?			
15. Are the handles on the doors a lever or loop style?			
<b>PATH OF TRAVEL</b>			
16. Are all paths of travel within the building at least 36 inches clear in width?			
17. Are there any obstacles or protruding objects that should be removed? *Anything above 27 inches from the floor should not stick out more than 4 inches.			
<b>SEATING AND ROOM SPACES</b>			
18. Is seating space (pew cuts at scattered sites) provided that is a minimum of 30 inches wide by 48 inches long (per person) in the worship center for people in wheelchairs? (This enables worshippers using wheelchairs to sit with others without blocking an aisle or being restricted to sitting in the back or stuck in the front.)			
19. Are there seating spaces with extra leg room for persons with crutches, walkers, braces or casts?			
20. Are all areas of the sanctuary accessible? This includes the choir and chancel area.			
21. Are church school, meeting rooms, the social hall, and other areas of the building also accessible? * Repeat # 7 - 17 to evaluate.			
<b>RESTROOMS and WATER FOUNTAINS</b>			
22. Is there one bathroom that is accessible (ideally one on each floor)? (Note: This bathroom can be unisex.)			

23. Are there grab bars on the wall located behind the toilet and to the side of the toilet?			
24. Is the height of the toilet seat 17"–19" from the floor?			
25. Is the toilet paper dispenser mounted on the wall 7"-9" in front of the toilet bowl?			
26. Are the faucets of the sink operable with a closed fist (paddle or lever type faucets)?			
27. Does the sink have 27 inches of clearance underneath (from the floor to the bottom of the sink)?			
28. Are the pipes beneath the sink insulated? (To prevent burns or other injuries to knees/legs.)			
29. Is there clear floor space measuring 5 feet by 5 feet so that a wheelchair can turn around?			
30. Are dispensers no higher than 48" from the floor?			
31. If there are audible (horn) fire alarms in the building, are there visual (strobe) alarms in the restrooms?			
32. If there is a water fountain, is it easily usable from a wheelchair? If not, is a supply of paper cups mounted next to the water fountain?			

**ELEVATORS AND LIFTS**

33. If your church is multi-story, does it have a chair lift or elevator or some other viable access to all levels that is protected in inclement weather?			
34. If the lift or elevator is key operated, are the keys available at all levels and are they located within reach (no higher than 48 inches) for a person using a wheelchair?			
35. Are the signals for the lift or elevator both audible and visual?			

**ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLINESS**

36. Is the congregation informed about allergies and encouraged to refrain from wearing perfume and aftershave lotions?			
37. Is there a "fragrance free" section in the worship center?			
38. Does the church use <b>unscented</b> candles, soaps, cleaning supplies, air fresheners and facial tissues?			
39. Have staff members been advised to not use incense and potpourri pots?			
40. Does the church have air filters on furnace/air conditioning units?			