

Accessibility Survey

How inclusive are we in our diocese? How effectively do we reach out to people with disabilities? How well do we use their gifts? Responses to this survey will help us know what we are doing well and what we need to improve.

Please check if:

Any member of your parish has

- difficulty walking or uses a wheel chair.
- physical frailty or breathing problems
- hearing loss
- vision problems
- cognitive or neurological problems

Please check if:

- there is someone knowledgeable about the accessibility of your parish with whom a prospective parishioner or visitor can speak before attending a worship service?
- volunteer escorts are available
- people with disabilities are encouraged to participate in all roles of leadership and service
- there is a disabilities-related project on your vestry's list of annual objectives this year
- your outreach giving includes groups that serve people with disabilities percentage of annual budget _____%

How accessible is your parish to people with impaired vision?
Can your long-time parishioner with failing vision still participate?
Will a visitor with limited vision feel welcome?

Please check if:

- there is lighting with sufficient wattage for people with limited vision, in church, office and meeting rooms, bathrooms, hallways, stairways
- stair treads are marked to show edge of step
- bulletins with the full service in large print are provided
- large print hymnals and BAS/BCP are available
- there are large print signs throughout your buildings

- there are signs in Braille*
- the Hymnal and Book of Common Prayer are available in Braille*

How accessible is your parish to people with hearing loss? While you are not likely to have a culturally deaf parishioner unless you have a special ministry to those who sign, you are very likely to have parishioners who are hard of hearing.

Check if you provide:

- a bulletin with the entire service included*
- a printed copy of the announcements*
- bibles or copies of the scripture readings are available*
- a printed copy of the sermon*
- captioning for videos and films*
- sign language interpretation of service*

Check if you provide

- an assistive listening equipment in church*
- assistive listening equipment in meeting rooms*
- head phones and ear buds*
- loop systems to be used with hearing aids and cochlear implants*
- publicity for this equipment in the service bulletin*

How accessible is your parish to those with limited mobility?

In your parish, you might have a person who now has difficulty walking, but can manage a step or two, or one in a motorized wheelchair/powerchair which cannot get over even a single step.

Please check if:

- there is public transportation to your church that can accommodate wheel chairs*
- there are accessible parking spaces*
- on site ☐ public*
- there is an accessible entry route (ramp or level) from parking area to the church*

Please check if a wheelchair user can move around easily inside your church with a smooth or level path of travel to the following:

- position within the worship space ☒ altar ☒ pulpit ☒ communion rail*
- baptismal font ☒ lectern ☒ choir stalls/area*

Please check if there is a level (step-free) passage to:

- coffee hour ☒ kitchen ☒ class rooms ☒ rector's office ☒ parish office*
- meeting rooms ☒ choir room ☒ rest room(s)*

Please check if:

- there is at least one wheel chair accessible rest room with enough space for a wheel chair to turn around and to allow transfer space at the toilet.*

Does your parish include people with developmental disabilities, including autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental retardation or neurological impairment? Your parishioner may be a youngster who has been differently-abled since birth, or an older person disabled by a stroke or Alzheimer's.

Please check if:

- you welcome them in the main worship service*
- you provide special worship services*
- you encourage them to serve as acolytes or element bearers*
- there is a Church school curriculum for people with special needs*
- there is special confirmation preparation*

Remarks and comments

Would you please share with us some ways you have reached out and welcomed people with special challenges?

Do you have any questions or wish to have assistance in any of these areas?

We thank you for taking the time to complete this survey questionnaire.
This survey is based on "The Bishops' Survey of Accessibility in the Parishes of the Diocese of New York" <http://access.diocesenyny.org/Survey.pdf>.
Survey designed by Kim Jurens

