

Property Support Committee

*Effective January 1, 2003\**

**Loans for Handicap Accessibility**

Due to limited funding and the overwhelming demand for grants for basic repair work, Property Support does not make grant monies available to congregations for the building and installation of handicap ramps and lifts or making buildings accessible. Loan monies, however, are available for such projects on a case-by-case basis.

Congregations wishing to apply for a loan to make their church buildings accessible should submit the following documentation to the Property Support Committee:

- 1) Copy of a current conditions survey (undertaken within the last five years) or a maintenance/capital repair plan for church buildings that has been approved by the vestry;
- 2) Written plan indicating how the church buildings will be made accessible and addressing how new people with disabilities will be welcomed to the congregation. The plan may be phased but needs to indicate whether the congregation *currently* makes available ***at least three (3)*** of the following:
  - a) large-print hymnals;
  - b) large-print Book of Common Prayer;
  - c) large-print service leaflets;
  - d) assistive listening devices;
  - e) signage compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act;
  - f) pew cuts to accommodate wheelchairs;
  - g) parking space(s) marked and designated for handicap use only and compliant in configuration and number with those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Upon receiving preliminary written approval from Property Support, the congregation will be asked to submit a standard Property Support application for financial assistance (available from the Property Support Office or the Property Support web site, [www.diocesenyny.org](http://www.diocesenyny.org)).

***Congregations receiving loans for handicap accessibility will be required to update all existing exterior signage (e.g., “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You”) with the international accessibility symbols applicable to their buildings.***

\*As approved by the Property Support Committee June 3, 2002