

# The Bishops' 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

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 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
- 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
- loops 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 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

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.