



Access Church Life

c/o Disability Connections, The Middle GA Center for Independent Living, Inc.
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According to the latest U.S. Census, there are approximately 182,259 people over the age of five who have a disability and are living in the Middle and West Region of the Georgia Baptist Convention. This is 19.45% of the entire population of these areas. With the population of Georgia growing and as a whole aging, these statistics are only rising in incidence of disability.

Church disability accessibility is an important factor for ministry and growth as your church seeks to know Christ and make Him known. Retaining current members is vital, for most of us may eventually have difficulty walking, seeing or hearing. This basic survey will assist you and your church in finding your strengths and weaknesses as it relates to accessibility for people with different types of disabilities and the aging.

The ABC's on How To Assess Your Church Accessibility

- **A**wareness of people with disabilities
- **B**arriers that prevent church attendance and participation
- **C**ommunication that allows for worship and fellowship

We recommend that you choose someone to complete this survey and serve the leading role in facilitating this evaluation and assess the accessibility needs of your church. Our staff will contact you by phone to assist you with this survey in the months to come. We are here to serve you and look forward to working with you in reaching all people for Jesus Christ.

What do you say to a person with a disability?

AWARENESS

- Are there people with disabilities participating in your church? (worship and activities) Yes No
- Are the ushers/greeters instructed regarding appropriate ways to greet and meet the needs of people with disabilities? Yes No



Caleb the Church Mouse

- Are people with disabilities serving on church committees and in leadership roles? Yes No
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- Would you consider developing a committee on disability issues to encourage awareness and ongoing commitment of planning and action to remove barriers? Yes No
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Ezekiel 44:5 (KJV) ⁵And the LORD said unto me, "Son of man, mark well, and behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears all that I say unto thee concerning all the ordinances of the house of the LORD, and all the laws thereof; and mark well the entering in of the house, with every going forth of the sanctuary."

BARRIERS

- Is transportation available for people who cannot drive? Yes No
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- If the church owns a vehicle(s) is it equipped with an accessible ramp or lift? Yes No
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- Are there adequate numbers (4% or above) of marked parking places near accessible entrances? Yes No
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- Is there at least one marked van accessible space with 8 foot of passenger side clearance? Yes No
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- Is the sidewalk 36" wide minimum at all points? Yes No
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- Is there a curb cut at the street or parking lot level along the accessible route including passenger drop off point? Yes No
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- Do you have an accessible (level or ramped) "no-step" entrance? Yes No
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- Where a ramp is needed, is the slope no greater than 1 foot rise in 12 feet and a width of no less than 48 inches? Yes No
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- Does the ramp have a level landing at the door and end of the ramp? Yes No
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- Does the ramp have a smooth handrail? Yes No
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- Do doorways have a clear and level opening of 32 inches or more? Yes No
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- Do doors have either lever or push handles? Yes No
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- If your church is multi-story, does it have a chair lift or elevator or some other viable access to both levels that is protected in inclement weather? Yes No

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- Is space (pew cuts at scattered sites) provided in the worship center for people using wheelchairs? (This enables them to sit with their families without blocking an aisle - or being restricted to the back or obviously stuck in the front.) Yes No
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- Are there spaces with extra leg room for persons with crutches, walkers, braces or casts? Yes No
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- Is the choir loft accessible by a ramp or lift? Yes No
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- Is the platform accessible by a ramp or lift? Yes No
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Restrooms:

- Does the restroom doorway have a clear and level opening of 32 inches wide or more? Yes No
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- Is there one restroom accessible (ideally one on each floor)? (Note: This could be used by male/female to allow spouses/parents to assist the individual.) Yes No
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- Are there grab bars with a raised accessible commode? Yes No
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- Is the commode seat between 17" to 19" in height? Yes No
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- Does a sink have lever handles and 29 inches of clearance from the floor to bottom of the sink? Yes No
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- Does a wheelchair have turning space of 5'x5' at the sink and commode? (This also applies to spaces near restroom doorways.) Yes No
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- Are towel dispensers no higher than 40 inches from the floor? Yes No
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- Is there a mirror in the restroom that can be viewed from a seated position? Yes No
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Chemical Allergies:

- Do you inform congregation in services or bulletin about chemical allergies and encourage members to refrain from wearing scented products. Yes No
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- Does your church purchase unscented candles, soaps, detergents, cleaning supplies, air fresheners and facial tissues? Yes No
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COMMUNICATION

- Do you offer (by request) and make known in bulletin: large print hymnals, Bibles and worship bulletins? Yes No
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- Sign language interpreters? Yes No
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- Printed sermons? Yes No
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- Recorded sermons? Yes No
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- Do you have adequate amplification of sound and make known availability of audio devices? [Induction loop systems (miniature broadcasting systems) are available today at relatively low cost, so people with hearing losses can directly hear the pastor's words instead of struggling with hearing aids that pick up extraneous noises of rustling papers or children sitting nearby.] Yes No
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- Are directions to accessible entrances provided on doorways that are not accessible? Yes No
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- Do you include an accessibility logo on your church advertising?
 Yes No
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