Access Church Life



c/o Disability Connections, The Middle GA Center for Independent Living, Inc. 170 College Street Macon, GA 31201 478-238-1690 Voice 800-743-2117 Voice/TTY www.AccessChurchLife.com

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

- > <u>Awareness</u> of people with disabilities
- **B**arriers that prevent church attendance and participation
- Communication 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



Caleb the Church Mouse

- Are people with disabilities serving on church committees and in leadership roles? □ Yes □ No
- Would you consider developing a committee on disability issues to encourage awareness and ongoing commitment of planning and action to remove barriers?
 □ Yes □ No

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."

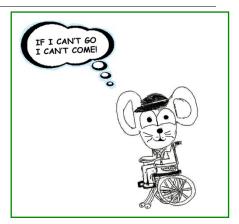
BARRIERS

- Is transportation available for people who cannot drive?
 □ Yes □ No
- If the church owns a vehicle(s) is it equipped with an accessible ramp or lift?
 □ Yes □ No
- Are there adequate numbers (4% or above) of marked parking places near accessible entrances? □ Yes □ No
- Is there at least one marked van accessible space with 8 foot of passenger side clearance? □ Yes □ No
- Is the sidewalk 36" wide minimum at all points? □ Yes □ No
- Is there a curb cut at the street or parking lot level along the accessible route including passenger drop off point? □ Yes □ No
- Do you have an accessible (level or ramped) "no-step" entrance?
 ☐ Yes □ No
- 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
- Does the ramp have a smooth handrail? □ Yes □ No
- Do doorways have a clear and level opening of 32 inches or more?
 ☐ Yes □ No
- Do doors have either lever or push handles?
 □ Yes □ No
- 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

- 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
- Are there spaces with extra leg room for persons with crutches, walkers, braces or casts? □ Yes □ No
- Is the choir loft accessible by a ramp or lift? □ Yes □ No
- Is the platform accessible by a ramp or lift? □ Yes □ No

Restrooms:

- Does the restroom doorway have a clear and level opening of 32 inches wide or more?
 Yes
 No
- 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



- Are there grab bars with a raised accessible commode? □ Yes □ No
- Is the commode seat between 17" to 19" in height? □ Yes □ No
- Does a sink have lever handles and 29 inches of clearance from the floor to bottom of the sink? □ Yes □ No
- Does a wheelchair have turning space of 5'x5' at the sink and commode? (This also applies to spaces near restroom doorways.) □ Yes □ No
- Are towel dispensers no higher than 40 inches from the floor? □ Yes □ No
- Is there a mirror in the restroom that can be viewed from a seated position?
 □ Yes □ No

Chemical Allergies:

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

COMMUNICATION

 Do you offer (by request) and make known in bulletin: large print hymnals, Bibles and worship bulletins? □ Yes □ No

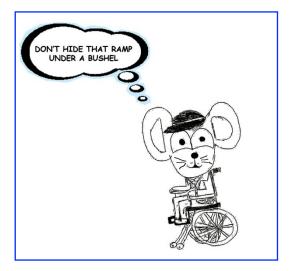
- Sign language interpreters? □ Yes □ No
- Printed sermons? □ Yes □ No



Recorded sermons? □ Yes □ No



- Are directions to accessible entrances provided on doorways that are not accessible? □ Yes □ No
- Do you include an accessibility logo on your church advertising?
 Yes
 No



Access Church Life c/o Disability Connections 170 College Street Macon, GA 31201 478-741-11425 www.accesschurchlife.com

Funding provided by Georgia Baptist Healthcare Ministry Foundation