

TEN EASY WAYS TO WELCOME WORSHIPPERS OF ALL ABILITIES IN THE AREA OF ACCESSIBILITY

1. Use universal design concepts to plan buildings, programs, ministries and events so that all can participate. See Universal Design handout for more information.
2. Move Sunday school classes, fellowship activities and meetings to accessible areas.
3. Encourage church members to designate memorial gifts for accessibility projects.
4. Install long-handled door hardware. It is easier for everyone to use, not only those with impaired hand function.
5. Place pews 32 inches apart to allow space for people who use walkers, crutches and canes.
6. Provide padded seating or have chair pads available. Provide chairs with arms for those who have difficulty rising.
7. Open the ends of several existing pews so that people using wheelchairs may be seated with their families and friends rather than in specially designated, segregated sections.
8. Think about converting two side-by-side bathrooms into one accessible, unisex bathroom so caregivers can assist.
9. Consult with members who use wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, or canes and members who are blind in every phase of planning new construction, building modifications or additions as well as with design professionals who are sensitive to the faith community's desire to be accessible.
10. Explore ways of including members of your congregation who have disabilities in the education, fellowship, ministry, and worship of the faith community. Often simple accommodations can make participation possible.