

ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT FOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES (¶2533.6), Scored Version



Church _____ District _____

	YES	NO	Description / Guidelines (see page 4 for scoring instructions)	Explain "NO" Answers
GETTING INTO THE CHURCH				
1			Clearly visible signs mark <u>or</u> direct people to accessible entrances	
2			1+ marked ADA parking spaces are on level ground near entrance	
3			Wheelchair users don't have to go behind parked cars, cross traffic	
4			At least 1 per 25 spaces is clearly marked with access symbol on vertical signs and on pavement (# of accessible spaces: _____)	
5			Accessible parking spaces are 8' wide with adjacent 5' access aisle	
6			At least one accessible space is van accessible: 11' wide with clearly marked adjacent 5' access aisle (or 8' space with 8' access aisle)	
7			36" wide curb cuts (curb ramps) are provided close to parking	
8			Route (sidewalk) from accessible parking to accessible building entrance is smooth, flat, and at least 36" wide (width: _____)	
9			Entrance is level <u>or</u> has exterior ramp with non-slip surface and minimum width of 36" between handrails (width: _____)	
10			Ramp has max. incline of 1:12 (length: _____ rise: _____ ratio: _____) with no more than 30' between level landings, <u>or</u> entrance is level	
11			34-38" handrails are on both sides of exterior ramp/ stairs, lower ramp railing is no higher than 4" above deck, <u>or</u> entrance is level	
12			There is a 60"x 60" level platform at entry door (size: _____) with space (~ 18") on pull side of door <u>or</u> automatic door opener used	
13			Automatic door opener available, <u>or</u> attended doorbell for assist	
14			Entrance door is 36" wide; threshold no more than beveled ½" high	
GETTING AROUND THE CHURCH				
15			Signs in entrances/ halls direct visitors and help them locate rooms	
16			Corridors are at least 36" wide and have non-glare floor surface	
17			Objects that protrude more than 4" from the wall have a lower edge no higher than 27" above the floor, or a barrier such as a planter or guard rail, to allow detection with a cane	
18			Multi-level buildings provide access to all common/ most program areas via elevator, lift and/ or ramp(s), <u>or</u> building is on one level	
19			Interior doorways have a minimum of 32" clearance and thresholds are level or are no more than ½" high and beveled	
20			Door handles to ADA bathrooms/ common areas are easy to grasp, operate with one hand (e.g. lever style) using less than 6 lbs. force	
21			Carpet pile is even, no more than ½" thick, with no or firm padding; floor mats have non-slip backing and are stable	

	YES	NO	Description / Guidelines (see page 4 for scoring instructions)	Explain "NO" Answers
22			Fire alarm controls and extinguishers are no more than 48" (h: _____) from floor; visual and auditory fire alarms are in place	
23			At least one marked ADA unisex/ family restroom (<i>or one stall in male & female restrooms</i>) is accessible from each floor; has ~60"x 60" turning space with 33 – 36" high wall-mounted grab bar next to toilet extending 54" from back wall; toilet height 17 – 19" (h: _____)	
24			27" sink clearance from floor (h: _____), w/ easy to operate controls (lever style, automatic, etc.), hot water & drain pipes are covered	
25			Soap dispenser and paper towels are mounted no higher than 48" (h: _____) <i>or placed on counter for access</i>	
26			Bottom edge of at least one mirror is 40" or lower (h: _____)	
27			Drinking fountain is no higher than 36" with easy hand controls and wheelchair clearance, <i>or paper cups are provided</i>	
28			Interior stairs/ ramps have handrails on both sides, <i>or all one level</i>	
29			Top/bottom step edges & ramp level changes marked, <i>or one level</i>	
SANCTUARY, CLASSROOMS, AND FELLOWSHIP AREA				
30			At least 1-2 level pew cuts/spaces for wheelchair users are available	
31			Wheelchair spaces are 33"x48" forward or 33"x60" side approach (size: _____), distributed throughout the room for choice in seating, with view of pulpit/ screen when others stand	
32			Chancel area and choir loft are accessible, e.g. with ramp or lift	
33			Handrail(s) provided for steps to the chancel, <i>or chancel is level</i>	
34			At least one aisle in each space is 36" wide or more (w: _____)	
35			Fellowship - e.g. potlucks, coffee hour- is offered in accessible space	
36			In fellowship area and classrooms at least one table has minimum of 27" clearance on the underside, and a maximum height of 34"	
37			1-2 sturdy chairs have armrests, seats ~18" from floor, & no wheels	
COMMUNICATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT				
38			Members are sensitized about need to minimize use of fragrances	
39			Soaps, cleaning products and other chemicals are fragrance free; candles are unscented and non-petroleum-based	
40			Projected words (e.g. song lyrics) use large font and good contrast	
41			Large print bulletin, song lyrics, & scriptures provided <i>on request</i>	
42			Braille <i>or</i> electronic documents provided <i>upon advanced request</i>	
43			Microphone used by all speakers or comments are repeated at mic.	

44		Assisted listening system (FM and/or loop) & receivers are available	
45		ASL sign language interpreter is provided <i>upon advanced request</i>	
46		Print/ e-mailed copies of sermon provided <i>upon advanced request</i>	
47		Captions are provided / turned on for videos and other media	
ATTITUDES			
48		Accessibility measures and who to contact for questions described in bulletin, website, maps, Find-A-Church site, <u>and/or</u> signage	
49		Pastor(s), ushers, greeters, and leaders have learned and practice appropriate disability etiquette and hospitality	
50		Signs, websites, <u>and/or</u> bulletin boards offer evidence that people with visible and hidden disabilities are welcome and included in the life of the congregation, e.g. through support group info., photos	
51		Disruptions are accepted and incorporated into worship	
52		Qualified service animals (e.g. guide dogs) are welcome within the church building(s) including the sanctuary and fellowship hall	
53		Congregation works to use inclusive, person-first language in worship, e.g. people are invited to “rise in body or in spirit”	
54		Classes and programs are adapted <i>as needed</i> to facilitate active participation of children and adults with disabilities	
55		Disability Awareness Sunday ¶1265.4 observed during past 1-2 years	
56		Gifts of persons with disabilities are identified and used in service, worship, and leadership roles, and to help to improve access	
57		Needs of people on special diets are considered when food is offered, including gluten-free & alcohol-free communion elements	
58		Transportation offered plus valet parking <u>or</u> parking lot assistance	
59		“Buddy” system offered for individuals needing 1:1 support	
GOALS FOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR			Target Date
1.			
2			
3.			
4.			
YES	NO	Request consultation from Conference Disability Concerns Committee	

Comments (continue on additional pages if needed):

Signature of Pastor:

Date

Signature of Trustees Chairperson:

Date

Date Form Completed _____ **Charge Conference Date** _____

PLEASE PRINT NAMES AND PROVIDE PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Form completed by _____ Contact information _____

Contact person for church _____ Contact information _____

PLEASE NOTE:

- This form is for use on existing buildings only; refer to current ADA & state regulations for construction or major remodeling projects: <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm>.
- The survey should be completed by a team including a member of the trustees, and people with construction, architecture and/or rehabilitation backgrounds. Include persons with disabilities and family members, especially someone who uses a wheelchair and someone with low vision, in the process.
- Interview individuals with disabilities and family members of children and adults with disabilities to learn how welcoming your congregation is and to help set priorities.
- This is not an all-inclusive listing of ADA guidelines or appropriate accommodations, but rather represents basic first steps that a church may take to begin to implement accessibility measures.
- Resources are available through your conference Disability Concerns Committee (¶653) and through the DisAbility Ministry Committee of the UMC at <https://umcdmc.org/resources/accessibility-and-united-methodist-churches/> (check subheadings, too) to help you plan and carry out improvements.

Scoring Instructions:

1. Based on your findings, circle or highlight the letter in the **Yes** column or mark the **No** column for each audit item. Focus on your main accessible entrance and on Sunday morning activities, especially worship. If the intent of the item is adequately met in a different way, e.g. greeters are posted throughout the morning on Sundays to open doors and provide directions (#13 and 15), mark it **Yes**. If you can and will fix the issue within a week or so, mark **Yes**. If an item occurs at least 85% of the time, e.g. microphone use in worship and large meetings, score it **Yes**. If only part of a multi-question item is met, mark that item as **No** unless alternatives are given, as designated by “**or.**” If a system is in place to provide services, e.g. “buddy” companions or e-mailed order of worship for Braille users, mark **Yes** even if no one is using it. See *Guidance for Completing the Accessibility Audit* at <https://umcdmc.org> for further clarification.
2. Add the number of **Yes** responses in each badge category (**Bronze**, **Silver**, and **Gold**).
3. Compute the percentage of **Yes** responses in that badge category.
4. In order to receive a badge at the designated level, the church needs to score at least 85% at that level and any lower levels, i.e. the church cannot receive **Silver** if the **Bronze** level is not met.

Examples:

- Church A scores 29/32 in the **Bronze** category (90%), 14/20 in the **Silver** category (70%) and 2/7 in the **Gold** category (28%). This church qualifies for the **Bronze** badge
- Church B scores 31/32 in the **Bronze** category (96%), 18/20 in the **Silver** category (90%) and 4/7 in the **Gold** category. This church may apply for a review to see if it qualifies for the **Gold** badge.*

	Bronze (Basic)	Silver (Satisfactory)	Gold (Great)
1. & 2. # of Yes's	____/32	____/20	____/7 + ____ = ____
3. percentage	%	%	%
4. 85% or greater = badge	Yes No	Yes No	Yes* No

B = Bronze (Basic accessibility and accommodations) – The church is welcoming and offers basic amenities needed for a person with a disability to participate, e.g. a place to park, a way to get into the building and sanctuary, a bathroom that is usable, etc. Most items at this level are low cost and can be easily provided, e.g. ushers and greeters trained in disability etiquette, website information on access.

(Verified by self-report, using this Annual Accessibility Audit for United Methodist Churches. Check <https://umcdmc.org> for instructions on how to access your badge.)

S = Silver (Satisfactory accessibility and accommodations) – The church has many accessible features and offers accommodations for persons with a variety of disabilities including hearing loss and limited vision. Silver level items may cost a bit more and take more effort to put in place. While some areas are not yet fully accessible and inclusive, it is clear that the congregation is working towards accessibility.

(Verified by self-report, using this Annual Accessibility Audit for United Methodist Churches. Check <https://umcdmc.org> for instructions on how to access your badge.)

G = Gold (Great accessibility and accommodations) – The congregation has gone beyond ADA and strives to provide an accessible space and appropriate accommodations. The church welcomes individuals with varying disabilities and their families through intentional measures and ministries. Continued improvement is planned based on needs of members and the community. This church would be a good choice to host conference events per ¶1716.2 of the *Book of Discipline*, and might mentor other churches.

*(*Verified by this Annual Accessibility Audit for United Methodist Churches and an interview or site visit. If your score reaches the **Gold** level, contact your conference Disability Concerns Committee or check <https://umcdmc.org> for further instructions. The audit will be reviewed in more depth to reach the **Gold** level. Additional measures you have taken may count as bonus **Gold** points to reach 85% or more.)*