

# **CHURCH ACCESSIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

This questionnaire is intended to help a congregation assess their facilities and ministry programs to determine if they are doing everything possible to make their ministry as accessible as possible to those with all disabilities.

## **ATTITUDES**

Would the members of your congregation welcome an individual visiting with an obvious disability or a family who had a member with a disability?

Have ushers been trained to assist the differently-abled in finding the space and the resources necessary for them to participate in church functions?

Are the members of your congregation aware of the stigmas that exist against people with mobility challenges and/or behavioral difficulties, Visual Impairment/Blindness, Deaf/Hard of Hearing? Have members been equipped to overcome stigmas through Bible classes or sermon references?

## **FACILITIES**

Does your church parking lot have adequate handicapped parking space, and are those spaces easily recognizable? Is there appropriate braille signage or ways to communicate directly with someone who is blind?

Can a person in a wheelchair navigate from the parking lot to the worship area with minimal barriers (curbs, high thresholds, stairs, doors without automatic openers) in their way?

Is there an elevator, ramp, or wheelchair lift inside your building to ensure that all levels of the building are accessible?

Are doorways in your facility wide enough to allow a wheelchair to pass through?

Do your restrooms have automatic door openers, are they ADA compliant, and/or do they have Braille signage?

Are there clearly marked spaces for wheelchair users or those with limited mobility in your congregation's sanctuary?

Does your congregation offer a safe, quiet space for those with behavioral challenges to collect and calm themselves before re-entering the worship space?

Does your church have a hearing loop or other devices to help those who are deaf or hard of hearing to better hear the worship service?

## **PROGRAMS**

Does your congregation offer a Jesus Cares program, a SMILES service, and/or a Worship at the Cross opportunity for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities?

Does your congregation provide a service folder with the entire service (liturgy, hymns, and Scripture readings) printed in an easy-to-follow format? Is the service folder printed in large print and/or emailed to someone who is blind to use on an electronic Braille device? In addition to the service completely printed out, does your congregation offer a printed copy of the sermon for those Deaf or Hard of Hearing?

Does your congregation utilize a projector during the worship service? Do you announce what is being projected?

*Does your congregation use captioning on all videos. Are the captions readable by those sitting in the pews?*

*Does your congregation make an effort to communicate with people with hearing loss and make them feel comfortable and welcome?*

*If the answer to any of these questions is “no,” what steps can immediately be taken toward turning that “no” into a “yes?”*

*What long-term steps would your congregation be willing to consider?*

If you would like assistance to help in any of the areas above, please contact the WELS Commission on Special Ministries [specialministries@wels.net](mailto:specialministries@wels.net) and your request will be routed to the appropriate area of Special Ministries.