

Brief Accessibility Checklist



Our Doors Are Open
Welcoming People with Disabilities in Places of Worship

Barriers of Attitude

- All members, including members with disabilities, have been asked whether they feel welcome in worship, leadership, and other programs.
- Our community is intentional about engaging people with disabilities in all aspects of the community. People with disabilities have the same leadership and volunteer opportunities as people of able body.
- Our community has an accessibility committee and/or disability advocate.
- Ushers, teachers/leaders, and youth leaders/mentors have been instructed regarding appropriate ways to greet and respond to the needs of people with disabilities (for instance, we ask them to place laminated cards with our community's accessibility features on pews or chairs).
- Worship and other functions respect various sensitivities (e.g., bright light, loud noise, strong scent, etc.).
- Accessible transportation (e.g., carpool or shuttle) is offered for people with disabilities who cannot drive; subsidies and funds for transit are available.
- Our community has adopted a Policy on Disabilities and/or an accessibility policy.
- Our community leaders work with people with disabilities (and caregivers) so that needs are addressed. For instance, some members of our congregation are fluent in ASL; many can speak, write, and/or gesture plainly, should an ASL interpreter not be present.
- A list of the accessibility features is available at visible and accessible locations.

Barriers of Communication

- Our community has assistive listening devices (infrared, hearing loop, FM) available for people with hearing impairments.
- Sign-language interpretation is provided when prior arrangements have been made. Simple written language or sketches, and gestures can be used in case of absence of ASL interpreters.
- Overall lighting is adequate for signing and speech reading, or for individuals with low vision.

Barriers of Communication (Cont'd)

- Printed materials are available in alternative formats such as large print, audio, ASL/signed video, and digital (also Braille and Videos with sign language, when requested in advance, such as an audio copy of the Qur'an); offering people computers or pen and paper is another alternative format.
- Information about them is prominently displayed and readily accessible.
- Copies of spoken elements of worship are available for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing and large-print captioning is used with visual projection.
- Be sure to ask which format is best for people to understand and use printed and spoken elements of worship and all programs.
- Plain language is used when possible, to ensure written information understood by everyone (Grade 6 or 8 reading level ideal)

Architectural or Structural Barriers

- Accessible parking is provided.
- High contrast signage can be easily seen by the entrance.
- Entrances and hallways are free from barriers that can impede a wheelchair (door bases, grates, thick mats), and floors have colour contrast.
- Door handles are lever style on all inside doors.
- A ramp is available for access into the building.
- Doors to rooms, especially washrooms, are at least 36 inches (0.91 meters) in width.
- Proper handrails are installed in all toilet areas for assisting in transfer and standing.
- At least one toilet stall has a raised seat and space next to the toilet for side transfer, and has room to turn around a large, power wheelchair.
- Coat racks can be accessed by all people.
- All levels of the building are accessible from the inside.
- People who use wheelchairs have choices in where to sit in any rooms.
- Emergencies are communicated in accessible manner (e.g., visual flashing alarm for fire alarm, gesture/tap on shoulders for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing).
- Furniture can be easily moved around for an accessible configuration.
- Instructions on how to arrange the room to be accessible are located at a visible location in the room (e.g., picture of accessible layout).