

## ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT: Part of 2018 Charge Conference reports



The Virginia United Methodist Commission on Disabilities (COD) affirms the responsibility of the Church to be in ministry with all persons, regardless of their physical and/or mental conditions. The **ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT FOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES (¶12533)** is the trustees' responsibility, as well as reports on the parsonage, etc. The form can be downloaded from the following formats:



[Download File](#)



[Download File](#)

---

Using an assessment/survey and a checklist will help you to be ready to complete the audit form. It helps to identify strengths, weaknesses, goals, and recommended measurements that are important in having a church that welcomes all. The site for getting these forms and additional assistance is <https://www.vaumc.org/disabilities>.

Ask yourself this question:

IS YOUR CHURCH WELCOMING TO ALL?

How does your church rate on meeting the needs of...?

Persons with Physical Challenges

Can they get in the door – go to the bathroom?

Persons with Hearing Challenges

Can they hear the Word as it's spoken, sung, and preached?

Persons with Vision Challenges

Can they read the music - read the Word? Are large print materials available?

Persons with Cognitive and Intellectual Challenges

Are appropriate Sunday School and Vacation Bible School curriculum materials and activities available

The Virginia United Methodist Commission on Disabilities (COD) functions as a resource group to conference boards and agencies to enable persons with all types of disabilities and challenging conditions to participate to the fullest extent possible as members of the Body of Christ on the local, district, and conference levels.

The following site gets you to the Commission on Disabilities information page <https://www.vaumc.org/disabilities> where you can find forms and information to help you assess and meet the responsibility of the Church to be in ministry with all persons, regardless of their physical and/or mental conditions. There you will also find [Accessibility Audit/Survey \(pdf\)](#) (helps identify strengths and weaknesses and plan set priority needs) and [Church Accessibility Checklist \(pdf\)](#) ( specifics with measurements) and forms for applying for grant and scholarship applications

All monies donated support the following programs of the COD:

- **Accessibility Grants** — which assist local churches in working their way toward total accessibility in both church facilities and parsonages.
- **Program Grants** — to assist any church and/or church-related organization wanting to develop new ministries with persons with disabilities.
- **Respite Grants** – established as part of the conference-wide initiative, "A Gift of Time," to encourage churches to become involved in providing or supporting opportunities for respite care for their members and communities.
- **Camper Scholarships** — to help campers who otherwise could not come to [Camp Rainbow Connection](#) without full or partial financial assistance.
- **Disability Awareness Sunday resources**
- **Support of Conference Deaf Ministries**
- **Printing of Materials in Braille for churches, districts, conference events and individuals**
- **Provision of Resources to the local church, districts, and conference**

Submitted by Faye Godbey, Eastern Shore District member of VAUMC Commission on Disabilities