

Make It Accessible And They'll Come

Accessibility Grant Criteria

The Central Texas Conference **Disability Concerns Committee**, whose membership is from each of the Conference's districts, has the responsibility to motivate the local churches to be in ministry to persons and their families who are effected and affected by disabling conditions. The Committee considers the following disability concerns as areas of ministry for the local church:

health impairment, physically disabled, deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, mentally/emotionally disabled, developmentally delayed and attitudinally impaired. Your grant application should focus on the elimination of barriers that make access to the life of the church difficult.

These guidelines were established so that local churches requesting funding will have adequate information as to the necessary criteria for the grants. Please examine the list to see if your proposed project falls within the criteria.

(1) The church will appoint a committee or appoint an existing committee to complete the grant application for submission. It is suggested that the committee include at least one person with a disability.

(2) The local church committee will review the church's most recent Accessibility Mini-Audit or conduct an audit. An audit form is available from the District Superintendent.

(3) All grant projects are to adhere to the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities (ADA).

(4) Accessibility Grant Project ideas could include the following:

a. large print bulletins, hymnals and Bibles; b. hearing enhancement devices; c. hiring a sign language interpreter; d. installing a ramp into church facilities or at curb side; e. installing accessible restroom facilities; f. reconstructing chancel and choir loft areas as accessible; g. installing accessibility lift; h. provide brochures for training ushers on attending to persons with disabilities, both visible and non-visible; i. making the parking lot and outside church building grounds accessible; j. have sanctuary seating that can accommodate wheelchair users; and k. providing a wheelchair accessible van.

The church committee can determine their congregational needs and create unique access projects for consideration.



The United Methodist Church
Central Texas Conference
Disability Concerns Committee
Application for Accessibility Projects

Church Name _____ Minister _____

Address _____ District _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail Address _____

Survey of Existing Facilities:

Has an Accessibility Audit been performed in your church since 2004? Yes ___ No ___
(Attach copy of latest Audit)

An audit must be performed by a church committee and names of the committee members should be listed on the audit. Accessibility Mini-Audit forms are available from the District Superintendent's Office. Describe Accessibility Projects which have been completed in the last 24 months and identify any projects completed as a result of the Accessibility Audit.

Description of Proposed Project:

Describe in detail the proposed project (use attachments if necessary). Include a cost estimate budget and amount of funding requested. How are you currently resolving your church's access problem? What other funding options have you considered? Will you use church members in providing labor? Would you be willing to have your project documented for future Conference usage?

Conditions Under Which Grants Are Awarded:

Accessibility Grants are available as **seed money** for church projects such as ramps, doors and restroom modification, and handicap signage. Grants are also available for visual, hearing and speech disability projects. Attached is a more specific list delineating the grant criteria. Grants are limited to one project per year per church. Churches are encouraged to participate in the project financially but are not required. Please specify the amount of participation by the Church. The project must be completed within six months of the notice of the award. A full accounting, receipts, photographs, etc. is required within 60 days of completion of the project. Although not required, churches are encouraged to pay for the cost of the project and request reimbursement. All unspent funds are to be returned to the Disability Concerns Committee. Applications must be received by May 1, 2011 to be considered for funding. Announcements of the grant awards will be made at a 2011 Annual Conference business session.

Date Submitted _____ Minister's Signature _____

Board of Trustees Chairperson's Signature _____

Local Church Accessibility Committee Chairperson's Signature _____

District Superintendent's Signature _____

Mail completed application to the Disability Concerns Committee at the address below. Please contact Joan Gaspard, **504 Englewood Lane, Hurst, TX 76053**, 817-284-8372, if there are any questions regarding the application process or if you would like to have a member of the Disability Concerns Committee to assist you in any way.