



# Congregational Accessibility Network

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## Introducing the Congregational Accessibility Network (CAN)

### Do any of these statements sound familiar?

“Uncle Joe doesn’t come to worship anymore because he can’t get up the steps.”

“Their 5-year-old son has autism. We don’t know what to do with him in class.”

“Tom’s now in the psych hospital. We haven’t seen the family in worship for weeks.”

### How accessible is your congregation to persons with **all types of disabilities**?

#### How do you know?

The **Congregational Accessibility Network (CAN)** is a set of tools to help your congregation **look at this larger picture.**

- Find out how much those who attend your services feel included.
- Assess and celebrate the ways your congregation is accessible to people with disabilities.
- Discover who you might be excluding and how you can change that.

CAN is built around a set of survey tools that examine **five major areas of accessibility.**



**Mobility.** Accessible building and grounds, including parking, entrances, restrooms, and worship space for wheelchair users and others.



**Hearing.** Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) and other aids for persons who are hard of hearing.



**Sign Language.** Sign language interpretation to enable communication between hearing persons and those who are deaf.



**Vision.** Visual aids for persons with vision impairments.



**Support.** Supports for inclusion of persons with disabilities through awareness-raising, education, support groups, and provision for individual differences in gifts, behavior, and learning style.

Go to the **CAN website** to discover all the tools available: [www.AccessibilityNetwork.net](http://www.AccessibilityNetwork.net)

- The **Quick Checklist** for a fast overview of your congregation’s accessibility.
- The **Congregational Assessment Survey**, a comprehensive online survey tool.
- The **Individual and Family Needs Questionnaire** to discover how included people feel.
- The **Congregational Study Process** which ties everything together in a comprehensive movement for your congregation to be more **accessible** and **inclusive**!