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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.canaccess.org

- 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**!