



Funding Resources Available to Local Churches for Accessibility Projects

Funding is available through the DisAbility Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church, General Board of Global Ministries. Limited grants may assist with funding certain accessibility and inclusion projects. Grant applications are due by July 1st of each year. An application form that includes requirements can be downloaded at the [Committee website](#)¹.

These grants are made possible by donations to the UMCDM through the [Advance, #3021054](#)². **Please consider making a donation to help our churches become more accessible for persons living with disabilities.**



United Methodist churches seeking to develop Deaf or hard-of-hearing ministries may apply for a [Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministries](#)³ grant.

Available Conference Grants

- **Holston Conference** offers [one-time grants](#)⁴ for making renovations or providing equipment to increase full accessibility to local church structures or programs.
- **Illinois Great Rivers Conference** offers [Disability Awareness Grants](#)⁵.
- **Iowa Conference**, Commission on Ministry with People with Disabilities offers Disability Seed Grants. Check the [Commission website](#)⁶ for a grant application.
- **Minnesota Conference**: Disability Ministry Grants may be available through seed money or Golden Cross funds – contact the Committee jurisdictional representative through our e-mail at UMDisability@gmail.com.
- **Northern Illinois Conference**: Contact the [Committee on Accessibility Ministries](#)⁷ for more information.
- **Virginia Conference**: The [Committee on Disabilities](#)⁸ helps fund accessibility grants.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conference**: [Conference Committee on Disability Concerns](#)⁹ has grants for up to 20% of a project or program's cost to improve architectural or attitudinal accessibility, with a maximum award of \$2000.

Other Conferences may have resources to help churches in their areas. Check your Conference website or contact your conference Disability Concerns committee or Director of Connectional Ministries for information.

Resources outside the United Methodist Church

Ideas and information

Money and Ideas: Creative Approaches to Congregational Access¹⁰ - a publication of the Alban Institute and the National Organization on Disability.

10 Ways to Master the Art of Asking¹¹ Article by Ann A. Michel, Lewis Center for Church Leadership.

Funding sources

Pathways offers Open Hearts Awards grants for congregational access. The cycle closes on August 1: Open Hearts information.¹²

The Retirement Research Foundation offers limited Accessible Faith Grants¹³ for improvements in Chicago area churches.

The Christian Fund for the Disabled¹⁴ is a modest grants program administered by Joni and Friends. It provides one time grants to evangelical churches that need help in their ministries or making their facilities more accessible.

¹ <https://www.umdisabilityministries.org/links/fund.html>

² <http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/3021054>

³ <https://www.umdeaf.org/fund.html>

⁴ <http://holston.org/ministries/connectional-ministries/grants1/programs/handicap-accessibility-grant/>

⁵ <http://www.igrc.org/disabilityawarenessgrants>

⁶ <http://www.iaumc.org/commissiononministrywithpeoplewithdisabilities/#iac>

⁷ <https://www.umcnic.org/ministries/outreach/accessibility/>

⁸ <https://www.vaumc.org/page.aspx?pid=2875>

⁹ <http://www.wpaumc.org/disabilityconcerns>

¹⁰ <https://www.umdisabilityministries.org/download/moneyandideas.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/10-ways-master-art-asking/>

¹² <https://pathways.org/tools-resources/inclusion-worship/awards/>

¹³ <http://www.rrf.org/grants/accessible-faith-grants>

¹⁴ <http://www.joniandfriends.org/help-and-resources/organizations/christian-fund-disabled/>