



Disability Ministries
The United Methodist Church



A partner ministry of the General Commission on Religion and Race

Funding Resources Available to Local Churches for Accessibility Projects

Denominational Grants

Funding is available through the DisAbility Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church (DMC). Limited grants may assist with funding accessibility and inclusion projects. The 2022 Grant application window is January 15th – March 31st. An application form that includes requirements can be downloaded at the [DMC website](#)¹.

These grants are made possible by donations to the DMC 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 or enhance ministries with Deaf or hard-of-hearing persons may apply for a [Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministries](#)³ grant.

Potentially Available Conference Grants

- **California- Pacific Conference** Disability Ministries Task Force offers [Disability Grants](#).⁴
- **Holston Conference** offers [one-time grants](#)⁵ for making renovations or providing equipment to increase full accessibility to local church structures or programs.
- **Illinois Great Rivers Conference** offers [Disability Awareness Grants](#)⁶.
- **Indiana Conference's** United Methodist Foundation offers [Facilities Grants](#)⁷ for accessibility.
- **Iowa Conference**, Commission on Ministry with People with Disabilities offers Disability Seed Grants. Check the [Commission website](#)⁸ for a grant application.
- **Minnesota Conference**: Seed money [Grants](#)⁹ may be available for new ministries that reach new people, help the congregation grow in love of God and neighbor, and heal a broken world.
- **Northern Illinois Conference**: Contact the [Committee on Accessibility Ministries](#)¹⁰ via the committee page for more information.
- **South Carolina Conference** offers [Accessibility to Worship Grants](#).¹¹
- **Virginia Conference**: The [Commission on Disabilities](#)¹² helps fund accessibility and program grants.

- **Western Pennsylvania Conference:** Conference Committee on Disability Concerns¹³ grants are temporarily suspended due to lack of funds.

Other Conferences may have resources to help their churches. Check your Conference website or contact your Disability Concerns committee, Director of Connectional Ministries, and/or conference United Methodist Foundation for information.

The Southeastern Jurisdiction maintains the Renfro Trust Fund¹⁴ which has grants for rural UM churches within the Southeast.

Resources outside the United Methodist Church

Ideas and information

Money and Ideas: Creative Approaches to Congregational Access¹⁵ - a publication of the Alban Institute and the National Organization on Disability. The resources are dated but the examples and ideas are timeless.

Funding sources

Pathways offers interfaith Team Belong Cash Grants¹⁶ for inclusion projects.

The Christian Fund for the Disabled¹⁷ is a modest grants program administered by Joni and Friends. It provides one-time grants to evangelical churches that need help in their disability ministries or making their facilities more accessible.

¹ <https://umcdmc.org/resources/grants/>

² <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/3021054/>

³ <https://www.umdeaf.org/fund.html>

⁴ <http://www.calpacumc.org/disability/>

⁵ <https://holston->

[email.brtapp.com/files/connectional+ministries/missions/handicap_accessibility_grant_application_form.pdf](mailto:brtapp.com/files/connectional+ministries/missions/handicap_accessibility_grant_application_form.pdf)

⁶ <https://www.igrc.org/disabilityawarenessgrants>

⁷ <https://www.umfindiana.org/endowments/>

⁸ <https://www.iaumc.org/commissiononministrywithpeoplewithdisabilities/#iac>

⁹ <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/congregational-development-grants>

¹⁰ <https://www.umcnic.org/accessibility-ministries>

¹¹ <https://www.umcsc.org/resources/grants/>

¹² <https://vaumc.org/disabilities/>

¹³ <https://www.wpaumc.org/disabilityconcerns>

¹⁴ <http://www.sejumc.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=59478&PID=986505>

¹⁵ <https://www.umdabilityministries.org/download/moneyandideas.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://pathways.org/team-w/impact/>

¹⁷ <https://www.joniandfriends.org/christian-fund-for-the-disabled/>