



Funding Resources Available to Local Churches for Accessibility Projects

Denominational Grants

Funding is available through the DisAbility Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church, a partner ministry of the General Commission on Religion and Race. Limited grants may assist with funding 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 or enhance Deaf or hard-of-hearing ministries 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**: Disability Ministry Grants may be available through seed money or Golden Cross funds – contact the Committee jurisdictional representative through our e-mail at information@umcdmc.org.
- **Northern Illinois Conference**: Contact the [Committee on Accessibility Ministries](#)⁹ for more information.
- **South Carolina Conference** offers [Accessibility to Worship Grants](#).¹⁰
- **Virginia Conference**: The [Committee on Disabilities](#)¹¹ helps fund accessibility grants.

- **Western Pennsylvania Conference:** Conference Committee on Disability Concerns¹² 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 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 Fund¹³ 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 Access¹⁴ - a publication of the Alban Institute and the National Organization on Disability.

10 Ways to Master the Art of Asking¹⁵ Article by Ann A. Michel, Lewis Center for Church Leadership.

Funding sources

Pathways offers interfaith Cash Grants¹⁶ through its Team W for congregational access.

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://advance.umcor.org/p-400-disability-ministry.aspx>

³ <https://www.umdeaf.org/fund.html>

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

⁵ <https://www.holston.org/grants>

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

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

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

⁹ <https://www.umcnic.org/congregational-life/accessibility-ministries>

¹⁰ <https://www.umcsc.org/resources/grants/>

¹¹ <http://doc.vaumc.org/Profiles/DisabilitiesInformation.pdf>

¹² <https://www.wpaumc.org/disabilityconcerns>

¹³ <http://www.sejumc.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=59478&PID=986505>

¹⁴ <https://www.umdisabilityministries.org/download/moneyandideas.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/10-ways-master-art-asking/>

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

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