

Ability and Access Committee

Purpose:

To identify barriers that keep people who are challenged with access and/or disability concerns from full inclusion in church life and to implement improvements so that all of us can participate fully in ministry and worship.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- To be the primary educators of the congregation on issues of accessibility.
- To be responsible for organizing opportunities to increase the awareness of the congregation about specific needs
- To develop implementation plans to meet those identified needs.
- Must become knowledgeable about the church policies and practices.
- Must be able and willing to reach out to and work with other committees (such as Building and Grounds, Membership, Worship), and individuals (such as Deacons) whose interests and influence can help improve the church experience of people with access and/or ability concerns.

Structure:

- Five (5) members appointed by Standing Committee, each of who shall be a voting member of First Parish. Membership consists of at least two people who identify themselves as having access and/or abilities issues and at least two people who do not so identify.
- Each member shall serve a term of one year and may be re-appointed for three consecutive terms. Terms shall initially be staggered so that terms end in differing years.
- Chair appointed by Standing Committee for 1 year term: maximum 2 consecutive terms

Approved by Standing Committee 4/26/11

- Committee meets monthly
- A member should have interest in and experience with issues dealing with access and abilities; be willing and able to work cooperatively within and outside of the Committee and to facilitate and/or participate in meetings, events, educational forums, and other similar activities.
- All members interested in serving on the Committee shall fill out and submit an application form available from the Standing Committee.
- A member of the Committee shall participate in the Program Council, which meets three times per year.