

R-86-04: A resolution on access to church buildings for the handicapped

Resolved, that, in accordance with the action of the 1985 General Convention, local vestries be encouraged to conduct accessibility surveys of their buildings and to designate a person or persons to be particularly responsible for disability concerns so that all places of assembly in the Episcopal Church that are used either for worship or for other programs be made (so far as possible) accessible to persons with disabilities, and barrier-free; and be it further

Resolved, that, in order to assist in the development and performance of the survey, a Diocesan Architecture Commission of professional architects, members of the medical community, clergy, and disabled persons be appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Accessibility Task Force; and be it further

Resolved, that the Trustees of 412 Sycamore and/or the Church Foundation be asked to create a revolving fund from which funds may be drawn for the purpose of creating barrier-free worship and program space in our several congregations; and be it further

Resolved, that each congregation seek to focus on awareness/educational issues related to persons with disabilities, including informing themselves about architectural and attitudinal barriers which prevent full participation of persons with disabilities in congregational life; and be it further

Resolved, that the Task force on Accessibility provide an orientation workshop in 1987 to assist congregations in carrying out the above resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, that the Task Force on Accessibility report to the 1987 Diocesan Convention the progress of the regions in assisting their parishes in accomplishment of improved accessibility to their church structures.