

Accessibility Working Group
First Meeting, Sunday, October 26
After church, nursery room

AGENDA and MINUTES

Present: Karin Nissen, Sam Clark, Mary Alice Bisbee, Tina Ruth, Bill Pelton, Dustin Rand

1. Brief summary of projects this fall.

Railing at pulpit: see **railing proposal**. Paul Ohlson and Sam are meeting with a builder this week to get an estimate.

Sam sent the sketch out for discussion and comment.

Locks and levers for doors: Based on Bettie Barnes proposal, and our review of the doors last year, Sam will put together an order and get a quote. The idea is if possible to install them as a group project.

Signage: Bettie has a proposal for signage in the church. She asked us to look at accessibility issues. Mary Alice will follow this up.

The Web: We could use a web "neighborhood" for document, minutes, reference materials, proposals.

A bit later this fall: Learning about, working on, hidden and invisible disabilities. Paula to make a presentation to the Congregation on this in a few weeks.

Emphasis this fall: a new accessible bathroom, design, review, funding, and implementation.

2. Introducing ourselves and what we each want to work on

3. Two-minute description of what makes a bathroom accessible (Sam)

4. Brainstorm/evaluation: looking at the two possible bathroom locations now proposed: **coffee area** vs. **coat closet**. Do we have any clarity? Are there other options we should consider?

We looked at two possible locations for an accessible bathroom. One is in the coat closet off the vestry, nearest School Street. The other would be an expansion of the

bathroom off the classroom, behind the coffee area counter. (See Scans).

The main problem with the coat closet location is that this space is used for important storage functions. We'd have to find alternative locations for these things. The main problem with the second location was that it would be less private, and could be considered too close to the food at the coffee area. We're going to ask Amy Chorey to work on developing a version of this scheme, which might include an improved coffee service setup. There was a tentative consensus in favor of the Coat Closet location.

Sam

Some good resources:

A: Our Task Force Report is on this church website, under Accessibility Committee.

B: We used "Accessibility Information for Unitarian Universalist Churches" by Charlotte Hawkins Shephard, PhD and Rev. Devorah Greenstein. This is viewable under "Resources" within the Accessibility Committee posting. We have a few paper copies.

C: Americans with Disabilities Act Standards (available on the web) is well worth reading.

D: (And there's a lot more).