

SiteWise

Super Suggestions for
Places of Worship

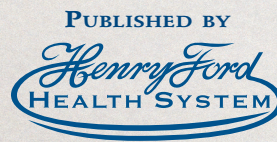
The Big Four Tips for Optimizing Access

Maximize
Lighting

Minimize
GLARE

Maximize
CONTRAST

Maximize
SIZE



HENRY FORD CENTER FOR VISION REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH

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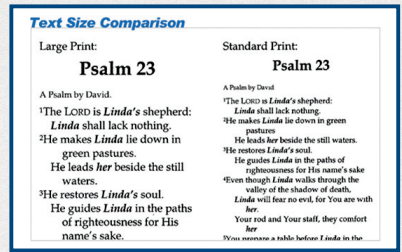
Entrance and Vestibule

- Outline glass doors, push bars, freestanding objects and signs with contrasting color
- Provide good light; avoid glare



Printed Materials and Signage

- Offer announcements, programs, hymnals, service readings, newsletters in large print
- Use high contrast large print signs



Outside Walkways

- Paint edges of steps, curbs and slants yellow; access areas blue
- Mark freestanding objects, railings with yellow tape or paint



Supplies You May Need

- Gooseneck lamp • Roll of colored tape • Yellow and blue paint
- Large-print materials • Clip-on or track lights

Transportation and Resources

- Recruit volunteer drivers for members needing rides to services
- Offer information on Library of Congress Large Print and Talking Books (www.loc.gov/nls)
- Provide a list of low vision support groups; better yet, start one!

Employee and Volunteer Education

Alert staff to:

- The large and growing number of adults with vision loss
- The invisibility of central vision loss; people with macular degeneration, e.g. do not look like they have impaired vision
- The need to announce your name when greeting friends with vision loss: "Hello Sarah, this is Julie Smith; how are you?"
- The need to provide specific verbal directions: "It's a few feet ahead on your right," rather than "It's over there"

Patterns of Vision Loss



MACULAR DEGENERATION



GLAUCOMA



DIABETES



STROKE

Sanctuary

- Install direct light on pulpit/podium for lay readers
- Mark altar steps with contrasting color
- Add track lighting or offer clip-on lights for service readings



Activity Rooms, Hallways, Stairs, Restrooms

- Provide good light; avoid glare
- Mark stair edges with contrasting color
- Outline projecting objects with contrasting color
- Provide large print playing cards and bingo cards if these activities are offered



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WHY Use SiteWise?

BECAUSE:

- Seniors are the fastest growing customer base in the U.S. and many seniors have reduced vision
- Following these few, easy inexpensive tips can keep senior congregants safe and happy and help them participate in your services

Your senior congregants and their families will be grateful for your thoughtfulness in instituting these easy suggestions.

SiteWise is a consulting service of the Henry Ford Center for Vision Rehabilitation and Research. SiteWise Super Suggestions for Places of Worship is provided with generous support from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

For more information, please call the Center at (313) 824-2401 or email visionrehab@hfhs.org.



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