



Welcoming People with Vision Impairment to church

1. First Contact

- Greet verbally and introduce yourself.
- Speak directly to the person, not a companion.
- Ask before helping: *“Would you like any help finding your way or a seat?”*

2. Offering Help

- Never grab or steer someone.
- If help is accepted:
 - Offer your arm.
 - Walk at their pace.
 - Say what’s coming: *“There’s a step down here.”*
 - Respect independence — help is optional, not assumed.

3. Giving Directions

- Use clear, verbal descriptions.
- Say distance, steps, and landmarks:
 - “Three rows from the front”
 - “Two steps up into the chancel”
- Avoid pointing or saying, “over there”.

4. Seating

- Ask about preferences (aisle, front, lighting).
- Explain what’s nearby:
 - “There’s a pillar on your left.”
 - “The aisle is on your right.”
- Offer large-print, braille or digital service materials if available.

5. During the Service

- Help people find the words for the service or hymns

- Clear spoken announcements help everyone:
 - When to stand or sit
 - What happens next
- Don't rely only on screens or gestures.

6. Communion & Movement

- Explain how communion works today:
 - Whether people move or stay seated
 - Where to go
 - Offer discreet guidance if needed.
 - Never rush.

7. After the Service

- Offer help to find refreshments or conversations.
- Ask before assisting.
- Make verbal introductions if helpful.

8. Emergency Situations

- Know the evacuation plan.
- Explain calmly what is happening.
- Stay with the person until safe.

9. Please Avoid

- ✗ Grabbing arms or pushing
- ✗ Saying "It's just there"
- ✗ Moving furniture without saying so
- ✗ Speaking louder instead of clearer

10. Remember

Ask ~ Explain ~ Respect.

People with vision impairment are experts in their own needs.