

November 14, 2024 Accessibility Task Force NOTES

Attending:

Don Argus, Valerie Reinke, Sue Tait, Julia Logan, Elli Howard, Juan Gardner, Alexander Snow, Michael Garrett, Wendy Barrie, Alexandra Thompson.

Interested in participating:

Robert Wright, Judy Andrews, Genevieve Witherbee, Kate Thorpe, Deborah Andersen

Following the Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Opening Prayer, the group shared what about the topic of accessibility that makes people's hearts beat faster. Folks shared a variety of stories and motivations for participation. We came away feeling deeply that **Accessibility is not a special interest; it is at the heart of the mission of the church.**

We began to discuss strategies for creating a list of short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations for the vestry to consider. We will have an opportunity to reflect on the notes written by written up by Emily Meeks in June 2024 at a later time because we didn't have time for it in the meeting. Michael Garrett proposed using a Church Accessibility Audit to take a closer look at where changes can and should be made.

Best practices we came up with during our meeting.

- Use the term "barriers" rather than challenges
- In zoom, one can generate closed captions by clicking the three dots and selecting CC.
- Meetings will be recorded and shared with Task Force members.
- AI will transcribe the conversation and be edited for accuracy and clarity before being released.
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Valerie invited for those interested in participating in a five-part training on Cultivating God's Brain Forest to contact her. Alexandra T. will send out an invitation to participate through Sundays and Beyond.

Individuals were asked to think about what area would be of most interest to them and whether they would like to talk through their ideas with either Wendy or Alexandra.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer.