

The “ADA” standard does not apply to religion organizations because of the First Amendment. Ignoring that exemption, how would the our design require “ADA” adoption in the chancel?

The primary deck area would have to be more than 14” above the main sanctuary floor.

The main deck has to be lowered one inch to the height of 14” in design. **NTAS**

There would need to be hand assist appliances at all steps areas.

There are railings or stanchions on all steps up to the platform and railings along the steps into the choir seating area. **NTAS***

There would need to be guard rails at all areas that have a drop of more than 14 inches.

There are no drops of that height in the design. **NTAS***

A ramp would be necessary for a rises of more than 14”. **NTAS***

How would support of “ADA” require changes of the original design?

NONE **NTAS***

Does ADA mandate a ramp in our situation?

NO **NTAS***

Is there any need for changes to support an optional ramp.

A hidden ramp accessible from under the main platform along the Center aisle would require removing portions of the front sanctuary pews. This would provide the required 3 foot area for passage along each side of the extended ramp. The ramp width would be 40+ inches with required railings and would be 14 feet in length. If the ramp divides the 60” center aisle, it would require 112” of safe passage requires the removal of 52 inches from each of the front four pew rows of the sanctuary. If the ramp did not occupy the center aisle 140” of safe passage requires the removal of 81” inches from each of the front four pew rows of the sanctuary.

When the ramp would not be deployed (almost always), there would be a large open floor area of 4.7 x 10 feet or 6.5 x 10 feet to the right of the main aisle which would look strange and reduce sanctuary seating by up to 9 worshippers.

The construction committee states that we “MUST” support the standard, but the need for a ramp is not necessary and is not mandated. There is nothing to support “MUST”!

Would the changes detract from the majesty of the worship experience?

YES. This defeats the design goal of maintaining worship majesty as priority one.

Is there any past experiences for need of a ramp?

YES – One known time in last two decades and the participant brought their own ramp.

How does the chancel remodel suddenly include the sanctuary changes also?

Baffling....