



First United Methodist Church, Slidell, LA

## Ministry Module

Ministry Modules are intended for use with the Leader's Guide. Appendices and Resources referenced in modules can be found within the Guide.

# *Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry*



This Mission Module is provided through a Partnership with the Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry, of First UMC, Slidell, LA and Caregiving Ministries, a division of FamilyCare America, Inc.

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The logo for Caregiving Ministries, featuring the word "Caregiving" in a serif font above the word "Ministries" in a bold, sans-serif font. A yellow cross is positioned between the two words.



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### Purpose

The mission of the Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry Team is to assist those who need help with adaptations to the main entrance of their home to enter and exit the home safely and regularly.

### Goals

- To enable members to enter and exit their homes safely and regularly by providing a safe, code adherent ramp and aid the financial process for ramp construction.

### Objectives

- Assist recipient in obtaining financial assistance to build the ramp.
- Visit home site to establish dimensions of ramp needed.
- Determine resources available to meet the needs:
  - What the individual and/ or family can do
  - What friends or church members can do
  - What community resources are available
- Build custom ramp on site.

### Parameters and Limitations

This module may involve fees or cost to the individual, depending on the funds available. Before beginning this ministry, the church should determine how to handle costs. If the individual is expected to pay part or all of the cost, a contract should be signed by both parties—the church and the recipient. The financial ability to pay for services should be considered in determining what help is given. The ability of family members to assist should be considered. However, this module can become an effective ministry opportunity for those with skills such as carpentry, architecture, design or contracting. Do not attempt projects that require meeting city/ county codes unless you are licensed to do so. Aging, declining health, and disabilities should be determining factors for recipients of this ministry. Also, teams in this ministry should not duplicate services provided by the Department for Social Services or other agencies, but cooperate with them.



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### SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR THIS MINISTRY

1. Survey the church for people who are able and willing to work with this ministry (see Appendix A).
2. Educate the church family as to what can and cannot be expected from this ministry.
3. Contact congregation and local community sources to discover individuals in need of a ramp.
4. Determine if the recipient owns or rents. If renting, obtain permission from owner to erect ramp on premises.
5. Evaluate recipient's financial situation to determine financial ability to pay.
6. Investigate local funding opportunities, or create a fund raising opportunity to pay for materials.
7. Do a site visit to determine the dimensions of the ramp.
8. Determine what services can be provided. Avoid taking on a project that requires more than your team can accomplish.
9. Determine from city or county officials if licensing or bonding is required. Determine what local building codes and permitted are applicable/ required.
10. Provide training to volunteers.
11. Build custom wheelchair ramp to specifications. Secure handrails.
12. Periodically evaluate the ministry. (See Evaluation Tool, Administrative Guide.)



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## RESOURCES

- Department for Social Services.
- Local area Agency on Aging.
- Cooperative Extension System
- Local county offices for building codes/ permits
- List of licensed, bonded workmen with excellent reputations for reasonable charges and dependability
- Habitat for Humanity (some affiliates provide renovations).
- Elder Homes/ similar agencies
- Area church youth groups offering assistance with construction.
- Veterans Administration (provides requirements for ramps in homes of veterans).



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## WHEEL CHAIR RAMP NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### Basic Information

Name:

Phone:

Address :

County:

Directions to Home:

### 1. Circle your age group:

- a. under 60
- b. 60-64
- c. 65-69
- d. 70-74
- e. 75-80
- f. 80-above

### Living Arrangements and Household Needs

#### 2. Check all choices which describe your current living arrangements:

I live in my home with my spouse

I live in my home alone

I live in my home with a relative

I live in my home with a friend

I own my home

I rent my home

#### 3. I cannot enter/ exit my home independently because I use

a wheel chair

crutches





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4. **Primary Source of Income** (employer, SSI) \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Secondary Sources of Income** \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Total Gross Monthly Income** \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Are you a Veteran?**

Yes  No

8. **Do you receive assistance from Social Services or any Federal, State, or Local Agency?**

Yes  No

9. **Do you have your own transportation?**

Yes  No

**If no, how do you get to your appointments, grocery store, church, etc.**

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **Are you able to enter/ exit your home?**

Yes  No

**If no, how long have you been unable to enter/ exit your home?**

\_\_\_\_\_

11. **If you rent your home, do you give us permission to contact your landlord on your behalf in regards to obtaining permission to construct a ramp?**

Yes  No

12. **Please provide your landlord's contact information below:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_





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***This is a suggested process for ramp construction. This process is a suggestion from Rich Jeppesen, Leader, and the Ramp Ministry program at First United Methodist Church, in Slidell, LA.***

## BASIC RAMP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

### 1. **Basics:**

- A.) All lumber is treated, exterior grade..
- B.) Slope is 5° or 1" per linear foot. Door threshold from the ground provides basic length of ramp.
- C.) Inclines are a max 16' in length before coming to a 4' x 4' or a 4' x 8' landing.
- D.) The first platform is usually a flat 4' x 4' or 4' x 8' unless there is an existing porch.
- E.) Check for door swing (in or out) and direction for positioning ramp to minimize passage interference with door.
- F.) The last platform is wedge-shaped to terminate smoothly with the ground.

### 2. **Bill of Material:**

- Frames: 3- 2" x 6" x 8'  
1- 2" x 4" x 8'
- Deck: 3/4" 4' x 8' plywood
- Posts: 4" x 4" x 8' set in ground or on solid surface
- Handrails: 2" x 4" x 8' fastened to top of posts, 32" above deck
- Toe boards: 1" x 4" x 8' approx. 1" above deck, fastened to the posts (use 2 x 4 as spacer)
- Fasteners: coated for treated lumber, 3" deck screws or nails for everything except decking and toe boards;  
1 1/2" screws or nails for decking and toe boards

### 3. **Frame Construction:**

- A.) Basic flat platform:
  - 1.) Cut 2- 2" x 6" x 8' to 8' exactly for side rails.
  - 2.) Cut 1- 2" x 6" x 8' to 2 pieces 45 1/4" long for ends between the 2 rails
  - 3.) Cut 1- 2" x 4" x 8' to 2 pieces 45 1/4" long for stringers between the 2 rails, 32" from each end, flush with top end of rail.
  - 4.) Platform is slightly wider than 4' to make deck placement easier, especially if frames have squareness issues.
- B.) Down incline platform:
  - 1.) Before assembly, draw and cut a line from bottom end corner to a point 1/2" in from the end of the bottom corner (5° down angle)
- C.) Up incline platform:
  - 1.) Before assembly, draw and cut a line from bottom end corner to a point 1/2" in from the end of the top corner (5° up angle)
- D.) Wedge platform:
  - 1.) Rip 1- 2" x 6" x 8' diagonally from corner to corner, determine need for 5° down angle. Turn 1 2x4 stringer horizontally and place as close to the pointed end as rail thickness allows for a flush fit.

### 4. **Posts:**

- A.) Corners- One for each corner placed to support 2 adjacent frames per post, except on last 4' of wedge.
- B.) Middle- Posts basically every 4' for handrail and toe boards support.
- C.) Handrail- Fasten to top of posts. Handrail can be terminated into deck and sides of last post on the last 4' of the wedge.
- D.) Fasten platform, 5° down platform with flat opposite end, flat end with 5° angle at opposite end, flat platform (4' square for rest, 4x8' for rest and change in direction), 5° down, etc.  
Platforms for changes in direction will require additional posts continuous runs of handrails and toe boards.