

# SCNC Conference Accessibility Team (CAT)

*Submitted by Rachel Chapman*



Our Mission is to work for authentic acceptance and inclusion of all people living with disabilities into the full life of the Southern California Nevada Conference, UCC, through advocacy and education.

The SCNC Conference Accessibility Team (CAT) started in 2018. The objective is to assist all churches and settings to work toward and obtain the Accessible to All (A2A) designation of the UCC's Disabilities Ministries Board. Earning this designation means reviewing your facilities, programs and attitudes to purposely make sure persons living with any disability (physical, emotional, mental, etc.) is treated with value and dignity. They are not only welcome into the setting but also included in every aspect of church life. People living with disabilities are treated as the children of God they are. The CAT members can support settings with speakers, resources and information to help you reach your goal in becoming accessible to all people, including suggestions that cost little or no money but will help on the A2A journey. We know that accessibility awareness benefits all people. Disability justice is a social justice issue.

The CAT helped our conference to earn the designation of an Accessible to All Conference, the only such conference in the UCC. The Conference has made significant changes to the website to make it user friendly for those with low or no vision. It has adopted A2A guidelines for meetings and events and adopted more inclusive hiring practices among other things.

New Team members are always welcome. We meet monthly on Zoom. No experience is required however a knowledge of or experience with disabilities is helpful.

We look forward to answering your questions and helping toward making this a more just world for all.