

East Jamaica Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists
Office of The President

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January 31, 2025

**TO ALL: PASTORS, ELDERS, CHURCH BOARDS AND ADVENTIST
POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES DIRECTORS**

RE: COMPLIANCE WITH THE DISABILITY ACT

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The East Jamaica Conference is committed to becoming compliant with the Disability Act. Our headquarters, located at 74 Constant Spring Road, Kingston 10, has started making the necessary adjustments to ensure that all our offices are accessible to persons with disabilities, as required by law. We are hopeful that all our churches will also be compliant soon.

Why is this important? It is essential to ensure that individuals with disabilities are treated fairly and equally.

The Disability Act of Jamaica, enacted in 2014, emphasizes that persons with disabilities (PwDs) have the right to participate in all activities within the country: work, play, and conduct business. This Act aligns with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which Jamaica has committed, along with 160 other countries. If individuals do not adhere to the provisions of the Act, persons with disabilities can file a complaint through the Disabilities Rights Tribunal.

To avoid discrimination, we request and expect your local church to become compliant for inspection before the third quarter ends on **September 30, 2025**. The Act states, "If you prevent someone from carrying out an activity on an equal basis with other persons just because of their disability, this is discrimination under the Act. This includes all rights enjoyed by other citizens in any area of national life, including political, economic, social, cultural, civil, religious, and educational."

As we focus on putting the Mission First and keeping the Mission Alive in 2025, let us collaborate to ensure that all churches in the East Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists comply with the Disability Act.

We welcome discussions and strategic planning as we strive to adhere to the laws of our land. Our Heavenly Father will provide the means, Jesus will guide us, and the Holy Spirit will grant us strength.

We look forward to hearing about and witnessing the adjustments made to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities in our buildings, sanctuaries, bathrooms and participation in our services.



Respectfully yours,

Merik Dale Walker JP, PhD.
President

Sheldon N. Schooler, MAPTh
Director, Possibility Ministries