

**UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
MINISTRIES**

Our Vision:

“To share Jesus’ love by equipping and advocating access through effective communication and leadership among the diverse Deaf communities.”



Check out our sister committee, *DisAbility Ministries Committee of The United Methodist Church* www.umdisabilityministries.org

Additional Resources

For additional congregational resources, visit the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf’s website at www.umdeaf.org.

A helpful resource is *Deaf Ministry: Ministry Models for Expanding the Kingdom of God, 2nd Ed* by Leo Yates, Jr. It can be purchased at Amazon.com.



**General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church
458 Ponce De Leone Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30308
www.umcmision.org**

**United Methodist Committee on Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Ministries
www.umdeaf.org**

**United Methodist Association of Ministers
with Disabilities
www.umdisabledministers.org**

**DisAbility Ministries Committee
of The United Methodist Church
www.umdisabilityministries.org**

**The United Methodist
Congress of the Deaf
www.umcd.org**

HOW TO SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE

Give to the Advance:

By Check:

Make payable to your local church or “Advance GCFA.” Be sure to write Advance #982562 and “Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries” on the check. For local church and annual conference credit, give your gift to your local church treasurer.

By Credit Card:

Call 1-888-252-6174 or go to www.umcmision.org/Give-to-Mission/Give-to-Mission and search for Advance #980562.

**United Methodist Committee on
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Ministries Committee**

Contact Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at leoyjr@gmail.com for additional information or for a consultation. Also, contact him to receive our quarterly newsletter. The newsletter includes resources, best practices, national and local Deaf ministry news, and other information.
www.umdeaf.org

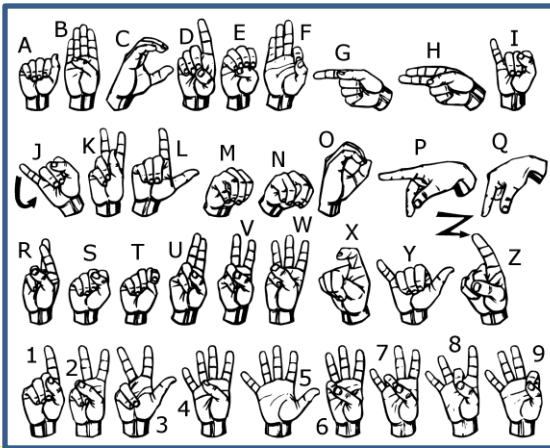
Global Ministries

The United Methodist Church

**United Methodist
Committee on Deaf and
Hard of Hearing
Ministries**

**Tips for
Working with a
Sign Language
Interpreter**





The United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries is a Global Ministries committee. The committee provides resources, consultation, cultivates Deaf ministries, educates congregations, helps to develop Deaf leaders, and offers grants to United Methodist churches. Helpful to know is when reading a capital 'D' in the word deaf, it indicates cultural deafness within what is discussed or stated. Besides indicating hearing loss, the small 'd' in deaf indicates someone who is not culturally Deaf.

Sign Language Interpreters

A sign language interpreter is someone who interprets in sign language effectively, accurately, and proficiently, both receptively and expressively. Working in a Christian setting like a church, most interpreters will know or are willing to learn necessary specialized vocabulary. Some states require the interpreter to be credentialed (certified, screened, or licensed), while other states do not require it. Check with your state or by checking with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) website (www.rid.org).

An interpreter should demonstrate ethical interpreting skills and have the knowledge and expertise required to function in a professional capacity. Effective communication between individuals is the overall goal of interpreting, as the interpreter interprets for both Deaf and

hearing consumers. For some churches, the norm is to have one interpreter for a typical 60 minute worship service, where a team of interpreters will be the norm for other churches. In some cases, the complexity of a service or event will warrant a team of interpreters. Length of time interpreters can work alone and other standards may vary slightly by the geographical area. Provide preparation materials as needed.

Recruiting Interpreters

Like in other professional settings, interpreters are paid, though; some will donate his or her services to his or her church. Some interpreters feel comfortable working in a church setting, but others do not due to not being familiar with the vocabulary and nuances it can have. Relying on family members to interpret is not recommended.

Interpreters are expected to be paid regardless if Deaf and hard of hearing persons are not present or do not show. Some will require full payment, while others may reduce the fee, which will cover their time and expense for traveling. Churches vary in their hiring practices, which can include: hiring the interpreter as a part-time staff interpreter, hiring the interpreter as a contractor (a 1099 employee), or through volunteer recruitment efforts. Time of payment also vary, which can include the day the services were provided, within 2-4 weeks, or within 30 days. Paying an interpreter on the day services are provided may entice an interpreter to accept the request. Interpreters charge by the hour with a 2 hour minimum (standard) or a flat fee for the service. A 2 hour minimum typically includes the services provided and the preparation time. Reimbursement for travel is also the norm.

Hiring an Interpreter

Hiring an interpreter through an interpreting agency is more expensive, where hiring the interpreter directly is less expensive. Keep in mind, often when a person(s) utilizing the interpreter will tithe and this can help cover part or all of the cost of the interpreter (but do not put the burden of paying the interpreter on the Deaf

person). Churches will want to budget for the costs, do fundraising, and/or take up a special offering one or more times a year.

Some areas have a plethora of interpreters, where others are scarce. Recruitment ideas are:

1. Contact an interpreting agency in your area.
2. Contact the state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) office, as they will likely have resource information.
3. Contact the state Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission/Office/Coalition for referrals.
4. Go to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) website and search for interpreters on their online directory (freelance interpreters may be less expensive instead of an agency).
5. Research nearby colleges and ask their department of disability support services for a possible referral. If there is a sign language interpreting program, contact the department about recommending an interpreting student.
6. Contact other Deaf ministries.

Requesting Interpreting Services

Be prepared to provide the following:

1. The date, time, and the length of the service
2. The church name and address.
3. The requestor's name, title, and contact information.
4. Type of payment and arrangements (e.g. Paypal, credit card, check).
5. The name of the person needing the services (e.g. the Deaf person).
6. To give a general description of the event (e.g. traditional worship service).
7. Preparation materials (e.g. bulletin, sermon, music, Scriptures, etc.).
8. On-site contact person's name and phone/text number.
9. Ensure faith leaders or the pastor is aware.