



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

January
2017

To share Jesus' love by equipping and advocating access through effective communication and leadership among the diverse Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, Late-Deafened, and Deaf-blind communities.

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Check out our
website at
www.umcdhm.org

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February 5th is Disability Awareness Sunday



Did you know that the first Sunday in February is designated as Disability Awareness Sunday? This is a good day to promote awareness about disabilities in general or about one specific disability. While many profoundly Deaf people do not consider deafness a disability, some hard-of-hearing and/or late-deafened people do. We observe this Sunday because Christ asked us to (read Luke 14:15-24).



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Deaf Ministry – Best Practices

This quarter's Deaf Ministry best practice is to have one or two focuses of ministry and do them well. It is better to have ministries that stand out than mediocre ministries that do not make an impression. Whatever your focus of ministry is – do it well! For example, have



an interpreted ministry where the interpreters are competent and proficient. Another example, offering an annual tax preparation assistance day that includes signing tax preparers and/or having interpreters on-hand to interpret for hearing tax preparers. Have your ministry shine!

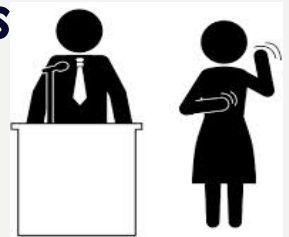
Applying for Grants

The United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministries offers grants for seed money for new ministries, domestic and international mission outreach, Deaf camps, communication access, and scholarships. To read the guidelines and to get an application, download it from www.umcdhm.org/download/grant.doc.



Interpreted Ministry - Best Practices

This quarter's *best practice* for the interpreted ministry is **being familiar with community resources**. Often, Deaf and hearing people ask the interpreter about community resources and the interpreter will likely share or make a referral. For example, some states have an office or agency that offer resources specifically for those in the Deaf community. Perhaps it's a resource directory that may include:



- * interpreting agencies
- * human service agencies
- * treatment services
- * vocational rehabilitation (V.R.)
- * advocacy
- * disability access
- * housing assistance



Some state deaf agencies offer a referral service, while others only provide a directory. The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, through Gallaudet University, offers a list of state deaf-related agencies which serves the Deaf community. Some states only list vocational rehabilitation (V.R.) offices; moreover, these V.R. offices will likely have their own directory of community resources from which they make referrals. The website is <http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc-center/info-to-go/national-resources-and-directories/statewide-services.html>. Don't forget about your state deaf school. It likely has a list of resources, as well as some department of aging and disability offices. If your community does not have a directory or a list of deaf-related services, why not start one. Be sure to include your Deaf ministry. It's a community resource too!

From the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf Save the Date!

The Global Methodist Missions Conference will be held from August 1-4, 2017 in Texas. Registration will begin soon. Here is a link to the UMCD webpage promoting this conference.

<http://umcd.org/newsnat/1708.html>

If you have not been to one of the global conferences, you must go to this one. If a lack of funds is a barrier, try fund raising, asking your church, and/or your family members to help pay your way.



Don't Forget to Pay Your UMCD Dues

UMCD asks, have you paid your dues for the new year? UMCD is a grassroots organization that can't do anything without your support! We rely on dues support for everything from the website at www.umcd.org to our meetings and workshops! Being a dues paying member means you can vote on officers and remain fully connected with a group of people like yourselves involved in Deaf ministries in The United Methodist Church. Supporting members can be deaf or hearing. Here is the membership page to download your membership application.

<http://umcd.org/member.html>.

Deaf Ministry - A Closer Look

~ St. Andrew United Methodist Church

The Deaf ministry at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Titusville, Florida is a small Deaf ministry that has a strong serving presence in the community. Besides having an interpreted ministry on Sunday mornings, it offers periodic sign language classes, an outreach to the community, a Deaf prison ministry, and most recently, include two Deaf lay people who completed a certified lay minister's training. Their interpreted worship service is at 10am. Their website is <http://saintandrew-umc.com>.



St. Andrews UMC in Titusville, FL

To have your church or ministry highlighted in a future newsletter, please contact Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at leoyjr@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

Borrow Our Assisted Listening System

The **Mardy Walker Memorial Assistive Listening System** is available by this committee and can be loaned to congregations for a trial basis. It includes table microphones, speaker mic, neck loop, Flat-folding headphones with receivers. It also includes a carrying case. If your church is considering a new listening system, consider borrowing this to see if it will work at your church. For more information, go to www.umcdhm.org/resource/3001.html.



Be Sure to Check Out our Sister Committee



www.umdisabilityministries.org

Continued...Disability Awareness Sunday

Whether you observe the special Sunday with a specific disability in mind or disabilities in general, it is helpful to include worship leaders and/or liturgists with disabilities to help lead the service (personal testimonies are great). The Baltimore Washington Conference Commission on Disability Concerns offers a Disability Awareness Sunday Church Kit that offers plenty of ideas and suggestions for what to include (e.g. bulletin inserts, handouts, music selection, how to acquire guest speakers, and so on). Go to their webpage to download the church kit at <http://www.bwcumc.org/ministries/disability-ministries/>. Or go to the Disability Ministries Committee's website (see above) for more resources. With many churches in decline, why not reach out to the disability community, some of which may have a hearing loss. Make sure you encourage your church leaders to observe this important Sunday and help to open your church's doors so all are welcome.

News on...Deaf Missions

Israel – The Rev. Dr. Tom Hudspeth and a group of fellow travelers flew to Israel in November. It included deaf and hard-of-hearing people from different churches and annual conferences. Look for a future article about this trip.

