



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

July 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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THE FIRST – Deaf-Friendly Certified Lay Servant Training

A Certified Lay Servant curriculum was adapted to be “deaf-friendly” and will be unveiled for a group of Deaf and hard of hearing people on August 1, 2017 in Waxahachie, TX, prior to the 4h Global Methodist Conference of the Deaf. Carol Stevens, a Certified Lay Minister (CLM) received approval from the General Board of Discipleship.



Contact Carol Stevens for more information at carolstevens100@Hotmail.com.

Deaf Ministry – Best Practices

This quarter's Deaf ministry best practice is **performing accessibility reviews in the church**. The *Breaking the Sound Barrier In Your Church* is geared towards doing mission and ministry with hard of hearing and late-deafened individuals. It has an extensive overview and an accessibility audit that churches can do to see how accessible their ministry setting is so hard of hearing and late-deafened individuals can better participate in the life of the church. It can be downloaded at www.umcdhm.org/download/breaking.pdf.



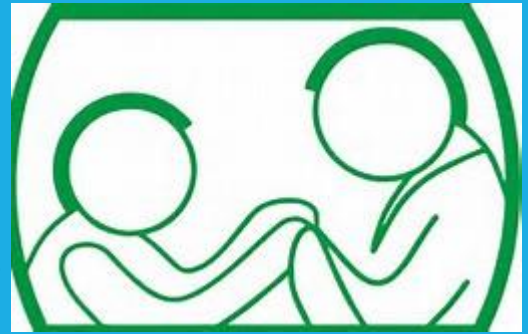
Check out our website at www.umcdhm.org

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Deafblind Visitors

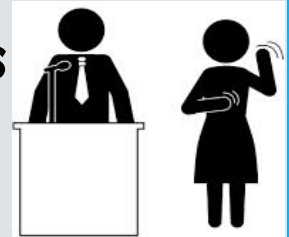
By David Jessop

Churches will be blessed to have Deafblind visitors attend your church. A few tips to remember: (1) some use tactile signing, while others do not; (2) See if the person needs a support service provider (SSP), which is like a guide; (3) check to see what accommodations the person may need. Some people may feel ill-equipped due to not knowing sign language, but it's important to know that not all Deafblind people are fully Deaf and fully blind. Some are hard of hearing with some visual impairment, and some are fully Deaf with some vision, and some use sign language (tactile) and some do not. Welcome the Deafblind person and be sure to invite him or her again. The UM-DHM committee has a brief guide for Deafblind interpreting that has additional information worth considering. The guide can be downloaded at www.umdeaf.org/download/dbterp.pdf.



Interpreted Ministry - Best Practices

This quarter's *best practice* for the interpreted ministry is **networking with other interpreters**. There are a number of reasons for networking with others. Some include:



1. To keep a pulse of what's happening in the interpreting community.
2. Be able to make referrals to other sign language interpreters.
3. It helps to promote your own Deaf ministry.
4. It helps to promote your own private practice (freelance business).
5. To learn what's happening with the chapter or national organization for sign language interpreters (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf).

Ways to network includes:

1. Joining the Facebook page, "Liturgical Interpreting."
2. Attend RID chapter meetings.
3. Check with interpreting agencies in your area for any get-togethers.
4. Check with other Deaf ministries in the area for any get-togethers.

If there aren't any networking opportunities – be bold and start one! Get a list of interpreters in the area and offer to meet for coffee or to go out to lunch. Interpreters often work alone, but it's healthy to network!

From the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf

Save the Date!



Bishop Johnson

[The Global Methodist Missions Conference](#) begins on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 3:00 p.m. and runs through Friday, Aug. 4, at 12:00 p.m. Post Conference activities and tours are available. [Click here](#) to register.

PRESS RELEASE

To: Deaf Network of Texas; World Methodist Council; United Methodist Communications; General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church; North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; Dallas Morning News; Waxahachie Daily Light; Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association; Episcopal Conference of the Deaf, AND all other news organizations.

From: Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Hudspeth, Pastor of the Deaf, Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, USA. General Secretary, World Federation of Deaf Methodists and President of the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries, General Board of Global Ministries – Health.

Date: May 4, 2017

RE: 4th Global Methodist Missions Conference of the Deaf, August 1-4, 2017, Waxahachie, Texas.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. For more information, contact Rev. Tom Hudspeth at thudspeth@lumc.org, or voice phone 214 706 9522 or video phone 469 522 2974. Fax 214-692-0803.

“LOOK, YOUR NAMES ARE ON MY HANDS!”

This year’s Global Methodist Missions Conference of the Deaf will feature Emmanuel Deaf Ministry, a Brazilian church that is one of the largest deaf Methodist churches in the world, in an event that will be a United Nations of sign languages of the world.

This year, participants -- deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and hearing – will spread the word of Methodist and Wesleyan-related mission work through the sign languages of Korea, Brazil (Libras), Ghana, Zimbabwe (Zim Sign), Kenya (KSL) and the United States (ASL).

Michelle Menefee, conference interpreter coordinator, says it will be “a sign language version of the Pentecost!”

Ronilson Lopes, pastor of the 130-member church based at Central Methodist Church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, will “contribute what the Lord has given me as privilege of doing for His kingdom” in missionary work and fulfilling the vision of Methodist churches.

Emmanuel’s dance and drama team will also share the Gospel through deaf eyes and experience at the four-day conference, August 1-4, 2017, at the Lakeview Camp and Retreat Center in Waxahachie, Texas.

The Alzheimer’s Association, in a unique presentation on memory care, will build on the conference’s theme of God not forgetting the deaf: “Look, your names are on my hands” (Isaiah 49:16).

Continued...

Other presenters include:

Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Philadelphia area, who specialized in deaf ministry and initiated the first conference in 2005. She will give the keynote sermon.

The Rev. Caesar Rentie, vice president of Pastoral Care for Methodist Hospital of Dallas, a former NFL Chicago Bears player who grew up with deaf parents.

Sarah Hogue and **Amy Wilson** of the Mill Neck Foundation, which promotes deaf outreach.

Delegates will make presentations on work in their countries.

In addition to Bishop Johnson leading the opening service, **the Rev. Joo Kang** of the Korean Presbyterian Deaf Church will provide devotionals. Also, **God's Hands** deaf ministry of Dallas Indian UMC and **Comanche Thunder**, a Native American drum group, will be part of the opening service. The conference also includes an optional 10-hour course on Deaf Certified Lay Servant ministry.

The global conference is held every four years. It began in 2005, when Bishop Johnson, then with Christ Church of the Deaf in Baltimore, invited colleagues in deaf ministries around the world to gather for worship and sharing of deaf mission work. That year featured the deaf mission work of the Korean Methodist Church, with Rev. Sang-Suck Nam of the Seoul Church of the Deaf the lead presenter.

"The Koreans had 13 deaf churches, each with deaf pastors and sending deaf missionaries -- some to countries where the Christian faith is discouraged and even persecuted," Bishop Johnson said. "It was my hope that starting an international conference would give us a Holy Spirit jolt to be evangelists for Christ's love among the Deaf around the world and in the USA."

The second conference took place in 2009 in South Korea and the third in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2013. These conferences highlighted deaf mission and ministries in Vietnam, Mongolia, China, Singapore, The Philippines, Guam, Japan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Liberia, Ghana, Kenya and the United Kingdom.

This year's conference marks the first time that a South American ministry has participated.

This conference is hosted by the Deaf Ministry of Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, the World Federation of Deaf Methodists, The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf and sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

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

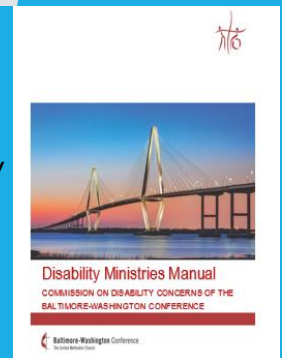


www.umdisabilityministries.org

NEW CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE

The Commission on Disability Concerns of the Baltimore-Washington Conference has a new **Disability Ministries Manual** available for download. It covers topics such as: creating a committee, hospitality, accessibility audit, ministry considerations and accommodations, grant opportunities, and so on. Consider establishing your own disability ministry.

To download the manual, go to www.umdisabilityministries.org/download/bwc-dmm.pdf



BE A STAR!

We'd like to make you a star! We're looking for videos of any aspect of Deaf and HOH ministry. Do you sign the scripture readings in church? Would you like to share a short devotion? Is there a Deaf or HOH event or program going on?



We'd like to see it and share with other members. You can look at our previous posts at <http://www.umdeaf.org/dvt/>. Send us an e-mail (umdeaf@gmail.com) if you can help.

WHAT'S UP?

Help our mission! There are two ways we can get out the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Committee pages in front of more people on Facebook. We can pay for ads, or you can join the page yourself, and then click "like" and even "share" posts on your own timeline. When Facebook notices that a lot of people "like" and "share" posts, they will show it to more people. So at no cost to you, you can support our outreach by doing this!



We keep a list of upcoming events at www.umdisability.org/event.html. You can submit information about an upcoming event to umdeaf@gmail.com.

MISSION GRANTS

Part of the committee's work is to provide start-up funding for Deaf and hard-of-hearing ministry projects. This year, the committee has agreed to help with funding for these projects:

- * Deaf-blind Camp in the Baltimore-Washington Conference
- * Deaf Adult Camp in the Pen-Del Conference
- * First UMC, (city) Oregon, for a hearing loop system.

We will have reports on the results of these grants on our website as they become available. Here is a link to the webpage www.umdeaf.org/fund/story.html.

Deaf Ministry - A Closer Look ~ Gyesan Deaf Church in South Korea



Gyesan Deaf Church (GDC) is located in Incheon, South Korea. What started as a Deaf ministry in 1993, its minister, Pastor Park had the vision and began its own congregation in 2002. Located at the Gyesan Methodist Church, GDC has two worship services on Sundays - at 11am and at 2pm. Mrs. Park, the pastor's wife, and a sign language interpreter, provides voice interpretation for the hearing family members and visitors. There are family programs and children's programs, such as "Sandy Play Therapy." It's location is Gyesan Methodist Church, 282 Anaji-Ro, Gyesan Gu, Incheon, S. Korea. Pastor Park's email is 7302lmk@hanmail.net.



Recent Church Picnic