



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

August 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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SPECIAL EDITION

The **4th Global Methodist
Missions Conference of the**

Deaf has finally arrived.
Conference planners and
others are very excited to
be hosting the global
conference, which is being
held August 1-4, 2017 in

Waxahachie, TX.

Presentations, performances,
and guest speakers are
planned, as well as a good
time!



Attendees are coming from:
Ghana **Korea**
Brazil **Kenya**
United States **Sri Lanka**
Myanmar

Deaf Ministry – Best Practices

This quarter's Deaf ministry *best practice* is **holy conferencing**.

For Methodists, Holy conferencing has been around ever since John Wesley and his brother Charles Wesley began Methodist Societies in England. As one church leader puts it, it is



“Holy or Christian conferencing is a practice John Wesley included, along with prayer, Scripture reading, fasting and the Lord's Supper, as a way of experiencing God's grace. The roots are biblical. Leaders assert that every Christian should practice it, within and beyond the walls of the church.”

Coming together as Christians for a global conference is a great example of holy conferencing!

Certified Lay Servants

Carol Stevens, a long-time sign language interpreter and deaconess serving in Deaf ministry, is teaching a Certified Lay Servant training at the global conference. A 10-hour course, lay servants will learn about the history of The United Methodist Church, ways to be a minister and study theology.



Interpreted Ministry - Best Practices

This quarter's *best practice* for the interpreted ministry is **having patience**. As the global conference meets in Texas, there will be various sign languages from around the world. The need for patience in order for sign language interpreters to interpret in their language is crucial. At the same time, patience will provide for a more pleasurable experience.



The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines patience as *1. the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset:*

While waiting for delayed responses to be completed, interpreters can observe people in the room. They can analyze the interpreted message. They can look to their co-interpreter for feedback. Or, they can simply take a moment and commune with God.

At this global conference, there will be trilingual interpreters on-site: English, native spoken language, and native sign language.

ASL Sign Glossary

Interested learning some Methodist-related signs? Check out the ASL Sign Glossary by the United Methodist Communications and Global Ministries.

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/glossary-american-sign-language-videos>



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

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

Be sure to check out the congregational resources through the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Committee on Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries. Available resources are:

- * **Brief Guide to Beginning a Deaf Ministry**
- * **Brief Guide: Ministry with Hard of Hearing & Late-Deafened People**
- * **Brief Guide to Hospitality for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Visitors**
- * **Brief Guide to Sign Language Interpreting**
- * **Online Sign Language Classes & Dictionaries**

Check out these and more at www.umdeaf.org/resource/cong.html.

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.