



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

October 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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Review of 2017

Periodic reviews your Deaf ministry is necessary. Toward the end of the year or at the beginning of the next year is always a good time to do this. Some goals the committee has accomplished this year include:

- * Supported the Deaf Certified Lay Servant training.
- * Supported the Global Deaf Methodist Missions Conference.
- * Developed new resources.



- * Education at Wesley Theological Seminary.
- * Disseminated grants.
- * Raising awareness.

Deaf Ministry – Best Practices

This quarter's Deaf ministry *best practice* is **working through and removing audism**. Audism is "the notion that one is superior based on one's ability to hear or to behave in the manner of one who hears."* Audism can disempower and oppress Deaf and hard of hearing people. There's nothing faster that can ruin a Deaf ministry than to disempower or oppress Deaf and hard of hearing people (audism). One aspect of audism is attitude. Another is not intentionally empowering Deaf and hard of hearing people in leadership roles. Still, another is not providing communication access. When the thought, "he/she can't...", it might just be a sign of audism. Audism even happens among Deaf people, based on their secondary culture who internalized societal biases.



* Reference: <http://libguides.gallaudet.edu/content.php?pid=114455&sid=989379> Page 1 of 4

Consulting and Trainings

Part of the work of the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries is to provide consulting and trainings. If your church is considering taking your ministry to the next level, reach out to Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at leoyjr@gmail.com. He or one of the committee members can assist your church or ministry.



TRAININGS INCLUDE:

- * Promoting Your Deaf Ministry
- * Overview of Ministry Models
- * How to Begin a Deaf Ministry
- * Best Practices & Strategies
- * Congregational Resources
- * Sign Language Interpreting

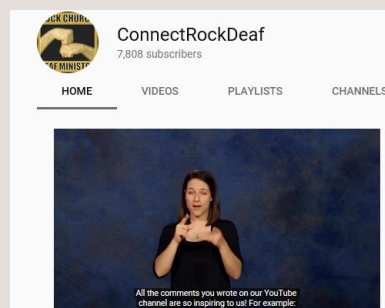
Interpreted Ministry - Best Practices

This quarter's *best practice* for the interpreted ministry is **signing music**. What is considered performing arts interpreting, signing music is a craft that is recommended for interpreters to develop. Some interpreters specialize in this, as well, as known for their ability for doing this.

Interpreting in a church setting, it's just about impossible to escape this type of work. There tends to be four camps:

(1) those proficient or skilled at it, (2) those who are efficient or "get by," (3) those who cannot do it (or avoid it), and (4) those who have no experience, but want to learn. Analyzing the stanzas in the hymn or the words on the music sheet is needed, but understanding the theme(s) of the song is crucial. Any performing arts interpreter will tell you is rehearsing and preparing is key! A few strategies to consider:

1. On Youtube, view the Connect Rock Deaf channel for ideas.
2. Read the book: *Visual Interpreting: Interpreting Songs in American Sign Language*.
3. Identify a role model and study his or her craft, such as Raymont Anderson or Mark Mitchum. (Google their name and add "ASL.")
4. Encourage Deaf people to sign the music and learn from them.
5. The book, *Interpreting at Church* (4th Ed.) has a section on signing music.
6. The book, *Hymns for Signing: American Sign Language* can be helpful for sign choices.



Youtube: Connect Rock Deaf

ASL Sign Glossary

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>

www.umcdhm.org



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.



DEAFBLIND INTERPRETING TIPS

By David Jessop

When working with Deafblind people, it's important to take a few minutes to meet with them before working with them, especially if they communicate by tactile. Becoming familiar, recognizing idiosyncrasies, and asking what their communication needs are included in the introduction. This helps the overall communication process for both the Deafblind person, the Deaf/hearing speaker, and the interpreter.



CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

The United Methodist Committee on Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries have congregational resources, such as:

- * **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.

A CLOSER LOOK: Brief Guide to Beginning a Deaf Ministry.

This guide discusses the following:

- * Importance of prayer.
- * Having a ministry team and ideas for who should be on it.
- * Mission and leadership support.
- * A variety of Deaf events to consider having.
- * The emphasis of teaching sign language.
- * And includes some helpful resources.



DEAF MINISTRY: AN INSIDE LOOK

First United Methodist Church of Reynoldsville, PA began its Deaf ministry in 2016. With prayer and commitment by church leadership, it began offering a weekly interpreted ministry, sign language classes, community support, and most recently, a Deaf ministry training. Their Sunday worship service is at 10:30am. To learn more about the ministry or the church, check out the church's website at <http://fumcreynoldsville.org>.



First United Methodist Church

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR SISTER COMMITTEE



DisAbility Ministries Committee
of the United Methodist Church

www.umdisabilityministries.org

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.

CHECK THIS OUT

Be sure to check out the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf. Their website is www.umcd.org.



The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf celebrates and promotes Christian leadership and discipleship within the Deaf community.