

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



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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ELM Conference

Episcopal – Lutheran – Methodist

July 21-24, 2016



The ELM conference will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota from July 21-24, 2016. The first ELM conference was held in 2014 in Chicago. The three denominations represented at this conference are excited at the opportunity to come together. This will be the second conference where Deaf ministry members are represented from all three denominations at a conference such as this. For more information about the conference, you can go www.eldadeaf.org/events.html. Or contact Rev. Tom Hudspeth at thudspeth@lumc.org. Hope to see you there!



Deaf Ministry – Best Practices

Supporting communications is this quarter's Deaf Ministry best practice. Since d/Deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, and Deaf-blind individuals come from various backgrounds, often they have different language systems (i.e. ASL or Lip-reading). Supporting various communication styles and communication needs are crucial, such as including captioning during worship.

Check out our website at www.umcdhm.org
Join us on Facebook

Upcoming UM-DHM Meeting

The United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (UM-DHM) will be having an annual meeting from July 18-20, 2016 in St. Paul, Minnesota. This will be two days before the ELM conference. The meeting will include reviewing its work from the past year, approving the 2017 budget, and a "train the trainer" session for committee members to be consultants in their church, district, and/or annual conference.

SPEAKING
OUT:



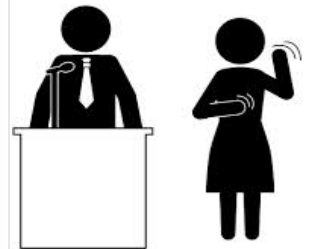
GIFTS OF MINISTERING
UNDETERRED BY DISABILITIES
EDITED BY
ROBERT L. WALKER

Disability Awareness Book

The writers who contributed to the *Speaking Out: Gifts of Ministering Undeterred by Disabilities* (2012) book are clergy and ministers with disabilities who have faced challenges in their denomination. Having over twenty contributions, *Speaking Out* is an inspiring book that supports disability awareness in all levels of the church. A few of the contributing writers either have hearing loss and/or are involved in Deaf ministry. The book can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Interpreted Ministry - Best Practices

This quarter's *best practice* for the interpreted ministry is **Billing (or not to bill)**. A long standing debate among professional interpreters working in religious settings is whether or not interpreters should be paid. There are compelling reasons why interpreters should be paid, especially if professional interpreting is their vocation. Often, one supporting argument is if the music director or the organist is paid, then the interpreter should be paid. The supporting argument for not paying an interpreter can include that he/she is sharing one's gift to the Lord by providing these services. While many interpreters are paid, there are still many who are not. By paying the interpreter, even if it is at a reduced fee, it helps to (1) keep the interpreter accountable, (2) make the interpreter feel appreciated, and (3) it shows value in the interpreter's work. A few reasons churches do not compensate interpreters are: (1) churches cannot afford interpreters, (2) churches do not value their contribution, and (3) some have a misperception (only seeing them as volunteers). The book, *Interpreting at Church* (by Leo Yates, Jr.), discusses reasons for and reasons against compensation. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has a document worth reading. It is located at <http://rid.org/about-interpreting/standard-practice-papers/>.



Grants Available

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.



DEAF MINISTRY CONSULTATION

Does your church need assistance with starting or enhancing your Deaf ministry? Have you run out of ideas for how to grow your Deaf ministry? Contact Rev. Dr. Tom Hudspeth, the consultant for the UM-DHM committee. This free consultation includes what resources are available, program planning, and what grants are available. Rev. Tom can be reached at thudspeth@lumc.org.



Deaf Ministry - A Closer Look

~ Manito United Methodist Church

Manito United Methodist Church is highlighted in this quarter's, *A Closer Look*. Manito UMC is located in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. The history of the church itself goes back over a hundred years. There are a few people with hearing loss who attend Manito. The church has an interpreted ministry and has a commitment to providing communication access to its d/Deaf and hearing members. For example, Manito UMC has d/Deaf people serving on church committees. Along with the Deaf ministry, Manito UMC has a strong commitment to disability ministries. In fact, Lynn Swedberg, the consultant for the Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church, attends Manito UMC. The church also provides an induction loop system for those with hearing aids or cochlear implants. Their website is www.manitoumc.org/.



Spokane, Washington

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



DisAbility Ministries Committee
of the United Methodist Church

www.umdisministries.org

News from ... **United Methodist Congress of the Deaf**

After a long vacancy, the presidency of the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf is now filled by Bryan Branson, of Spokane, Washington, effective April 1, 2016. A member of Manito United Methodist Church, and UMCD, Bryan was asked by Rev. Tom Hudspeth, president of UMCD on behalf of the executive officers of UMCD, to offer leadership for UMCD in the western area of the United States. Bryan has been active in advocating for Deaf ministry in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference and is chairperson of the Grants committee of the UM-DHM committee. Bryan is Deaf, and works as an insurance agent and is active in the local Deaf community. Bryan's term is for four years. Please offer your prayers for Bryan's leadership. Thank you Bryan!



News on... **General Conference 2016**

General Conference (GC) of The United Methodist Church meets every four years. It will be meeting May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. Delegates vote on resolutions and petitions, they worship, receive reports, and vote on a new budget. It is here that the denomination voted to support ministries with d/Deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, and Deaf-blind individuals and their families (& provided us with funding). Two representatives from our UM-DHM committee will be on-site for part of the conference. Look for more news from GC!