



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

July 2016

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.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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Check out our
website at
www.umcdhm.org

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Meet the First Deaf Certified Lay Minister



Karen Miller of Grace United Methodist Church in Dover, Delaware has become the first Deaf person to become a Certified Lay Minister (CLM). Miller was recommended by her district committee on ordained ministry to take the special classes. As a CLM, Miller will continue to work with those in the Deaf community, such as doing case management, advocacy, Bible studies, and so on. Congratulations Karen! We're proud of you.



Left to right: Carol Stevens,
Rev Anne Pruett-Barnett, and Karen Miller

Deaf Ministry – Best Practices

Offering periodic sign language classes is this quarter's Deaf Ministry *best practice*. One of the best gifts (certainly not the only gift) that the d/Deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened, and Deaf-blind individuals can offer hearing communities is sharing their language. Teaching sign language to hearing church members opens communications between hearing and d/Deaf people. Ideas to teach are common signs, the alphabet and some conversational phrases.

Approved 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.

You can see a map of where our previous grants and missions are at work on our website, at www.umcdhm.org/mission/map.html. You can see a PowerPoint report from a trip to Belize that received a DHM grant at www.umcdhm.org/download/belize2014.ppt. DHM grants also assisted attendees at Youth 2015 (a youth conference). You can view a PowerPoint report on the preparations at www.umcdhm.org/download/youth2015a.pptx, and a report of the event itself at www.umcdhm.org/download/youth2015b.pptx. These grants are doing some good work in the world, and we thank the members of the grants subcommittee for their work, and everyone who contributes to our Advance and, through GBGM, to our overall funding for their work.

For more information about grants, see <http://www.umcdhm.org/fund.html>. This page has information about how to contribute to future grants, how to apply for a grant, and reports from many older projects that DHM has helped to fund.

Interpreted Ministry - Best Practices

This quarter's *best practice* for the interpreted ministry is **mentoring new or novice interpreters**. The idea of mentoring goes back thousands of years and it is sometimes referred to as an apprenticeship. In a sense, Jesus mentored his disciples to continue the work after Jesus ascended into heaven. The benefits of mentoring novice interpreters can include the ability to master their language skills, by reducing their errors or omissions in their work, by improving their interpreting process, by building confidence in his or her work, and so on. Some interpreters keep the same mentor for years, while others will have a handful of mentors. Mentors can focus on specific skill sets or work on a range of skills. Do not forget that Deaf people make wonderful mentors. After all, they are often our consumers.



General Conference 2016



At General Conference in Portland, Oregon, our committee shared an exhibit table with the disability ministries committee. The delegates voted to continue our funding and work. Much of the feedback was positive about the live streaming with the interpreters. We are grateful to the planning committee of General Conference for recognizing the need to offer live stream

video with interpretation. Rev. Tom and Scott represented the committee, did some networking, and provided a deaf presence at the conference.

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 www.umdeaf.org/dvt/. Send us an e-mail (umdeaf@gmail.com) if you can help.



Deaf Ministry - A Closer Look

~ *Lovers Lane United Methodist Church*

The Deaf ministry has been at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church since January 2000. Located in Dallas, TX, the Deaf ministry has a separate deaf worship service from the other worship services; moreover, Lovers Lane offers sign language interpreters for the other worship services, offering Deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened and Deafblind worshippers a variety of worship choices. The deaf worship service is at 9:30am on Sunday mornings and the interpreted services are at 10:50am. Its Deaf ministry offers sign language classes, pastoral care, has a sign choir, do outreach ministry, as well as other community ministries.

Their address is 9200 Inwood Rd. Dallas, TX. For more information, visit their website at <http://llumc.org/get-involved/deaf-ministry/>.



Dallas, Texas

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

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

The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf has a collaboration with the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf and the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association, forming ELM (Episcopal, Lutheran and Methodist). There is a gathering in St. Paul, Minnesota from July 21-24, 2016. For more information, go to www.eldadeaf.org/ELDA__2016_Registration_Form-_Dec__18__1_.pdf.

Before the ELM conference, the officers of UMCD and other guests will be meeting from July 19-21 (the UM-DHM is meeting July 18-20). Contact Rev. Tom Hudspeth for more information about the UMCD business meeting. He can be contacted by email at thudspeth@lumc.org.

News on... **Missions**

Brazil – Rev. Tom Hudspeth and his mission team traveled to Brazil to present at an international conference and to build new relationships with Deaf and hard-of-hearing Methodists. They will be away from June 22-July 5, 2016.

Kenya and Zimbabwe – Carol Stevens and the Rev. Dr. Kirk VanGilder led a mission team to Kenya and Zimbabwe. They continue to strengthen the relationships there, while providing supplies and care to their hosts. They will be away June 16-July 9, 2016.