



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

October 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:

**Rev. Leo Yates, Jr.**  
Committee Consultant

**Rev. Dr. Tom Hudspeth**  
President

**Carol Stevens**  
Vice President

**Rev. Dan Bryant**  
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Global Ministries  
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**Sabrina Rodgers**  
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Central Jurisdiction

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South Central Jurisdiction

**Sandy Saunders**  
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**David Jessop**  
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**Michelle Menefee**  
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**Tim Vermande**  
Editor

**Lynn Swedberg**  
Disability Ministries  
Consultant

## Annual Meeting in Minnesota



The United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries met in July in Minnesota. The committee met from July 18-20, 2016. The committee reviewed its goals and objectives from the past 6 months; it received a grants report; it had a train-the-trainer session; it received the treasurer's report; it reviewed the budget; and said farewell to Patricia. The meeting helped to keep us on track in best serving churches and ministries.



Left to right: Evon Malray-Cain, Michelle Menefee, Carol Stevens, Bryan Branson, Lynn Swedberg, David Jessop, Roy White, Leo Yates, Jr., Billy Deters, LaSander Saunders, Tom Hudspeth, & Karen Miller

Continued on page 4

## Deaf Ministry – Best Practices

**Evaluating the Deaf ministry's effectiveness** is this quarter's Deaf Ministry *best practice*. It is necessary to periodically evaluate your ministry in order to improve services and to keep your ministry up-to-date with what shifts that may have occurred within your faith community and community-at-large (i.e. Deaf community). Helpful questions to ask include: 1. Who is benefiting from our ministry? 2. Is our ministry still effective? Why or why not? 3. How can we better meet the needs of the community we are serving?



For more evaluation tools, check out [www.cdc.gov/eval/framework/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/eval/framework/index.htm)

Check out our website at [www.umcdhm.org](http://www.umcdhm.org)

Join us on Facebook

# Applying for Grants

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](http://www.umcdhm.org/download/grant.doc).



## Interpreted Ministry - Best Practices

This quarter's *best practice* for the interpreted ministry is **team interpreting**. The idea of team interpreting has been around for decades. The general rule for using an interpreting team can vary somewhat by geographical area; however, when interpreting for 60 minutes or more and/or when the content or venue is more technical in nature, these are good reasons for using a team of interpreters. Sometimes the team may split up the worship service based on one's skill set or by interest; moreover, the interpreter who is not actually signing/interpreting is still working as he or she will monitor the other interpreter's work, provide feeds (i.e. a sign), and give general support (i.e. turning pages in the hymnal). Aspects of the working relationship will often include communication, trust, mutual respect, flexibility, and support. Another reason for team interpreting is because the interpreting process begins to break down after an hour of work. Also, it's good self-care to not over-tax one's self and best to follow professional standards.



## Advance Giving – On Tuesday, November 29th



On November 29, 2016, United Methodists will join hands to support the work of Advance projects and missionaries to transform lives on UMC #GivingTuesday. Every gift made online through The Advance at [www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/982562](http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/982562) on November 29 will be matched up to \$1 million. **Please donate to the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing**

**Ministries.** The Advance special number for this ministry is 982562. Global Ministries will allocate matching funds (up to \$1 million) to Advance projects received online on Tue, Nov 29, between 12:00a.m. and 11:59 p.m. CT. A maximum of \$2,500 per individual gift to a project will be dispersed as matching funds and a maximum of \$25,000 matching for each project.

# The ELM Conference – A Success!



The Episcopal Lutheran Methodist (ELM) Conference held in Minnesota from July 21-24, 2016 was a resounding success. There were many representatives from each caucus (group) to make this a successful conference. Each caucus met prior to to the ELM conference, utilizing their time together. The conference, which

was held at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN, concluded with a banquet. The next ELM conference will be in 2018.

## 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/](http://www.umdeaf.org/dvt/). Send us an e-mail ([umdeaf@gmail.com](mailto:umdeaf@gmail.com)) if you can help.



## Deaf Ministry - A Closer Look ~ First United Methodist Church



The Deaf ministry at First United Methodist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana is this quarter's, *A Closer Look*. The Deaf ministry includes an interpreted ministry, social and fellowship events, periodic sign language classes, and missional work within the community and abroad. "Our pastor is supportive of our Deaf ministry and encourages us regularly," says Mrs. Malray-Cain, one of the sign language interpreters serving at First United Methodist Church. Interpreting services are provided at the 11am worship and the televised service also has close captioning. To learn more about their Deaf ministry, visit their webpage at <http://firstshreveport.org/deaf-community/>.



Shreveport, LA

To have your church or ministry highlighted in a future newsletter, please contact Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at [leoyjr@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.umcdhm.org/resource/3001.html).



## Be Sure to Check Out our Sister Committee



DisAbility Ministries Committee  
of the United Methodist Church

[www.umdisabilityministries.org](http://www.umdisabilityministries.org)

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

The former president, the Rev. Dr. Tom Hudspeth has stepped down as the president of UMCD so he can fill the role as the president of the UM-DHM committee. The new president is the Rev. Dr. Kirk VanGilder. At the recent UMCD meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota in July, an election was held to fill the vice president position. The new vice president is LaSander Saunders from Baltimore, Maryland. Along with these changes, the business meeting helped to provide UMCD with some future direction, which included more networking and promotion, along with development and fundraising for the Deaf organization. To learn more about UMCD, check out their website at [www.umcd.org](http://www.umcd.org).

## **Continued...Annual Meeting in Minnesota**

Also discussed at the meeting was the \$87,000 received from Global Ministries to support the committee's work in promoting Deaf ministries across the denomination. Funding goes towards grants, scholarships, promoting Deaf leadership, networking, promoting Deaf ministries, and consultant salaries.

## *News on* ... **Deaf Ministries**

**Brazil** – Rev. Tom Hudspeth and his mission team traveled to Brazil from June 22-July 5. This was the first Deaf mission trip to this country. New relationships were made and the trip provided ideas for potential future mission trips.

**4th Global Methodist Missions Conference of the Deaf** – This conference will be held in Texas from August 1-4, 2017. More information will be coming soon.