



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

April 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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## Upcoming 4th Global Methodist Conference of the Deaf



The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf is planning the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Methodist Conference of the Deaf for August 1-4, 2017. International guests from S. Korea, Japan, Brazil, Africa, and beyond are expected. It will be held in Texas. To register, go to <http://llumc.org/4gmd>.

**Cost per person:**  
Until April 30: \$325  
May 1 - June 15: \$350  
June 16 - July 14: \$375



**We'd love to have you join us!**

## Deaf Ministry – Best Practices

This quarter's Deaf ministry best practice is including **outreach ministry** to those who are unable to come to church. Some Deaf and hard of hearing individuals



are unable to come church due to financial reasons (not having a tithe or offering), are ill, for transportation reasons, are shut-ins (i.e. at a nursing home), and other reasons. Rev. John Wesley said "the world is my parish" and we should reach out to them, offer Communion, share congregational news, and offer prayers. Most Deaf and hard of hearing people enjoy visits from other Deaf people, so bring some with you. This also restores hope and shares God's love. Page 1 of 4

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

Join us on Facebook

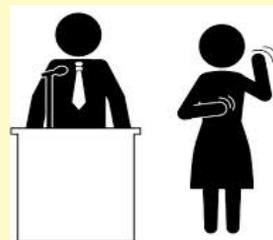
# Applying for Grants

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 **working well with other worship leaders**. Often, interpreters work alone in the church setting. However, sign language interpreters are part of a bigger picture called the worship team. What is often helpful to the interpreter is staying informed of last minute changes, receiving preparation materials, and having general support (i.e. a music stand). Sometimes, interpreters have to make the extra effort to be a part of the worship team. The challenge might be because others may not be fully aware of our interpreting role, what it entails, the preparation that is required, and what the skill set that is needed to perform adequately for Deaf and hearing individuals.



It is too easy to be ego-driven in our role, feeling like we are the center of attention because: (1) we are often stationed at the front of the sanctuary, (2) because others come up and compliment us on our work, and (3) feeling irreplaceable when we work alone. Pride in our work does have a positive effect since it promotes self-confidence; the flip side to this notion is that when the interpreter has too much pride it can be a causal factor for interpersonal conflicts between the practitioner and his or her consumers, interpreting team, and/or worship leaders. Psychologically, a certain amount of ego is healthy, and balancing it with humility takes discipline. Good advice: Work well with others and it is always better to take the road of humility.

# From the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf

## Save the Date!

**The Global Methodist Missions Conference** will start Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 3:00 p.m. and runs through Friday, Aug. 4, at 12:00 p.m. Post Conference Activities and tours are available.



## Don't Forget to Pay Your UMCD Dues

UMCD asks, have you paid your dues for the new year? UMCD is a grassroots organization that can't do anything without your support! We rely on dues support for everything from the website at [www.umcd.org](http://www.umcd.org) to our meetings and workshops! Being a dues paying member means you can vote on officers and remain fully connected with a group of people like yourselves involved in Deaf ministries in The United Methodist Church. Supporting members can be deaf or hearing. Here is the membership page to download your membership application. <http://umcd.org/member.html>.

## Join Jurisdictional Activities

Most of the UMCD jurisdictional have annual activities. We encourage everyone to be involved in these so you can stay connected and support each other's ministries. Be sure to find your jurisdiction by going to our website at [www.umcd.org](http://www.umcd.org).

## Deaf Ministry - A Closer Look

### ~ Wesley Methodist Church in Singapore



The Deaf ministry at Wesley Methodist Church in Singapore is an active ministry. The formal name of it is Ministry of the Hearing Impaired (MHI). The various church activities offered include: Bible study, prayer ministry, mentoring, counseling, and sign language classes.

Also, MHI does outreach mission trips to Cambodia since 2012. The mission team is always welcoming new missionaries. The church is located at The Wesley Centre 7 Armenian Street, Bible House #B2-01 Singapore 179932



Check out their website at [www.wesleymc.org/wesley/ministry-of-hearing-impaired-mhi/cosc/ministry-of-hearing-impaired-mhi/page-3](http://www.wesleymc.org/wesley/ministry-of-hearing-impaired-mhi/cosc/ministry-of-hearing-impaired-mhi/page-3)

Contact Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at [leoyjr@gmail.com](mailto:leoyjr@gmail.com) to have your ministry promoted. 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



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

## NEW CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE GUIDES

The United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries offers new congregational resource guides on the committee's website.

Some of the congregational resource guides are

- \* A Brief Guide to Free Online Sign Language Classes
- \* A Brief Guide to Sign Language Interpreting
- \* A Brief Guide to Hospitality for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Visitors
- \* A Brief Guide to Beginning a Deaf Ministry
- \* A Brief Guide to Deafblind Interpreting
- \* A Brief Guide to Assisted Listening Devices or Systems

## UMC ASL Videos

In 2015, a team of translators helped to translate a glossary of United Methodist terms into American Sign Language. The videos were a welcome addition to the United Methodist Church website, as this was the first of its kind that offered resources to Deaf and hard of hearing people, sign language interpreters, and those learning sign language. Be sure to check it out at [www.umc.org/what-we-believe/glossary-american-sign-language-videos](http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/glossary-american-sign-language-videos)

