



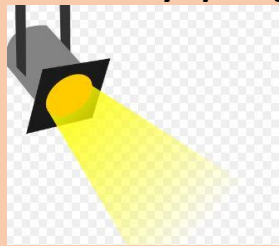
United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries

[Image Description: United Methodist Committee on Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries and its logo]

Monthly E-News October 2019

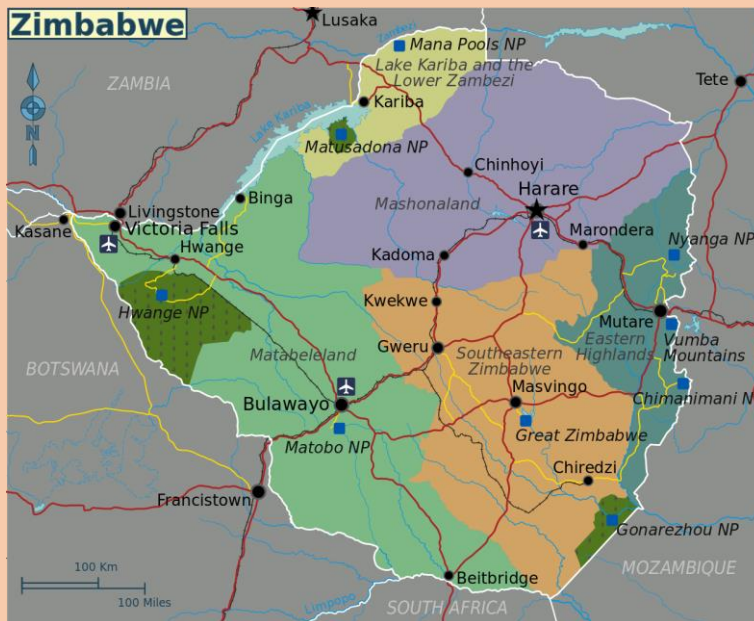
This e-news is provided by the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries. It is intended to share Deaf ministry updates, announcements, reminders, best practices, and resources.

Deaf Ministry *Spotlight*



[Image Description: a spotlight shining yellow light.]

This month's *ministry spotlight* are The United Methodist Deaf ministries in Zimbabwe. There are multiple Deaf ministries, called sign language ministries, located in Mutare, Zimbabwe with Hilltop United Methodist Church being the most vibrant with an average of thirty persons in worship. The Chitungwiza Marondera District has offered Deaf awareness trainings and sign language instruction to support the overall Deaf ministries. Another aspect of their vital ministry is their current project of creating accessible videos and resources that are specific for Deaf and hard of hearing people in that region. Individuals or churches interested in participating in a Deaf mission trip to Zimbabwe and/or learn how to support it can contact Carol Stevens at carolstevens100@hotmail.com. To read further about the Deaf ministries in Zimbabwe, check out [this recent article](#).



[Image Description: An image of the country of Zimbabwe.]

* Highlight your Deaf ministry with us by emailing Rev. Yates at leoyjr@gmail.com.

Deaf Ministry Best Practice

This edition's Deaf ministry *best practice* is ***being the Deaf ministry expert for your wider community***. Every town or community needs a "go to person" for learning about or engaging in Deaf ministry and its activities. Expertise that might be shared with others can include:

- How to recruit or arrange for interpreters at events or other church services.
- Promoting a Deaf ministry.
- Scheduling American Sign Language classes or related events.
- Starting or implementing a Deaf ministry
- General guidance about Deaf ministry or available resources.
- What's involved in establishing a Deaf ministry committee or exploratory committee.

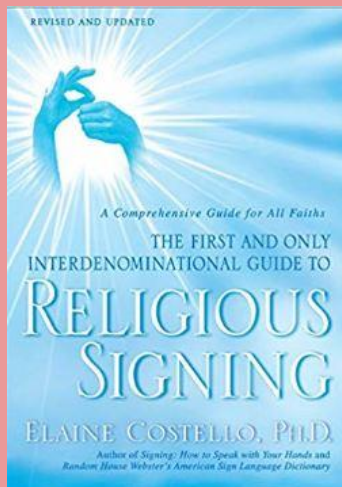
The Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee offers [congregational resources](#) to support this. Also, there are a number of [books and media](#) about Deaf ministry on the website.



[Image Description: The words in red and white "Best Practice" is in a circle with stars on the outside of the words.]

Deaf Ministry Resource

A sign language resource is this month's recommendation. [Religious Signing: A Comprehensive Guide for All Faiths](#) is what the title describes. This is generally the first book on the shelf for those learning religious or faith-based signs. Sign language interpreters beginning to work in church settings will benefit from this resource. Pastors, church leaders, and liturgists are able to learn faith-based signs to use during worship or other settings. *Religious Signing* is available at Amazon.com and other book stores.



[Image Description: The book's cover which is light blue with the sign "spirit" in front of a shining light with the book's title. The author's name Elaine Costello, PhD.]

Deaf Ministry Support for Churches

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee (of Global Ministries) is available to provide support and consultation for churches considering starting a Deaf ministry. Consultation can include how to implement a Deaf ministry, how to promote it, how to have a Deaf-friendly worship service, what resources are available, accessibility ideas, available grants

and other funding sources, and among other needs. Contact the Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at leoyjr@gmail.com for your consultation.



[Image Description: An image of a red pencil with the written word "support."]

Accessibility Ideas



[Image Description: 10 disability symbols, such as low vision, captioning, large print, and audio description.]

This *edition's accessibility idea* for Deaf and hard of hearing people **is the use of fire alarms with flashing lights**. Like all places of business, churches are to have fire alarms throughout the building to warn parishioners in the event of a fire. Fire alarms with a strobe light is a common alarm to install. By having a strobe light with the sounding alarm, this too will alert both Deaf and hard of hearing persons along with hearing persons. Fire alarms with strobe lights are readily available at many retail stores including Home Depot, Walmart, and Lowes. Installing these fire alarms ensures everyone's safety.



[Image Description: A PowerPoint slide indicating where the captioning feature is located.]

Be a Star!

We'd like to make you a star! We're looking for videos of any aspect of Deaf or hard of hearing ministry. Do you sign the scripture readings in church? Would you like to share a short devotion? Is there a Deaf or hard of hearing 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.

Stay in Touch

Help our mission! There are two ways we can get out United Methodist Congress of the Deaf and our Committee pages in front of more people on Facebook. We can pay for ads, or you can join the page yourself, and then click "like" and even "share" posts on your own timeline. When Facebook notices that a lot of people "like" and "share" posts, they will show it to more people. So at no cost to you, you can support our outreach by doing this!

We keep a list of upcoming events at <http://www.umdisability.org/event.html>. You can submit information about an upcoming event to umdeaf@gmail.com.

Are you following our Facebook pages? We post a variety of pieces: of course we have stories from churches about Deaf and HOH ministry, but also stories about Deaf and HOH people, notices about scholarships, news about products, tips and general advice about hearing aids, safety, and similar items. Check them out at our [Facebook page](#).



[Image Description: A flyer of the NEJ Deaf Ministries Conference scheduled Aug 7-8, 2020 at Grace UMC in Philadelphia, PA.]

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[United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities](#)
[United Methodist Congress of the Deaf](#)
[Mental Health Ministries](#)

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 General Board of Global Ministries
 Attn: Sabrina Rodgers
 458 Ponce De Leone Ave NE
 Atlanta, GA 30308



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100% of each gift to The Advance reaches its intended mission or ministry.

[Image Description: Red and white rectangle image with the words "Make a Gift Online; 100% of each gift to The Advance reaches its intended mission or ministry" with a link to make a donation.]