



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 November 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.

Considering Deaf Missions



[Image Description: a globe with a reference of Matthew 28:19-20.]

Deaf missions has been around before there were Deaf ministries. What well-intentioned hearing ministers and laity (being well-intentioned is dependent on who you ask) did was share the gospel or provide some church-related service, such as Deaf education, to Deaf and hard of hearing people.

It's well publicized that many pastors and priests provided worship and/or Christian education at residential schools for the Deaf. For most pastors and/or priests, the Deaf schools were a part of their mission fields. However, many missionaries and groups traveled abroad to share the gospel and/or provide some sort of servant ministry. In fact, some denominations are more successful at establishing long-term relationships with churches and/or organizations that support Deaf and hard of hearing persons in other countries. Having relationships deepen our call to discipleship rather than simply providing handouts, though this can be helpful to some of the recipients. Today's Deaf mission trips can provide: encouragement, items/good, training, education, (Deaf) cultural sensitization, among other objectives. There are various small groups from

The United Methodist Church that travel abroad, like to Cuba, Jamaica, Kenya, Haiti, and Zimbabwe. Joining an already established Deaf mission venture is simpler, but reaching out to new locations is possible too. Contacting a Deaf school or a school that has a Deaf class is one way to go about it. Sending a scouting mission (two or three people) first makes the most sense in order to better plan a group of people for the bigger trip. A country that has a United Methodist presence is not only helpful, but safer too (e.g. sending support funds to the annual conference rather than directly to people you've met). Even inviting someone to be a guest speaker to consult or provide insight is helpful, even if it's done remotely (via ZOOM) or by conference call.

Consider participating in Deaf mission trips. If you're unable to go, then supporting trips with funding, goods, and prayers is just as important. If members of your congregation are considering this, certainly pray about it. [Email](#) the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee for contacts and ideas.

Deaf Ministry Best Practice

This edition's Deaf ministry *best practice* is **having fellowship**. More specifically, some fellowship ideas are being shared to consider for your own Deaf ministry. Fellowship is essential to discipleship and building relationships. Like with other church programming, someone, such as a Deaf ministry coordinator or a respected volunteer, should help to plan the get-together. An easy to use event planner (to RSVP) is [Sign Up Genius](#). Some ideas include:

- A monthly potluck (or covered dish if you live in the south)
- Meeting at a restaurant or diner in the community once a month
- Gathering for coffee or tea at a coffee house one or more times a month
- A Bible study or group study that includes fellowship
- Have parishioners meet before or after a Deaf event (church OR non-church related events), like meeting for lunch after worship or for dinner before Bible study
- Outings to museums, festivals, and venues that offer tours
- Missional reasons (e.g. Drink coffee, chat, say a prayer, and sign cards or notes for Deaf and hard of hearing prisoners in your state prison. Contact the [chaplain in the state prison](#). Learn [some do's and don'ts](#) for sending letters.)

For Deaf ministries with a small budget and who wish to spruce up their gatherings, they can consider checking out [Not Just Bingo](#) for event ideas (e.g. National Bavarian Cream Pie Day is in November) and [S & S Worldwide](#) for different themes (and materials). Promoting the fellowship is certainly important. Listing it on a church bulletin board, on the church website, in the worship bulletin, or via email announcements are some common ways to promote it. Sharing the event reminder via

social media helps too. Posting pictures on social media shows a wider audience what they're missing.



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

Deaf Ministry Announcements

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For national, jurisdictional, or annual conference-related Deaf ministry events, go to the [United Methodist Congress of the Deaf](#) (a national caucus) website. List your Deaf ministry events there too!

Blog Subscriptions

The UM Disability Blog is a shared resource of the DHM, UMCD, DMC (Disability Ministries Committee) and AMD (Association of Ministers with Disabilities). We are open to submissions from our members and friends that are relevant to our mission goals. The blog can be followed by RSS or email subscription, and the posts are shared to one of the Facebook groups. Blog posts that are related to Deaf/HOH concerns are also listed on the DHM website Newsletter page (<https://www.umdeaf.org/news/>). This month, we've had several posts, so take a look and share!

Follow Us on Facebook

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 <https://www.facebook.com/United-Methodist-Committee-for-Deaf-and-Hard-of-Hearing-Ministries-DHM-152198489326/>

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. To consider a grant or read about recent grant recipients, checkout the [committee's webpage](#). 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 Deafblind persons is **providing transportation to church-related services and events**. For some Deafblind persons who have regular and reliable transportation services this may not be needed; however, there may be other Deafblind persons who lack transportation in order to participate more fully in the life of the church. One church in Florida has a coordinator (a church member) who helps to make arrangements for the Deafblind members by working out transportation. The church has a list of reliable volunteers who are willing to bring the Deafblind persons to church-related events. Sometimes, it's a matter of matching communication styles, but personalities too. Help your church to be more welcoming by bringing a Deafblind person.



[Image Description: A picture of a car with the words "Rides to Church."]

Giving Tuesday

This is a worthwhile day for making financial contributions/donations from individuals, families, ministries, and churches. By donating on Tues, December 3rd, you help support the work of our Deaf Ministries committee. You see, our committee is an Advance project of The United Methodist Church and donations/contributions made by you help us to continue:

- (1) promoting Deaf ministries
- (2) to provide grants and scholarships
- (3) to develop new programs for further outreach and empowerment
- (4) to provide education and advocacy
- (5) to encourage the inclusion and accessibility for Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and Deafblind individuals and their families.

Here is the [link to donate to our Advance project](#) for online giving. Our project # is 982562. The link provided takes you to our committee's Advance project giving page. Any financial donation is welcome & needed.

For those who do not feel comfortable donating online, you can make a donation by phone by calling **800-862-4246**. Our Advance project number is 982562.

Thankfully, financial donations are tax deductible. We do hope you will consider giving on December 3rd. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have by contacting Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at leoyjr@gmail.com. Our committee thanks you in advance for your faithfulness in helping our committee in such an important way.



[Image Description “#GIV (shaped like a heart) ING TUESDAY.”]

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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Check out our sister committees and organizations:
[DisAbility Ministries Committee](#)
[United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities](#)
[United Methodist Congress of the Deaf](#)
[Mental Health Ministries](#)

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Make A Gift Online
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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.]