



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 January 2020

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 IDEAS FOR 2020



[Image Description: Different colored balloons with a blue sky backgrounds.]

In the beginning of the New Year, some churches look back at their ministry programs and services from the year before. There are considerations of “what worked well?” and “what can we do different?” that are often discussed. It’s no different when looking at a church’s Deaf ministry. In fact, periodic evaluation of any church ministry is important to see if the ministry is still vital. New ideas usually spring out from these.

Some ideas to consider for your Deaf ministry in 2020 include:

- * Teaching Deaf & hard of hearing people to be liturgists, preacher’s ushers, &/or greeters
- * Deepen the discipleship (e.g. invite a guest speaker or host a Deaf Bible study)
- * Host a Deaf Awareness Sunday or a Deaf Ministry Sunday
- * Have servant ministry become an extension of your Deaf ministry, such as the group serving at a soup kitchen or visiting a nursing home (some residents have hearing loss)
- * Promote your ministry in different places and in different ways
- * Write Deaf awareness/ministry articles for your church’s newsletter (be more visible)
- * New outreach efforts to late-deafened persons
- * Apply for a [Deaf ministry grant](#) (grant applications are being accepted this month)

For more ideas, check out the book, [Deaf Ministry, 3rd Ed.](#) Make 2020 your best year yet.

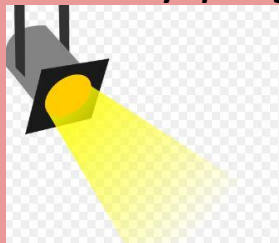
Deaf Ministry Best Practice

This edition's Deaf ministry *best practice* is ***evaluating the ministry's hospitality***. Any successful ministry will tell you that hospitality is the cornerstone of a successful program (an important part). Evaluating your Deaf ministry's hospitality is important to keep the ministry fresh and welcoming. Some ministries or churches do this annually, others more frequently. It's ALWAYS a good time to evaluate your hospitality. Some things to look for: parking, friendliness, accessibility (e.g. captioning is used), welcoming (people speaking/signing to visitors), interpreters are easy to see, easy to understand literature/bulletin, and so on. There are a number of hospitality surveys to use, including one in the [Deaf Ministry, 3rd Ed.](#) Here's a generic [online form](#).



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

Deaf Ministry Spotlight



[Image Description: a spotlight shining yellow light.]

This month's *ministry spotlight* is *Boston Avenue United Methodist Church* in Boston, MA. It has an interpreting ministry along with a commitment to accessibility for persons with disabilities. This is helpful for Deaf+ persons (Deaf people with disabilities). It offers a number of accommodations besides the sign language interpreter, such as the use of closed captioning, large print materials, and the like. To read more about Boston Avenue UMC's ministry, check out [their website](#).



Available Grants

This month (January), the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee is accepting grant applications that support churches or ministries to implement or expand their Deaf ministry. Applications can be [found here](#) and must be submitted no later than January 31, 2020. *Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded.* Funding is limited and grants should have some aspect of community impact. Contact Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at leoyjr@gmail.com for questions or for ministry ideas.



[Image Description: A posted outdoor sign with the word "Grants" along with the blue sky in the background.]

Deaf Ministry Support for Churches

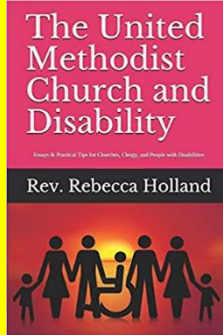
The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee (of Global Ministries) is available to provide support and consultation for churches considering starting a Deaf ministry. Consultation can include how to implement a Deaf ministry, how to promote it, how to have a Deaf-friendly worship service, what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

New Resource

A new resource that is available is *The United Methodist Church and Disability: Essays and Practical Tips for Churches, Clergy, and People with Disabilities* by Rev. Rebecca Holland. The book is available on [Amazon](#). It'll be a good addition to any church library.



[Image Description: An image of the book's cover, the title "The United Methodist Church and Disability with disability symbols.]

Accessibility Ideas



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

This *edition's* *accessibility idea* for your Deaf ministry and extended community is **accessibility for your potluck/covered dish gatherings**. Some people have food allergies, while other people have difficulty navigating steps to get to a certain room. For many Deaf ministries (and hearing ministries), gathering for a potluck or covered dish is a way to meet new people and have fellowship. It's often where relationship building happens. Be sure to consider accessibility concerns, such as posting "this food item may have nuts" or "Gluten Free." If your gatherings occur in nearby restaurants, then be sure they're accessible by public transportation, are wheelchair accessible (and has accessible parking), and/or have adequate lighting (for Deafblind persons). Help your Deaf ministry potluck/covered dish be better accessible.



[Image Description: A picture of an orange pot with the word "potluck."]

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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umdeaf@gmail.com Mailing address:
General Board of Global Ministries
Attn: Sabrina Rodgers
458 Ponce De Leone Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30308



[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.]