



United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries

E-News August 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.

Greetings in Christ!

In this edition of the UM-DHM Newsletter, we highlight ways of connecting with the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community during this COVID-19 pandemic. We have stories of churches connecting with Deaf people as never before through ZOOM, livestream and social media. We will share tips on how to connect through livestream. We also celebrate new connections in Deaf ministry and celebrate a 20th anniversary of Deaf and hard of hearing ministry in the United Methodist Church. I thank Rev. Leo Yates, Jr., who served as our consultant for three and a half years, and who faithfully produced this newsletter for our United Methodist churches and for our Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind and late-deafened audiences. With this, my first newsletter as Leo's successor, I hope to continue the fine work that Leo gave in educating and resourcing our UM connection in connecting with God's beloved community among Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind and late-deafened people. If you have a ministry or mission story you would like to share with us contact me at thudspeth@lumc.org

—Rev. Tom Hudspeth



Deaf Ministry Best Practice



Are You Livestreaming Your Services and keeping it a secret? Post Your Church Services on Deaf Bible Society's map. Expand your reach and put your Deaf livestream or interpreted livestream [worship on the map](#). To add your church's livestream service times, send an email to dcw@deafbiblesociety.com.

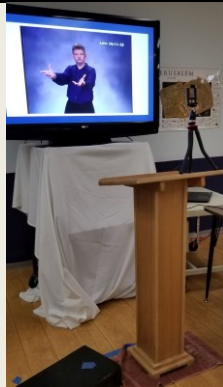
The DHM website also lists [United Methodist online services](#), whether YouTube, livestream, or other platforms. To add your church to this list, send an e-mail to umdeaf@gmail.com.

Deaf Ministry *Spotlight*



A Deaf Ministry launches a livestream worship service:
Lovers Lane UMC, Dallas, Texas

Responding to COVID-19's closure of public worship at Lovers Lane UMC, the Deaf Ministry began to livestream its 9:30am worship service for the first time on March 22, 2020. Equipped with only a cellphone camera and an upright piano for an improvised tripod, a 28-minute livestream worship was streamed the Lovers Lane Deaf Ministry Facebook page.



Led by two Deaf Certified Lay Servants, a voice interpreter, and a PowerPoint operator, the Deaf Ministry was surprised to discover an audience reach of over 200 views. As the livestream team gained better equipment and experience with camera angles, lighting, and social media advertising, they saw the weekly audience reach grow to an average of 450 viewers. This service has engaged viewers from Sri Lanka, Australia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Greece, The Bahamas, and several states in the US as well as places in Texas from South Texas to North Texas. As the COVID 19 pandemic extended from March into May, and a discovery of an on-line audience, the Deaf Ministry was led to offer a Deaf Children's VBS livestream. A Deaf mom gave thanks for this VBS, as she enjoyed with her hearing son, bible stories that were voiced and signed in ASL. Meanwhile, a weekly Deaf prayer chat on ZOOM was begun on Wednesday nights, bringing in Deaf from New York, Oklahoma and North Texas.



Recently, a Deaf viewer from St. Andrew UMC in Titusville, Florida, introduced to Lovers Lane a viewer from Zambia who is a Deaf educator in Lusaka. After watching our livestream services (7 hours ahead of Dallas time), the Deaf teacher asked how he could become a pastor in the United Methodist Church. With the help of Rev. Tom Hudspeth, the teacher was introduced to the Lusaka District

Superintendent, Rev. Damian Mainsa, who is now in conversation on starting a Deaf church in Zambia.

In this livestream format, the Deaf worship has also been enhanced by contributions of videos of songs in ASL signed by Lovers Lane members confined at home, and from guests in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Facebook Streaming Help

For those of you using Facebook streaming for the first time, a few tips to help you get started. From Rev. Eric Folkerth, Kessler Park UMC, Dallas. [Note Rev. Folkerth is deaf in one ear].



If your church has a public Facebook page be sure and stream from there, and NOT your own personal page. This will allow the video stream to be publicly visible to everyone (posts from a FB page are public by default). This includes non-Facebook members and allows you to share a link that anyone can see in a future post by email or website, etc.

You can do a test live video from your personal page to check the video picture and audio quality. That way you can move the camera around and check audio levels. To do that, from your personal Facebook page, not church Facebook page:

- Navigate to the LIVE VIDEO button and click it.
- But! Before you click the START LIVE VIDEO button, navigate to the top LEFT corner to the place where it says To: Public or To: Friends
- Click on that button, and then scroll down to YOU ONLY
- Once set on YOU ONLY, then go back to Start Live Video. This will allow you to create a live video that only YOU can see on your page. While on live video, you can try out different angles and sound levels [for the voice interpreter] until you get it exactly right. You can move the camera all over, while the video is going, without the world watching in.
- You can save and post that video when you are done and it only posts to your personal home page. Then, you can delete it later.
- Again, you can only do this from your personal page because a page post in FB is public by default. But it can allow you to test audio/video, until you like what you have. You can then delete your test video.
- BUT! And this is important if you do this test...BE SURE AND TURN YOUR "TO: ONLY ME" BACK TO ITS PREVIOUS SETTINGS.
- If you do not return the setting to your church page, any other posts you make will post only to your personal page.

If you are streaming from a cell phone, and you are trying to film in landscape mode, it can be tricky but easy if you know what you are doing.

- First go to your cellphone settings and click Portrait and click it so that the Auto Rotate icon appears.
- Now go back to Facebook and click the Live Video button as before.
- THEN, physically move your phone from portrait (up and down) to landscape (side view). The auto rotate feature will change your view from portrait to landscape. Make sure your camera lens (back of cell phone) faces you! If you are seeing yourself on the cellphone screen your image will be reversed on the livestream and will look strange, especially if you are showing words on screen – it will be backwards!
- NOW, press the START LIVE VIDEO button.
- One of the annoying things about FB live is that if you do not do it this way, the video feed will freeze in the upright position, and all your viewers will see everything sideways. It is annoying to say the least.

Consider streaming from an iPhone or cell phone--those cameras tend to be much better quality than laptops.

For reaching a hearing audience: if you are using an iPhone, Shure makes a microphone that works with the iPhone and dramatically increases the audio quality. It's intended for podcast, etc., but it works with FB Live as well: the [MV-88](#). It has all sorts of great settings that allow you to bump up the ambient room sound quality, far superior to the iPhone itself.

Hope this helps--Facebook live streaming is not a great option but it's an incredibly EASY one, especially if you never streamed before.

**Remembering 20 years ago:
an interview with Bishop Peggy Johnson,
the first consultant of the
United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Ministries.**

At the 2000 General Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, delegates approved a resolution from the General Board of Global Ministries' Health and Welfare Unit to create a "national steering committee" to promote ministries with and for those who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and Deaf-Blind. Now titled the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries (UM-DHM), this work has equipped ministries around world. To mark the occasion of the 20th anniversary year of the UM-DHM, Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Delaware Conference responded to an interview with Rev. Tom Hudspeth.



1. In the years leading up to the 2000 General Conference why did the United Methodist Church need a steering committee or committee that focused on Deaf, late deafened, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind people? As still is true today and perhaps will be forevermore, people with communication challenges, because of disability are often overlooked, discriminated against, and unempowered. Sadly, this is truer in the church sometimes, where the dollars for access becomes an issue and money is valued over human inclusion and equality. UMCD (The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf) was a leader in putting this up for a General Conference vote. Holly Elliott and Laurel Glass were strong leaders, as were people from Oklahoma (Andy Hall, Betty Powell, Golden Shook). Holly was on the Council of Ministries of the denomination at the time and had a great impact as she served on that committee and she taught us that legislation was the only way to get the denomination to put real money into this effort.

2. How long was the committee's gestation process from idea to passage in 2000? When and how did this idea arise? How would you describe your role in that gestation? I believe it started in the middle 80's. At my first UMCD meeting in 1989 in Oklahoma it was still being discussed. There were 2 quadrennial studies. *(Tom's response: my role began after the 1992 General Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, when a national study committee was formed, chaired by Dan Kenyon. We met with Rev. Kathy Reeves of the Health and Welfare Unit of the General Board of Global Ministries and tried to collect information from the annual conferences on what they were doing with or for Deaf ministries. I recall that there was great frustration in receiving responses. One of the members of that study committee, Rev. Kirk VanGilder (now associate professor of History, Philosophy, Religion and Sociology at Gallaudet University), wrote the resolution to the 2000 General Conference that created the UM-DHM.*

3. What do you recall of the shepherding of the petition to resolution? Was passage of the resolution a foregone conclusion, or were there obstacles that threatened passage of the resolution? Funding was the challenge always. People pass anything that feels good but to get World Service Dollars from a General Agency took work. Money was flowing back then, and it was added to Health and Welfare's budget. Rev. Kathy Reeves was the staff person for the portfolios around disability at GBGM then. It was folded into their budget after much advocacy.

4. What were the early challenges of the committee? What were successes? What hopes are unfulfilled? (I can remember our efforts to reach out to the seminaries during the first quadrennium of our committee. What successes

or unfilled hopes did you see?) I was a kid in a candy shop with this job and took the denomination by storm using the Deaf choir from Christ Church of the Deaf UMC, Baltimore, MD as my cover. We got ourselves into many venues that the committee recommended: General Board of Discipleship in Nashville; Candler School of Theology and ITC (Gammon) Seminary in Atlanta; Perkins School of Theology in Dallas; and to the following Annual Conferences: Susquehanna; Northern Illinois; Florida; West Virginia; and New York. We got a whole three minutes to present at the General Board of Global Ministries, the mother of the petition. You, Tom went to the seminaries in Ohio (United and Methodist Theological School). We did workshops, choir concerts, and tried hard to include hard of hearing concerns and deaf-blind concerns as well. We also republished and updated "Signs of Solidarity" a book that Kathy Reeves had initiated, and it was reprinted and widely circulated.

5. What are your hopes for the next 20 years of the committee? The future of ministry with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind people depends on those constituencies doing their ministry and continuing the push for equality and justice (the hardest work of all). Empowerment is crucially important. I hope that we will also keep going to the margins as much as possible: group homes for Deaf people, people of color with inadequate education and opportunities, international deaf outposts, D/LD/HH/DB people with mental health challenges and other disabilities, etc. Continuing partnership with ecumenical and interfaith partners are vitally important. Denominational lines and theological fine points of disagreement is not as important as the work of empowerment and access. Finally, I hope that technology will be exploited to the fullest. We are living in amazing times with Wi-Fi and video accessibility. The good news of Jesus Christ can get into more and more places through the advancement of technology.

6. Any thoughts you'd like to offer that weren't not elicited from the questions above?

It was my experience that these many road shows we did for 4 years were largely ignored, crowds were small, and we were hustled along quickly sometimes and treated a bit rudely. The 110th anniversary of Hasenstab's ministry at Temple in Chicago was dismal and disrespectful. Our host took sick that weekend and maybe it would have gone better had he been with us but the host church was tolerant of us at best and uninterested and unaware that the biggest Deaf ministry in the history of Methodism was started there *[Note: Hasenstab was one of two contemporary Deaf men ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church, serving at the Chicago Mission of the Deaf from 1890 to 1940, and was known as the "John Wesley of Deaf-mutes" (sic). The other contemporary was Daniel Moylan of Christ Church of the Deaf, Baltimore].* GBGM's 3 minutes at a board meeting was also disappointing. However, some of the tiny crowds we spoke to ended up creating unexpected and heartwarming fruit. We uncovered many Deaf people who did not know anyone cared and spawned some Deaf ministries here and there. This work is always going to be like that, I suppose. I learned that the UMC "Connection" is

not all that connected, so I was not all that surprised when I became a bishop. But with all its human frailty we do get some amazing things done and I thank God for the many wonderful people I have had the privilege to work with. I have learned so much, been forgiven for many faults and failures and stand in awe at the wonderful God we serve.

Deaf News from Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe



The first Deaf theology student of Africa University, Collins Prempeh (on the left in above photo), of the Methodist Church of Ghana, has completed his first year of studies. Collins, a scholarship student of Lovers Lane UMC's SEEDS (Serving, Equipping, Educating Deaf Students) made the Dean's list his second semester. He reports having made friends with a fourth-year theology student from Eastern Angola, who has been learning about Deaf ministry from Collins, and wants to start a Deaf ministry after he graduates next year. Interpreting at Africa University has been provided by Tonderayi Makaya (on the right in the photo), who also interprets with Raymond Makuwaza at nearby Hilltop UMC.

Another 20th Anniversary Remembrance

An Interview with Rev. Dr. Kathy Black, Gerald Kennedy Chair of Homiletics and Liturgics Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, California.



By Rev. Tom Hudspeth

"I am reaching out to you at the suggestion of Bishop Peggy Johnson and as consultant for the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries (UM-DHM), an entity which you had an influential role in creating. Why did the United Methodist Church need a steering committee or committee that focused on Deaf, late deafened, hard of hearing and Deaf-

Blind people and what were the theological and biblical impetus for creating this committee for the whole of the United Methodist Church?"

It's good to hear from you. I hope you are doing well. I'm afraid I won't be much help to you. I worked with what we called the UM Congress of the Deaf back in the 1980s. I think my first one might have been in 1981 or 1982 in Cincinnati maybe? That is where I first met Holly Elliott and Laurel Glass. It's a vivid memory for me because Holly cried when I served her communion because it was the first time since she became deaf that the one presiding at the table signed the communion liturgy and gave her communion "directly" (not through an interpreter). I think the meeting in 1983 was in San Francisco (where she and Laurel lived). I did my PhD in Berkeley (1987-1991) so became great friends with both of them. Laurel served on a national UMC committee with the Board of Global Ministries in the Health and Welfare division, where in New York, Cathie Lyons was in charge. Laurel got Holly involved. In the same era, we also started the Clergy with Disabilities committee/congress.

I remember attending several of those meetings. My first was in Nashville at the Scarritt-Bennett Center. While completing my PhD, I started the National Semester in Deaf Ministry at Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC. They already had the National Capitol Semester. Students from any seminary in the country could come to Wesley for one intensive summer and fall semester. The credits would transfer back to their home seminary. They took summer language classes at Gallaudet and then courses at Wesley taught by me and adjuncts who were Deaf. They were in Field Education placements in Deaf churches in the area. When Wesley hired a new dean in 1991, by the end of his first semester, he decided he wanted to close the Deaf ministry program.

That same year the UM Congress of the Deaf met near Claremont, California. It so happened that the Claremont School of Theology's president was at the same location for the UMW School of Missions. I met him, they had a position open, I applied and got the job at CST. I started at CST in July 1992. I continued to have some connection with Cathie Lyons and the General Board's Health and Welfare Committee but, by 2000, I was not super involved or very instrumental at all in the decision by General conference.

[In the year 2000] The UM Congress of the Deaf had been operating for two decades by then and it just seemed like a natural transition. Cathie Lyons did a lot of the internal work through Health and Welfare in NY. If there were major conversations (theological or otherwise) about why the UMC needed the steering committee, I do not have any memory of that. As I remember, Cathie Lyons was worried that the UM Congress of the Deaf would lose funding or would not be supported in the same way with new leadership at Health and Welfare and wanted it more formally institutionalized. The leadership of the UM Congress of the Deaf and Cathie Lyons worked out the process.

How or what recollections do you have of your collaborations with Holly Elliot and Laurel Glass (*I remember meeting them in San Francisco in 1994 and at that time they mentioned your name to me. I think that you may have been discussing with them the need for something to happen in our UMC for the Deaf, late deafened, hard of hearing and DeafBlind*)?

I have a LOT of memories of Holly and Laurel. Laurel was unstoppable (she had served on the School Board of San Francisco during integration, had crosses burned on her lawn, etc.). She knew how to make arguments, write petitions, etc. She was the "brains" (had an MD, PhD, two masters, was a professor at the University of California at San Francisco - taught anatomy, spearheaded their deaf/deafened/hard of hearing program). She knew how to get things done. Holly was the sweet, gentle compassionate, kind-hearted one. They were quite a duo and it was hard for anyone to say no to them. Laurel also served on Gallaudet's Board of Trustees and was the only hearing person on the Board who voted for a deaf president when the Board hired the hearing woman from North Carolina and the students shut down the campus for the Deaf President Now Movement which resulted in the ousting of the woman and the hiring of I. King Jordan. There is a play written about Laurel's role in all of that. By 2000, however, they were not as active as in their earlier years. I do not know what role they played in the 2000 General conference decision.

I think I recall you being involved with the task force during the 1990's. Also, I recall your work in offering a theology program or course of study for the Deaf at Claremont. How did your work at the seminary influence your work with the task force (the study committee that served from 1992 to 1999, as I recall)? What were the challenges of the committee? What were successes?

I never had a Deaf Ministry program at Claremont. It was at Wesley from 1985-1991. Except for my peripheral role with Cathie Lyons and Health and Welfare, I was teaching at CST by 1992 and had turned over leadership reins to others.

Do you recall the shepherding of the petition to resolution? If so, was passage of the resolution a foregone conclusion, or were there obstacles that threatened passage of the resolution? I don't remember having a major role in the petition process. I was not at the 2000 General conference (since it was held toward the end of the semester and I couldn't take that kind of time away from the classroom) so I had no role in presenting or speaking to the petition. As you can see, I'm not much help at all for you. I hope the committee continues but the demands of my job at CST pulled me in other directions, so I have not been up to speed on the work of the committee at all. I wish you well ... Kathy

Grants

The Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministries Committee is not currently accepting grant applications. Watch our web site and Facebook pages for updates.



Deaf Ministry Support for Churches

Face mask recommendations: <https://umdisability.blogspot.com/2020/07/face-masks.html>

Online and virtual gatherings--inclusion for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing members: <https://umdisability.blogspot.com/2020/03/online-and-virtual-gatherings-inclusion.html>

Center for Disease Control Guidelines in ASL (COVID-19): <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvrp9iOILTQatwnqm61jqFrSfUB4RKh6J>

Online ASL Classes

Since many schools and organizations aren't offering in-person ASL classes, folks should consider free or paid online ASL classes. Gallaudet University offers some too: <https://www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect/asl-for-free>

Interpreter-Friendly Zoom Calls

Many churches are using Zoom for worship, committee meetings, and Bible studies. From the University of California in San Diego, is this guideline on using interpreters for ZOOM calls.

<https://blink.ucsd.edu/technology/file-sharing/zoom/enabling-asl.html>

Deaf / Interpreting Worship Services

Check here <https://www.umdeaf.org/link.html> to see our list of Deaf worship services and interpreted worship services.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee is available to provide support and consultation for churches considering starting a Deaf ministry. Do you need help, advice, suggestion for resources and grants for ministries with those who are

Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, DeafBlind or late deafened? Do you have a ministry or mission story you would like to share with us? Please contact Rev. Tom Hudspeth at thudspeth@lumc.org

Help Continue Our Work and Give to the Advance Special Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries

<https://advance.umcmission.org/p-647-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-ministries.aspx>



Stay in Touch

Are you following our Facebook page? We post a variety of pieces: stories from churches about Deaf and HOH ministry, 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](#) and help our mission! Click “like” and share posts on your own timeline.

We are also on [Pinterest](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

We have a [website](#) where you can find out [past newsletters](#).

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.

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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Email: umdeaf@gmail.com

Mailing address:

General Board of Global Ministries

Attn: Kathleen Griffith

458 Ponce De Leone Ave NE

Atlanta, GA 30308

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