



SERVE

# NEJ Deaf Ministry Retreat: Leadership Training

The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf



1 Peter 4:10

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

# Schedule

Deaf Certified Lay Servant class (10 hours)

Wesleyan Training (9 hours)

Track One: Certified Lay Servant Training 

Track Two: Wesleyan Training 

Worship Time 

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9		
12pm – 5pm	<b>Certified Lay Servant</b> <u>Baltimore Room</u>	<b>Wesleyan Training</b> Methodist History & Tour <u>Annapolis Room</u>
5pm – 6pm	<b>Dinner</b>	
7pm-9pm	<b>Welcoming / Devotional / Fellowship / Games</b> Karen Miller, LaSander Saunders, Carol Stevens & Rev. Leo Yates <u>Annapolis Room</u>	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10		
7:30am – 8:30am	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:45am – 9:00am	<b>Morning Devotional</b> Led by Rev. Emily Smiley <u>Annapolis Room</u>	
9:00am-10:00am	<b>CLS Training continues</b> <u>Baltimore Room</u>	Free time for Wesleyan Group
10:00am-12:00pm		<b>Wesleyan Training</b> Works of Piety Workshop <u>Annapolis Room</u>
12:00pm – 1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00pm – 3:00pm	<b>CLS Training continues</b> <u>Baltimore Room</u>	<b>Wesleyan Training</b> Works of Mercy <u>Annapolis Room</u>
3:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>NEJ Business Meeting (together)</b> Led by LaSander Saunders & Carol Stevens <u>Annapolis Room</u>	
3:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>Covenant Service (with Communion)</b> Led by Rev. Sandi Johnson, Carol Stevens & Rev. Leo Yates <u>Annapolis Room</u>	

## Welcome Letter

We'd like to personally welcome each of you to the Northeastern Jurisdiction Retreat. It's an exciting time for this NEJ of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD), as we continue to grow and adapt, remaining always flexible, motivated and responsive to evolving missions and needs towards Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, Deafblind persons and their families. Our caucus is confronting a time of many changes and we're meeting these changes during a time of larger denominational-wide and global change. The world of Deaf ministry is an exciting area in which to work/study/play, and we hope to continue to meet and bring inspired people together in places like this, to ensure our UMCD and this jurisdiction remains at the cutting edge.

We'd like to give you an idea of what you can expect and what we hope to achieve over the these two days. The retreat theme is "serving." We are reminded of the words of the Apostle Peter as he wrote to his faith community,

1 Peter 4:10

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (NIV)*

With the theme of "serving" in mind, the two leadership trainings offered are

- \* Certified Lay Servant training (by Carol Stevens)
- \* Wesleyan training (by multiple presenters)

Along with the leadership trainings being offered, we will have time of worship, fellowship, games, and networking. It's part of our hope that we are all better connected as the NEJ, as the UMCD, and with other United Methodists across the denomination.

The UMCD continues to meet the challenges we face and to excel despite any setbacks.

Before we close, we'd like to thank each of you for attending this retreat and bringing your passion, faith, and expertise to this retreat. You, as members and participants, have the vision, the knowledge, the faith and the experience to help UMCD pave our way into the future. You are truly our greatest asset today and tomorrow, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support, participation, and leadership. Throughout this retreat, we ask you to stay engaged, keep us proactive and help us shape the future of the NEJ, and UMCD, and its work. Our personal respect and thanks goes out to all of you.

Blessings,

Karen Miller, President of the NEJ of the NEJ Deaf Ministries  
LaSander Saunders, Vice-President of the NEJ Deaf Ministries  
Roy White, Treasurer of the NEJ Deaf Ministries  
Carol Stevens, Associate of the NEJ Deaf Ministries  
Magothy United Methodist Church of the Deaf, Host Church

# THANK YOU LETTER

General Board of Global Ministries  
of The United Methodist Church  
458 Ponce De Leon Ave. NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
November 8, 2018

Dear Global Ministries,

Immensely Grateful! This is at the heart of what the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the national caucus, United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) board and host church planning committee, feels about the generous support from Global Ministries Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries.

On behalf of the host church that planned the retreat, we want to extend a heart-felt thank you for your commitment to making this event happen. Your care, financial support, encouragement, and prayers are the cornerstones of this NEJ Deaf Ministries retreat in Linthicum, MD, in which this retreat is being held from November 9-10, 2018. It was the vision of the retreat planning committee to inform, empower, and engage our participants in a pleasant, comfortable environment. Your overall support helped make our vision a reality by helping to offset the cost of holding the retreat in an environment as nice as the Best Western hotel, near the Baltimore Washington International Airport.

As we continue to grow as a caucus that supports Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, Deafblind persons and their families, along with other United Methodist churches, please know that partnerships with our sponsors are vital to the success of this caucus. Global Ministries is truly appreciated. Thanks again.

Sincerely,



Rev. Leo Yates, Jr.  
Planning Retreat Support Staff  
443-991-3795  
leoyjr@aol.com

***On behalf of the Host Church***

*Darlene Koontz*

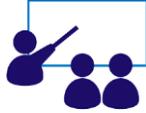
*Alma Andrews*

*Sarah Yates*

*Rev. Emily Hart, Lead Pastor*

*And Others*

# TRAINING DESCRIPTIONS



## **BASIC CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT TRAINING**

The Certified Lay Servant training is a United Methodist approved curriculum by Discipleship Ministries and has been designed for Deaf and hard of hearing people. This Basic Certified Lay Servant training is to prepare individuals for Lay Servant work within their churches, communities, and for leadership. At the conclusion of the training, participants will receive a certificate of completion. Carol Stevens will be teaching the course. This is a 10 hour training course. The training is Friday, November 9 from 12pm-5pm and Saturday, November 10 from 9am-12pm and 1pm-3pm. Participants must attend all 10 hours to receive a certificate. Contact Carol Stevens for more information at [carolstevens100@hotmail.com](mailto:carolstevens100@hotmail.com).

## **WESLEYAN TRAINING**

**METHODIST HISTORY** – This presentation includes a history and emphases of Methodism (The United Methodist Church). A study of John Wesley, the father of Methodism, will provide participants of the rich history of the United Methodist denomination. Also, a tour of Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, in Baltimore, MD, is planned. Lovely Lane United Methodist Church is where the Methodist Church began here in the U.S. on December 24, 1784. This three hour presentation will be taught by Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. and Alma Andrews. The training is on Friday, November 9 from 1pm – 4pm.

**WORKS OF PIETY** - John Wesley is the father of Methodism. The Wesleyan training focuses on Wesley's Works of Piety and Works of Mercy concepts. The Works of Piety presentation focuses on spiritual development that helps participants to stay better connected with God, be spiritually nurtured and provide a stronger foundation of faith. This two hour presentation will be taught by Rev. Peter and Deb Myers. The training is Saturday, November 10 from 10am to 12pm.

**WORKS OF MERCY** – Another important Wesleyan concept is Works of Mercy. A strong emphasis of this is serving God by serving others and one of the best ways to do so is to be familiar with your spiritual gifts. Included in the presentation are: A spiritual gifts inventory, ideas of ways to serve, and where to serve. This is a two hour training. This presentation will be taught by Alma Andrews and assisted by Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. The training is Saturday, November 10 from 1pm-3pm.

## **The History of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf**

The following are snippets from the manual, *The History of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf*. The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) is an approved national caucus of The United Methodist Church. One meaning of caucus is a group within an organization or political party which meets independently to discuss strategy or tactics. Included in the manual is the history of the Deaf missions and Deaf churches, their works, challenges, and blessings that led up to the beginnings of establishing UMCD. The history was written and compiled by Rev. Dr. Kirk VanGilder.

The manual begins with the history of the work of Thomas Gallaudet and his pursuit of Deaf education in America. As Deaf students graduated from residential Deaf schools, where they had Deaf community, their desire to remain in community with one another was still desired and needed. The first denomination that implemented a Deaf ministry, a Deaf congregation, was The Protestant Episcopal Church, which was led, in part, by the efforts of Thomas Gallaudet (the oldest son of THE Thomas Gallaudet who helped establish the first Deaf school in America). It then shifts to the first known Methodist Deaf ministry began by Philip J. Hasenstab in Chicago, IL. Hasenstab's entry into ministry happened, somewhat, by chance when the traveling preacher visiting requested assistance. Hasenstab began helped and preached during the summer of 1890, which then led to receiving an exhorter's license (similar to a preacher's license) by Grace Episcopal Methodist Church on April 17, 1890. Hasenstab received financial support and was appointed as the first Deaf preacher on September 15, 1893 for the Chicago Mission of the Deaf. Part of Hasenstab's work was providing religious education and worship at the Deaf school. Following this in the manual is the historical account of Rev. Daniel E. Moylan who pastored the Eutaw Street Methodist Episcopal Mission for the Deaf in Baltimore, MD. Moylan was granted a license to preach in 1895 when Moylan asked a District Superintendent on December 24th. The subsequent historical accounts included other Deaf ministries and Deaf congregations in our United Methodist Deaf history that led up to UMCD.

The following are continued snippets from the original manual by VanGilder as it relates specifically to UMCD.

### **Building a National Network**

In the late 1960's, on the national level, The Methodist Church that was formed by the 1939 merger of its Northern and Southern institutions found itself once again in a merger situation. The Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB), formed by a merger of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren traditions, was in discussion with The Methodist Church on merger plans. The EUB Church had a long

traditional relationship with Methodism in the United States. Its founders were highly influenced by the teachings and methods of John Wesley. To its credit, one of the conditions the EUB demanded before merger was the elimination of institutional segregation in The Methodist Church. Thus, upon the merger of the EUB and The Methodist Church, the Central Jurisdiction and Central Annual Conference had to be integrated into the geographical Jurisdictions and Annual Conferences of white membership. In 1968, this merger was approved by both the EUB and The Methodist Church General Conferences. This historic moment created The United Methodist Church as we know it today and set off a wave of institutional realignment as the General Church, Jurisdictions, and Annual Conferences incorporated new churches and new sensitivity to minority groups.

It was in this time of realignment that the first national networking of Deaf churches and deaf ministries began to take shape. In 1969, at the national meeting of the Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf (COSD) in New Orleans, Louisiana, Leroy Schauer, Constance Elmes, and E. F. Broberg met together and began discussion on a national network of United Methodist Ministers serving deaf ministries.<sup>176</sup> This and other informal meetings of ministers and deaf people were the early starts of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD). Such early meetings were vital to the planning and vision that later gave rise to empowering deaf people to form their own network.

The newly created General Board of Global Ministries was contacted as all previous mission boards had been incorporated into this new agency of the newly formed United Methodist Church. John Hager was the first staff person to act as a liaison to deaf ministries from the General Board of Global Ministries.<sup>177</sup> A workshop

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<sup>176</sup> Reported by LaVerle Carrington in a phone interview to Kirk VanGilder in 1999.

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was held in 1972, in Memphis, Tennessee, with funding from his office for United Methodist Ministers working with the deaf. Present at this workshop were Rev. LaVerle Carrington, Rev. Tom Williams, Rev. Tom Summey, Rev. LeRoy Schauer, Rev. Dave Davis, Rev. Joe Perrigo, Rev. Fred Watterson, and Rev. Louis Foxwell, Sr.<sup>178</sup> John Hager retired from the General Board of Global Ministries this year and it was uncertain whether support and funding would continue. Also, the General Board of Global Ministries found itself under constant reorganization as the 1972 General Conference was the first General Conference of the newly merged United Methodist Church. Restructuring was one of the top priorities at this General Conference and the General Board of Global Ministries being the main missionary and ministry board was one of the most debated areas. There were advantages to this restructuring for deaf ministries as these ministers began to make a place and a voice for deaf ministries while new structures were being created. However, there were disadvantages also as the General Board of Global Ministries continued to undergo changes, it knew very little about the realities of the deaf community and where to put this emerging network of ministries under its committees.

Cecil Pottinger succeeded John Hager at the General Board of Global Ministries. Something must have been left behind in the files and notes at his office by Hager because Pottinger became involved with the ministerial group which met in 1972 and organized a second meeting in 1973 with the intention of making this network an annual event. Thus, 1973 is the date from which we mark the anniversary of UMCD as formally supported network of ministers and deaf people within The United Methodist Church. The 1974 meeting was held in Cincinnati, Ohio and the

1975 meeting in Fort Wayne, Indiana. <sup>179</sup>

In 1975, a fifth annual workshop was held in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was here that Francine Kenyon and Philip Hailey began the first caucus of deaf people within this network of hearing ministers that had been meeting. This move was highly approved by the ministers involved and first drafts were written of a Constitution and By-Laws by a steering committee including Rev. LeRoy Schauer, Francine Kenyon (deaf), Rev. Cecil Pottinger, Grace Nunery, Rev. Louis Foxwell, Jr., Ray Barner (deaf), and Daniel Kenyon (deaf) with the assistance of Robert Mather, a deaf lawyer from the National Center for Law and the Deaf. The involvement of deaf leadership in the formalization of UMCD was a critical and exciting moment which the ministers and workers who had met for five years applauded and supported. In 1977, the first unofficial meeting of The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf was held at Trinity College in Washington, D.C. Here the Constitution and By-Laws were approved making an official organization out of what had been up to now, a loose confederation of ministers and lay workers in deaf ministry.<sup>180</sup>

This formal incorporation paved the way for the first annual congress of The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1978. The first officers were elected: Fred Watterson, President; Jack Tubergen, Vice President; and Francine Kenyon, Secretary/Treasurer.<sup>181</sup> Annual congresses continued to be held and surely a new national network of deaf ministries was forming in The United Methodist Church. A new day had dawned for deaf people in United Methodism as they began to organize to spread the word that deaf people were a part of the church

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<sup>179</sup> In a written report entitled "Chronology of The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf" submitted by Paula Williams and updated by Janet Painter.

<sup>180</sup> In a written report entitled "Chronology of The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf" submitted by

and had gifts and graces to give to all in the family of Christ. The second congress was held in 1979 at Little Rock, Arkansas and the third in 1980 at Cincinnati, Ohio. A fourth congress was planned for Atlanta, Georgia but found itself canceled as funding from the General Board of Global Ministries was lacking as yet another restructuring of this Board occurred, moving deaf ministries under the office of June Shimokawa.<sup>182</sup> In this move, deaf ministries once again found itself looking for a permanent place within a large Board that was still uncertain where to place this new Congress of deaf people. Shimokawa did organize for deaf members in the Baltimore-Washington area to perform as a sign language choir at the national meeting of the United Methodist Women (UMW) in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1981 to raise money for the continuation of UMCD and forging a bond between deaf ministries and the missions sponsored by the UMW that continues to this day.<sup>183</sup>

1982 saw the UMCD meet once again in San Francisco, California where Jack Tubergen was elected president and Rev. Tom Compton was elected vice president, and the host Dr. Laurel Glass was elected as secretary/treasurer. This year also saw more changes in the General Board of Global Ministries as an office of Ministry with the Handicapped was formed under the leadership of Toby Gould with the assistance of Marge Lutz and Suzanne Paul relating to UMCD and deaf ministries.<sup>184</sup> The 1983 UMCD was at Tulsa, Oklahoma under the direction of Rev. Andy Hall and the people of the deaf ministry in Oklahoma. 1984 saw the UMCD meet in Baltimore, Maryland at the same time the General Conference met.<sup>185</sup> This timing was crucial as it was the 200th anniversary of the formation of The Methodist Episcopal Church in America and

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<sup>182</sup> In a written report entitled "Chronology of The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf" submitted by Paula Williams and updated by Janet Painter.

<sup>183</sup> Reported by Francine Kenyon in a history of The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf.

<sup>184</sup> Reported by LaVerle Carrington in a phone interview to Kirk VanGilder in 1999.

UMCD members were present at this celebration bringing an awareness of deaf ministry to the highest level of The United Methodist Church for the first time. The 1985 congress was held in Mishawaka, Indiana where Holly Elliott was elected president, Lee W. Painter, vice president, and Cheryl Stillson as secretary/treasurer. This meeting also marked the start of National UMCD meeting on odd numbered years and the organization of Jurisdictional UMCD meetings on even numbered years.<sup>186</sup> In 1986, the North Central Jurisdiction and the Southeastern Jurisdiction were able to meet. However the Northeastern Jurisdiction, South Central Jurisdiction, and Western Jurisdiction were not able to organize a meeting until the 1988 year.

Richmond, Virginia and Rev. Rob Vaughn hosted the 1987 UMCD meeting at Aldersgate UMC. It was this year that Cathy Lyons became our connection to the General Board of Global Ministries as the office of Health and Welfare Ministries was formed in the most recent restructuring of GBGM. The 1989 UMCD was back at the Oklahoma City University where it had begun 11 years previously. Rochester, New York was originally scheduled to hold this meeting but found itself unable to host the congress so Rev. Andy Hall and the deaf people of Oklahoma offered their services once again. It was at this meeting that Lee Painter was elected president, Wendy Carrington was elected vice president, and Rev. Rob Vaughn was elected as secretary/treasurer. 1991 saw Santa Rosa, California host the UMCD and Rev. Kathy Reeves became the liaison with the General Board of Global Ministries to the present day.<sup>187</sup>

The 1993 UMCD was held at Baltimore, Maryland where Dr. Laurel Glass was elected president, Rev. Andy Hall was elected vice president, and Rev. Tom Hudspeth

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<sup>186</sup> In a written report entitled "Chronology of The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf" submitted by Paula Williams and updated by Janet Painter.

was elected as secretary/treasurer. It was at this time that UMCD began to widen its understanding of deaf ministries to include a greater deaf community with Deaf culture at its core but also including hard of hearing people, deafened people, and deaf blind people. In 1995, UMCD met in Springfield, Illinois hosted by the Central Illinois deaf ministries and Rev. LaVerle Carrington. Finally, the 1997 UMCD was held at the historic Lake Junalaska Assembly in Lake Junalaska, North Carolina where Dr. Laurel Glass, Rev. Andy Hall, and Rev. Tom Hudspeth were continued in their offices.

Following the deaf performances at the 1984 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf began to plan for more strategies on how to better promote deaf ministries within the whole connection of United Methodism. The 1988 General Conference saw Holly Elliott present a moving testimony on the floor of the General Conference and this ensured the passage of a petition to form a National Committee on Developing Deaf Ministries. For the first time, the General Conference had been addressed on the issues of deaf ministries and created a formally funded committee to further the work of ministry with Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf blind people within The United Methodist Church. This committee was continued by the 1992 General Conference where Dan Keryon served as an alternate delegate to General Conference from the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The 1996 General Conference saw Rev. Peggy Johnson present as a clergy delegate from the Baltimore-Washington Conference and the sign language choir from Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf perform. This General Conference also voted to continue the National Committee on Deaf Ministry. Bishop Judith Craig, who was the first female bishop to present the Episcopal Address at General Conference that year, volunteered to be our presiding Bishop for the 1997-2000 quadrennium.

This rich history between the greater deaf community and The United Methodist Church spans over a century of time in the United States. With all its highlights and dark valleys, it stands as a testimony of deaf people's dedication to discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ and persistence with the structures of The United Methodist Church. Although we have more than a century of formal relationship with The United Methodist Church, UMCD is celebrating only its 25th anniversary and we still are learning to find our place at the table of Christ within the UMC. This history will preserve and lift up our past work and inspire and encourage future generations to continue the vital work of ministry with all God's people.