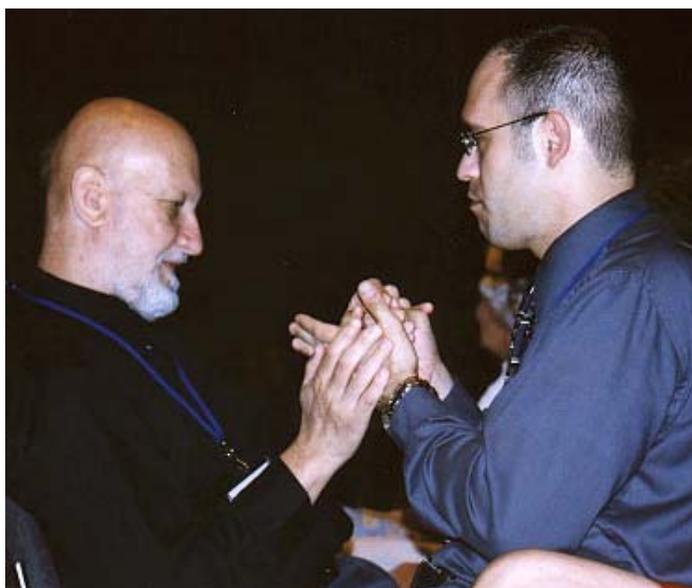




# The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf

## Signs of Change

Fall 2004



Above, Rev. Cecil Axelrod and Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. carry on a conversation at the 2003 National Convention in Dallas, Below: Rev. Tom Hudspeth and others enjoy the Mark Mitchum concert.



### 2003 UMCD National Conference

UMCD's 2003 National Conference was a grand success, thanks to the hard work of South Central Jurisdiction, members and staff of Lover's Lane Church, interpreters, CART and CAN operators, and more. The conference began Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> and continued through Sunday and was held at Lover's Lane Church in Dallas, Texas.

Events began Thursday with an all day Interpreter Workshop led by Mark Mitchum. Mark Mitchum, Deaf from birth, takes popular Christian music and transforms it into a visual experience that he calls "Sign Art." He has performed with the Gaither Vocal Band and Twila Paris. Thursday evening the audience learned what Sign Art was all about as Mitchum melded American Sign Language with music in a powerful, emotional and compassionate performance.

Friday, conference attendees were treated to keynote speaker Anthony Natale. Anthony can be seen in Mr. Holland's Opus and Jerry Maguire. He had just come from New York where he was involved in the "Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" production.

Anthony shared his story with UMCD members, showing clips from his movies and his sign language video "How to Talk to a Deaf Person." Christine Jenkins, who created the video, also spoke on the work involved in making the video reality and in making dreams reality.

After Natale, Dan Kenyon presented "Methods of Deaf Ministry" and Sandie Keienburg focused on "Money

Management.” In the afternoon, the keynote speaker was deaf-blind priest Cyril Axelrod, who shared his fascinating story. He is the world's only Deaf-Blind priest, and received a humanitarian award for his ministry in Macau, China.

Friday evening, UMCD members were treated to a delicious Shabbat meal. Barbara Kirsch led us through the steps and teachings of the Jewish Shabbat, or Sabbath. She is a late-deafened woman who grew up in the Jewish culture.

Michael Kenton presented on innovations in assistive listening technology. His workshop also included information about a better hearing aid available through “Your Hearing,” a company founded by a hard of hearing woman.

Saturday began with a drama workshop by Illuminations, a two woman shadow interpreting duo. Illuminations also gave a delightful performance for us Saturday evening. Rev. Kirk Van Gilder gave a workshop on Methodism, helping UMCD members to learn more about their church.

Saturday evening, prior to the Illuminations concert, we cried during a memorial video presentation detailing the outstanding life of one of our Past Presidents, Holly Elliott. Appreciation goes to Rev. Tom Hudspeth and his church for creating such a wonderful video of memories.

A Youth Conference was held simultaneously with the regular conference. It featured the “Mighty Deaf Warriors” an evangelism group from San Antonio, Texas, along with a trip to “Six Flags Over Texas.”

As if all of these offerings weren't enough, church on Sunday morning featured four interpreted services. Father Cyril Axelrod preached at the first two services. Christ Church of the Deaf Sign Choir from Baltimore, Maryland performed as did the Youth Sign Choir. There was a choice of contemporary worship and



Anthony Natale shares his story at the 2003 National Conference in Dallas, Texas..

traditional worship, and accessible Sunday School classes. In the evening, Rev. Tom Hudspeth preached and Christ Church of the Deaf Sign Choir performed. Afterwards, refreshments were served and the highlights of the conference shared.

Lover's Lane Church was a blessing in itself and a beautiful site for the conference. Many thanks go to the staff and members for opening their homes and helping with the conference. Thanks to the members and officers of South Central Jurisdiction, in particular Julie Howard, President, for hosting and putting on the conference and to Rev. Rick Springer and Rev. Tom Hudspeth. The host hotel, Homewood Suites, also deserves applause.

We share deep gratitude for the American Sign Language interpreters, the CART operators (realtime text translation), CAN typists (computer-assisted notetaking) and the sound technicians who made the conference inclusive and accessible.

---- Candis Shannon

# It's time to register!

## UMCD South Central Jurisdictional Conference

October 15 -17, 2004 "Listening Eyes, Hearing Hearts"

**Alvin Park First United Methodist Church**

**611 West South St. (Johnson and South Streets), Alvin, Texas**

**Contact Dr. Julie Howard at [docjhoward@earthlink.net](mailto:docjhoward@earthlink.net) asap to register**

### **Schedule of Events:**

#### **Friday, October 15th**

All Day Interpreter Workshop -- RID and NAD Certified CEUs Available  
Dinner, Concert and Dominoes Tournament

#### **Saturday, October 16th**

6:00 a.m. Devotional - And Jesus said "And all will hear my voice"  
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast is served  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. General Business Meeting  
12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break  
1:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Social Hour  
Afternoon Video Workshops with ASL, Voice and Closed Captioning:  
*Deaf Culture*  
*How Do We Begin: A Look At Establishing a Deaf Ministry*  
*The Role of the Sign Interpreter in Deaf Ministries*  
(RID and NAD Certified CEUs Available)  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. All Video Workshops Presented  
3:10 p.m. - 4:10 p.m. All Video Workshops Presented  
4:20 p.m. - 5:20 p.m. All Video Workshops Presented  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Dinner Program presenting Illuminations  
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 Choir Practice for Sunday Services



#### **Sunday, October 17th**

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Morning Coffee Mixer and Devotional Time with Pastor  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Sunday Worship

\$35 Interpreter's Workshop Friday

\$28 Youth Ticket to Astroworld Saturday

\$75 Conference Fee

\$20 UMCD membership fee

Accommodations at Alvin's Country Hearth Inn on I-35 in Alvin, Texas

\$69.00 Double Occupancy (\$34.50 per person x two nights)

**Please note that there will be surprise appearances of special guests and representatives of service corporations to the deaf community. If you have any questions or would like to set up an information and sales booth at the conference, please contact Julie Howard at [docjhoward@earthlink.net](mailto:docjhoward@earthlink.net) as soon as possible. A small fee of \$35 will be charged for a booth space.**

### Southeast Jurisdiction News



Rev. Joo Kang and fellow camper Kerrie at the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Sign Camp. The camp is offered every summer.

The Southeastern Jurisdictional leadership team meeting will be held January 7 & 8, 2005 at SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology, International), 2944 County Road 113, Lineville, Alabama, 36266 [www.sifat.org](http://www.sifat.org).

At this meeting we will plan our next jurisdictional UMCD conference and be ready when our turn comes to host one of the national UMCD conferences. All are welcome. The cost is \$27 per person (plus \$5 for linens). Call or email Wineva Hankamer at 256 396-2015 (use relay to reach the receptionist, then I will return your call by tty.) I need to know how many will attend, so let me know before Jan 1, 2005.

In our region we know of ministries in Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia and Florida where we have contacts. We are actively seeking participation from other states in our jurisdiction (Mississippi, the Carolinas, Kentucky, Georgia). Please contact Wineva Hankamer, Interim Southeast Jurisdiction President at the contact information listed above or email [winevah@yahoo.com](mailto:winevah@yahoo.com) with any information you have.

-- Wineva Hankamer

### North Central Jurisdictional Conference

The North Central Jurisdictional conference of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf took place June 25 - 27, 2004 at Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. Featured leaders included two Deaf ministers: Rev. Dr. Francis Casale from Covina, CA and Rev. Joo Kang from Jacksonville, IL. Daily Bible studies and worship were deaf-led. Workshops were held on helping churches learn how to develop Deaf ministries. We worked with the Church of God Deaf Ministry to create an ecumenical deaf ministry convention.

We had a wonderful time interacting and having workshops with those from the Church of God and others from the Indianapolis area. We discovered that concerns Deaf people have relating to a hearing church are the same between many different denominations and that worshipping together in ASL is refreshing and uniting. We had some exciting workshops. One was a panel of Deaf people focused on relating with the church and each panel member preferred a Deaf church over a hearing church with interpreters. The other panel was a panel of clergy helping clergy learning how to begin deaf ministries.

Fellowship and worship as one body of believers allowed us to live the unity which Christ brings. We decided to continue being a part of this annual event as well as being a part of UMCD national convention next year. We felt that some in the midwest may be able to get to Anderson while not being able to afford to get to Baltimore next year. Continuing this relationship allows for those who cannot make the trip out East to enjoy something closer to home. We hope that this conference grows to incorporate more and more UMCD members in the future.

Please contact Rev. Dr. Curt D. Keller, 2 Rainbow Dr., Pekin, IL 61554, 309-353-5792 V/TTY, [ckeller@mtco.com](mailto:ckeller@mtco.com) for further information or to become involved.

-- Curt Keller

## **Northeast and Southeast Jurisdictional Combined Retreat**

The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) Northeast and Southeast Jurisdictions joined together for a retreat at the West River United Methodist Camp in West River, MD on May 14 - 16, 2004. The theme was "United We Praise Him!" Fifty-one adults and children registered for this weekend event. Keynote speaker was Rev. Jeff Hoffer of the Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania. Rev. Hoffer led daily devotions and our Sunday worship service.

Three workshops were given. Spiritual Gifts was led by Barbara Sully and Flo Johnson. Evangelism was led by Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. and Tizzy von Trapp Walker. Prayers was led by a mother/daughter team Evelyn Pyles and Darlene Koontz. These workshops were so popular that they were given three different times, instead of twice as originally planned! We had two nights of Bible Trivia, questions with multiple choice answers of various passages from the Holy Bible. Very challenging, even for the five pastors who participated along with lay people, but it was lots of fun.

Carmela Kenyon led various youth activities. The activities included arts and crafts, paddling

canoes, rock-climbing, and watching movies. Thanks to Ms. Amy Bopp for helping out.

The Northeast Jurisdiction elected officers. They are David Ennis, President (re-elected); Darlene Koontz, Vice-President; and Toby Witte, Secretary and Treasurer (re-elected).

This retreat was planned and organized by members of Magothy UMC of the Deaf of Pasadena, MD. The planning committee was chaired by Darlene Koontz. Rev. Peggy Johnson, David Ennis, and Dan and Carmela Kenyon also attended the committee meetings and gave their input. Everyone had a great time! One of the parents told Dan that she had such a good time that she forgot her kids were there, too!

In 2006, the Washington United Methodist Deaf Ministries will host the next NEJ gathering, possibly in the Washington, DC area. As with this weekend's retreat, we plan to have all workshops Christ-centered.

-- Dan Kenyon

umcd



## **United Methodist Congress of the Deaf Global Conference 2005**

### **"Declare God's Glory Among the Nations" Psalm 96:3**

### **July 14-17, 2005**

**Comfort Inn at the Airport  
6921 Baltimore Annapolis  
Blvd. Baltimore, Maryland**

**Hotel: 410-789-9100 (use relay)**

**Contact Person: Rev.  
Peggy Johnson 410-247-5045  
V/TTY revpink@aol.com**

**Website:  
www.umcdconference.org**

This is a fully-accessible, global conference with members coming from all over the world. The schedules and registration forms have been mailed out separately and are also available at the website listed above.

Presentations will be held on Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Kenya, Liberia, Zimbabwe and Ecuador among other topics. There will be devotions, worship and time for fellowship and games. The bishop will attend and the Korean dancers will perform Saturday evening. We can only accept 200 people, so begin planning now.

UMCD Officers need to arrive Wednesday evening, July 13th as they have an all day Board meeting July 14th. A General Membership meeting with elections will be held Saturday, July 16th.

A private room is \$468.00, Double \$318, Triple \$270 and Quad \$246 per person and includes a 3 night hotel stay, meals Thursday evening through Sunday lunch, registration and membership dues. The commuter fee will be \$174.00 and does include meals. Reservations are first come, first served.



### In Memory of Laurel Glass

Laurel Glass, UMCD's past President and a national leader in the field of deafness, died Friday, February 20, 2004 from complications from cancer. She was 80 years old.

Dr. Glass was born in Selma, California. She did her undergraduate work at UC Berkeley and received a doctorate from Duke University. She also earned a medical degree from the University of California San Francisco.

For many years Dr. Glass directed the University of California's Center on Deafness, a mental health clinic for deaf, late-deafened and hard of hearing people and their families. After retiring in 1989, she began a study of the emotional and behavioral aspects of adult-onset hearing loss.

Rev. Tom Hudspeth who worked with Laurel on the National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People (1992-2000) and the UMCD Advisory Board (1993 - 2001) shared the following:

"Laurel helped me to see the bigger picture of Deaf ministry in the United Methodist Church. She expanded the "tent" of Deaf ministry to include those who are late-deafened, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind. It was a move that attracted criticism and concern - an issue which we still struggle with to this day. However, I appreciate her strategy because I believe it gave us the numbers and voice to awaken our United Methodist Church to long-neglected groups both within and without the church."

"When I speak about Laurel to other Deaf United Methodists, I always mention her role in Deaf President Now (DPN) at Gallaudet University. For her courageous vote on the Gallaudet Board of Trustees, she'll always have a place in Deaf history."

Laurel was a generous and consistent contributor to the UMCD Endowment Fund and worked tirelessly to strengthen UMCD.

## Religious Interpreting Workshop

November 20, 2004

### Maryland School for the Deaf

Saturday November 20, 2004

Maryland School for the Deaf

Columbia Campus

CEUs available for interpreters

Classes from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#### Morning Classes:

Beginning Vocabulary	David Ennis (our NEJ Prez)
Intermediate Religious Interpreting	Jandy Arboledo
Interpreting for Children in Worship	Carol Stevens
Advanced Interpreting (Protestant)	John Mark Ennis
Advanced Interpreting (Catholic)	Joan Blake

#### Instructors:

#### Afternoon Class:

Signed Music	Joan Blake
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Fees: \$25.00. Contact Rev. Peggy Johnson at RevPink@aol.com or 410-247-5045 V/TTY to register

Cosponsored by the Baltimore-Washington Conference Deaf Ministries and the Archdiocese of Baltimore since 1987.

## Stephon Williams tapped for National United Methodist Youth Council

Stephon Williams, a deaf youth member of Christ UMC of the Deaf in Baltimore, Maryland has been chosen to serve on the Advisory Council for the National United Methodist Youth Council. Stephen has served as a Counselor in Training at the Maryland Deaf Camp and attended for many years as a camper.

### Thanks for Jobs Well Done

Much appreciation to LaVerle Carrington who served many years as Law Committee Chair, Celeste Martell who served as Southeast Jurisdiction President and Beth Dewing who served as our Communications Technology Committee Chair. Many thanks to Shanti Parker for her dedication as our newsletter editor for the past several years. Thank you all for your hard work.

## **Deaf Culture Immersion Class**

The Deaf Culture Immersion Class sponsored by Wesley Theological Seminary will be held January 5 - 15, 2005 in Baltimore, Maryland. The class will include a wide range of deaf ministry speakers, field trips, worship experiences and sign language instruction. The cost of the class is \$1,200. This class is part of the seminary total immersion program but non-seminary students interested in the basics of deaf ministry are welcome to apply. Space is limited. Contact Rev. Peggy Johnson at 410-247-5045 V/TTY or RevPink@aol.com if interested.

## **Deaf/Blind Camp**

## **Deaf Children/Youth Camp**

The Deaf /Blind Camp 2005 is slated for June 12-17, 2005 and the Deaf Children/Youth Camp is scheduled for July 25-29, 2005. Both will be at West River United Methodist Camp in West River, Maryland. The deaf/ blind camp will be about \$175 for campers and free for Support Service Providers (SSPs). The children/youth camp will cost about \$300 per camper. Peggy Johnson has more details at RevPink@aol.com or 410-247-5045 V/TTY

## **California Wildfires - Winter 2003**

In October and November of last year, fires raged through Southern, California. Candis Shannon had to evacuate from her inlaws house where she staying after the death of her mother-in-law and because her father-in-law was in intensive care at the hospital in San Bernardino. Fortunately the fire changed paths.

Richard Burns and his deaf son Jeffrey had a close call where they live in Julian, California. The cedar fire which burned around their home broke some of the windows from the heat of the fire and burned down the woodshed and chicken coop (they depend on wood for heat during the winter).

Jeffrey got involved helping to unload the trucks as water and food was delivered to the shelter and in setting up cots for the people who had to leave their homes. When the Red Cross left Julian because of the fire, Robert and Jeffrey went to the elementary school where Robert teaches third grade. They were able to open up the school and make a place for the firefighters to stay. Their Methodist church was also able to help many families with food and clothing. The Burns thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts during this harrowing time.

## **Western Jurisdictional Conference**

### **"Connecting with the Spirit"**

Jan. 14-16, 2005

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church  
4455 E. Lincoln Dr.  
Phoenix, AZ 85253

The conference committee is planning a spiritual retreat gathering and is also working on an all day interpreter's workshop for Friday, Jan14 and a National Committee Awareness event for pastors and other interested people.

All of the Western Jurisdiction officers need to be elected at this meeting, so come with some names in mind or send information about interested persons to Marian Aiken at the address below. Send us information about churches in the Western Jurisdiction area that have ministries of any size to serve persons who are Deaf or have a hearing loss.

Lodging will be at the Best Western at 1615 E. Northern Ave., Phoenix . Rooms will be about \$70.00 and a hot breakfast with eggs and waffles is included in the price. The hotel has a pool, hot tub and fitness center, and is located near the Squaw Peak Mountain Preserve, close to both hiking trails and shopping.

Send Information and inquiries to:  
Marian Aiken, WJ President  
720 Loyola Dr., Los Altos, CA 94024,  
650-949-2749 (TTY)  
or email MAF [50@aol.com](mailto:50@aol.com)

-- Marian Aiken

## **Preserving Black Deaf History**

Rev. Peggy Johnson of Christ Church of the Deaf in Baltimore, Maryland is videotaping the faith stories of the older members of her congregation as a project on deaf black history. January 2005 is the 100th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Whatcoat Deaf Mission in Baltimore and very little print or photographic information remains that can document the Mission's story. There are still surviving members, however, from those days, and they have important stories to share. Peggy plans to change things for the future by capturing the valuable faith histories of United Methodist African-American seniors.

## National Committee News

### National Committee Holds Annual Meeting

The National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People met March 9-11, 2004 at the Comfort Inn near the BWI Airport in Baltimore, Maryland. This is the same hotel that will be the gathering place for the UMCD 2005 International Conference.

The meeting was a blessing for all that attended. Several devotionals and presentations on ministries in Russia, Ecuador, Africa and Sri Lanka were given. A memorial was held for Dr. Laurel Glass, past president of UMCD who passed away earlier this year.

This meeting was the last meeting for the 2000 - 2004 quadrennium and elections were held for officers to carry the NC's work into the next quadrennium. Following are some of the highlights of the meeting and from the UMC General Conference held in April, during which funding for the next quadrennium was secured.

### NC Accomplishments 2000 - 2004

The National Committee came about because of the hard work of many UMCD members. The difference between the National Committee and UMCD is that the National Committee is a recognized committee by the United Methodist Church and it has received funding through the General Board of Global Ministries Health and Welfare Department. The funding began in 2000 after efforts by UMCD at the UMC General Conference. Funding has allowed the committee to make a major step forward in its ministry. *Signs of Solidarity* was completed and awareness teams educated people throughout all the jurisdictions and at many UMC boards and agencies. The Advance Special #982562-7, Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind, was promoted. National Committee grants aided ministries such as Christ UMC's annual deaf-blind camp, Illinois Great Rivers Conference's deaf camp, provided funding for sign language interpreters

and assistive listening devices and aided ministries in Africa (Zimbabwe, Kenya and Africa University), Ecuador, Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey, the Phillipines, Russia and Liberia.

### UM General Conference

The National Committee requested that the United Methodist Church approve an allocation of \$350,000 for the 2005-2008 quadrennium. Thanks to the UMCD members who helped with the grassroots effort to get their Annual Conferences to support the petition.

The National Committee was included under the General Board of Global Ministry for \$300,000 and \$50,000 in funding went in front of the delegates at the conference for vote. The \$50,000 was not approved but the vote was very close, which is significant. The portion included under the General Board of Global Ministries was approved when the entire GBGM budget was approved.

This is good news for the National Committee. The future of the committee will be more secure now that it is part of the larger GBGM budget.

Many thanks to Elke Sharma, Rev. Kirk VanGilder, Rev. Robert Vaughn and Rev. Peggy Johnson who were all on the "front lines" at the conference fighting for the continuation of National Committee with full funding.

### New Officers

New Officers were elected for the upcoming 2005-2008 quadrennium (see committee member listing) and Wineva Hankamer was selected as the new Coordinator for the Committee. Special thanks were given to past Coordinator Peggy Johnson.

### Mission Statement

The committee created a new mission statement: "The United Methodist National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-deafened, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind People exists to extend the love of Christ to all people. Through our work, we seek to raise the awareness of the world and particularly the United Methodist Church to the potential for ministry with Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people. In raising awareness, we hope to present

models for faith communities in doing ministry that recognizes the gifts of all God's people. We also seek to improve communication between our communities and hearing communities, both within and without the church, so that the need of our communities to receive and share the grace of God can be adequately met."

## National Committee Priorities 2005-2008

Following in order of priority are the plans for this next incarnation of the National Committee:

- Extend and deepen work with seminaries, local licensing schools, etc. and future pastors.
- Develop and identify ministry models for Deaf, late-deafened/hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people, and analyze why they work (circuits, cultural churches, imbedded ministries, etc.)
- Identify churches willing to give and wanting to give funding for ministries and linking them with ministry needs from deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind ministries in the U.S. and around the world.
- Reach out to hard of hearing/late-deafened and older adult hearing loss people (learning needs, clarifying needs, researching solutions).
- Promote the Advance Special and create a new Advance brochure and create a website.
- Promote Signs of Solidarity (Cokesbury, seminaries, bookstores, Gallaudet, etc.)
- Target laity groups and lay leadership (reflecting the laity driven aspect of our ministries).
- Target UMW, School of Christian Missions reading list program
- Complete workshops for the remaining of the 13 UMC seminaries.
- Provide awareness workshops when requested.
- Develop and identify models for ministries that are not worship focused but event focused.
- Produce videos to tell the stories of our models.

## UMCD Endowment Fund

We are over \$8,000 on our journey towards the \$10,000 mark for our endowment fund. Once we reach \$10,000, we will use half of the interest earned for investing in new ministries. The other half will be reinvested back into the endowment fund to help it continue to grow. The endowment fund is invested in a money market account and a stock account. These funds are managed by the United Methodist Foundation in Houston, Texas. Donate to the fund. Make your check payable to "UMCD Endowment Fund" and mail to Rev. Tom Hudspeth, UMCD Treasurer, 9200 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas 75220.

## Member Letter

January 8, 2004

I have been wanting to tell you how much I enjoyed the UMCD Conference, held in Dallas, Texas last July. It is long over due. I enjoyed so much the interesting speech by the deaf and blind Catholic Priest and the Shabbat dinner and the rites that went with it and all the workshops too. I also enjoyed the acting out the play on the stage with a few members. That was a lot of fun. Also enjoyed meeting the deaf members from other states.

I have never missed UMCD conferences since I started attending in 1983. I will be 81 years old next year and hope to still be able to attend the UMCD Conference in Maryland. Thank you for your hospitality.

--- Gwendolyn Mix

## Congratulations and Thanks, Elke

Elke Betz-Schmidt, now Elke Sharma, has had an eventful two years. She graduated from seminary with a Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. Shortly after that, she went to work as an Assistant Pastor at Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf in Baltimore. And she was on the front lines battling for funding for National Committee at the United Methodist General Conference at the end of April. In her own words, until the deaf and hearing communities recognize each other's gifts and share them, "the body of Christ will not be complete."

After Conference, Elke packed her bags, married Aditya Sharma in India, returned to America and moved to Idaho to continue her ministry there. Congratulations, Elke and thanks for being UMCD and NC's representative at General Conference.

"If you believe and I believe and we together pray, the Holy Spirit will come down and set God's people free, and set God's people free, and set God's people free."

--- Words from Zimbabwe, based on Matthew 18:19. Based on an adapted English song and found at the end of Elke's emails.

## UMCD Advisory Board News

The UMCD Advisory board met at the 2003 national convention in Dallas, Texas and also meets via email.

### 2003 National Convention Meeting

Tom Hudspeth, Treasurer, formed a finance committee per the bylaws consisting of Dan Kenyon, Roy White and Rob Vaughn. The main task is to draw up a budget for UMCD.

Kirk VanGilder reported on the General Conference Petition for National Committee. Annual conferences in Alaska, Baltimore-Washington, Oregon-Idaho, the Pacific Northwest and Texas voted to support the petition. (The National Committee received \$300,000 in funding for the next four years. See the National Committee report). Kirk also reported on a funding request the UMCD NEJ will draw up to provide finances for the next four years. This is very important as UMCD-NEJ will be hosting UMCD's international convention in Baltimore in July of 2005.

The Advisory Board agreed to develop a brochure for UMCD and for the UMCD Endowment Fund and to continue the newsletter and expand the web page.

Dan Kenyon has updated the Jurisdictional Surveys with information on Deaf ministries and accessible churches. The Jurisdictional Presidents will need to keep this information up-to-date as the information for individual churches is always changing.

The Advisory Board voted to approve a Deaf Mission proposal submitted by Curt Keller. The proposal is for UMCD to request that the General Board of Global Ministries work in cooperation with the Presbyterian Church, with our counterparts in Korea, and any other denominations which would like to become a part of an ecumenical effort to develop a deaf ministry. This ministry would include deaf worship centers and Bible studies geared towards helping Deaf people become disciples of Christ.

The Advisory Board approved a motion by David Ennis that all UMCD conferences be Christ-centered and Methodist-related in content.

### Email Meeting News

During its email meeting, Wineva Hankamer was elected as interim Vice-President for Southeast Jurisdiction, replacing Celeste Martell who is moving to Arizona. Rick Springer was elected interim Chair of the Communications Technology Committee, replacing Beth Dewing and Amy Edwards was recommended to be the lead person for CAN as part of the Communications Technology Committee.

A Task Force was set up to create a mission statement and revamp the ByLaws and Constitution. The UMCD egroup list has had spirited debates on what is the best direction and structure for UMCD's future.

The UMCD-NEJ is planning an exciting, international convention for July 2005.



If you have not yet ordered your copy of the second edition of Signs of Solidarity, don't wait any longer. Written by Rev. Kathy Black, Dr. Vae Rose Fultz, Rev. Kirk Van Gilder, Candis Shannon and Rev. Dr. Robert Walker and edited by Nancy Kingsley, the book is an excellent resource on building ministries with Deaf, late-

deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people. New to this edition is a tear-out survey form to guide local churches and agencies in becoming accessible to all groups of people.

The book sells for \$7.00 plus shipping and handling. It can be ordered by mail or telephone. Please send your orders to the GBGM Service Center, 7820 Reading Road, Caller No. 1800, Cincinnati, Ohio 45222-1800. To order by telephone, call 1-800-305-9857 Voice. Fax orders can be sent to 513-761-3722. Be sure to indicate the title of the book, the stock no. 02088, and the number of copies you need.

## **UMCD's Northeast Jurisdiction wins major funding support**

Our UMCD Vice-President Dan Kenyon attended the United Methodist Northeast Jurisdictional Conference (NEJC) this recent July as an alternate delegate. Along with the petition to the General Conference to continue our National Committee with funding, UMCD also supported an NEJ petition for \$10,000 in funding to help cover expenses for UMCD's NEJ during the 2005-2008 quadrennium. In addition, sign language interpreter funding support for the 2008 UM NEJC was requested.

Last spring the UM NEJ sent a letter to the Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC) saying they would be unable to provide funding. Peggy Johnson and Dan both wrote letters appealing this decision. UMNEJ also balked at paying for the interpreters for the July convention, but finally did agree to pay one-half the costs if Baltimore-Washington Conference would pay the other half of those expenses.

Peggy Johnson and Dan Kenyon both attended the NEJC conference. On July 14, 2004, after the Finance Committee gave its report, the Committee asked if there was

anything else that should be considered for the budget. Dan Kenyon stood up and asked for funding for the \$10,000 request and for funding to pay for interpreters for the 2008 NEJC meeting. After Dan spoke, the other delegates applauded, but the Finance Committee still would not include the request in the budget. Dan spoke again and requested that NEJ take ownership of the funding requests. After this second request, the Finance Committee agreed to include funds for interpreters for the 2008 NEJ as part of their budget. Dan then made a motion to also appropriate \$10,000 for the UMCD-NEJ for the next four years. The motion passed and became part of the final budget, which also passed.

Seeking funding at our Annual and Jurisdictional Conferences is very important for UMCD to continue its important work. Forrest Ann Daniels, for example, in Western Jurisdiction, successfully pursued funding with the Pacific Northwest Conference which helped pay for UMCD - Western Jurisdictional conferences these past four years. Each UMCD Jurisdiction can do the same. For copies of the petition Dan submitted, please contact Kirk VanGilder at his email kirker@mac.com. Praises to our awesome God!

## **General Board of Global Ministries The United Methodist Church Advance #982562-7**



The United Methodist Church is committed to ministry with all persons. Gifts to Advance #982562-7 provide opportunities that empower Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind people for mission and ministry. Projects include seed money to assist in the establishment of new ministries, global outreach to deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people, curriculum development, deaf ministry internships, deaf and deaf-blind camping, and aids to communication access (interpreters, listening devices, real-time captioning, and others).

How to participate? Make your check payable to your local church or Advance GCFA. Be sure to write the Advance code number 982562-7 and "Ministry with the Deaf" on the check. You can place your check in the Sunday offering at your church, or mail it to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068. To send a gift by credit card, call (888) 252-6174.

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### **UMCD History**

"A History of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf" by Kirk VanGilder is a spiral bound book of 86 pages that traces the origins of deaf ministry within the United Methodist Church. The book costs \$25.00 and can be ordered by sending a check to Tom Hudspeth, UMCD Treasurer, 9200 Inwood Rd., Dallas, Texas 75220

# UMCD Membership and Donations

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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City

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Zip Code

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Voice/TTY (Circle which applicable)

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **UMCD Dues (\$10.00 per year)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation to Endowment Fund**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation for** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**

**Mail To:**

Tom Hudspeth  
Lovers Lane UMC  
9200 Inwood Rd.  
Dallas, Texas 75220

Thank you for supporting the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf

**From:** General Board of Global  
Ministries Health and Welfare  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 330  
New York, NY 10115

**TO:**