



The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf

Signs of Change

February 2005

Global Conference 2005

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

Baltimore Maryland July 14 - 17, 2005

Comfort Inn Airport
6921 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd
Baltimore, Maryland 21225

www.umcdconference.org
410-247-5045 v/tty
Register by February 28th!

Thursday, July 14	UMCD Board Meeting	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
	Welcome and Introductions	4:00 pm
	Dinner	5:30 pm
	Opening Worship	6:30 pm
Friday, July 15	Morning Devotions	6:00 am
	Breakfast	6:30 am
	Bible Study	8:30 am
	Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Deaf-Blind people. Lunch and dinner	10:00 am to 7:00 pm
	Evening worship	7:00 pm
	Games, Fellowship	8:30 pm
Saturday, July 16	Morning Devotions	6:30 am
	Breakfast	7:00 am
	Bible Study	8:30 am
	Kenya, Liberia, Zimbabwe and Ecuador	10:00 am to 3:30 pm
	UMCD General Membership Mtg	3:45 pm
	Banquet with Bishop speaking and Korean Dancers	6:30 pm
Sunday, July 17	Morning Devotions	6:30 am
	Breakfast	7:00 am
	Sharing Dreams Panel	8:30 am
	Closing Worship	10:30 am
	Lunch	12:00 noon

Greetings from Candis ...

May we all work together this year to bring more love and joy to a world torn by judgment and hate and disasters. The United Methodist Church has been hard at work helping to raise money for relief. May we all reach out in prayer and in whatever ways we can to provide comfort and solace to those whose lives have been torn apart by this disaster. I was in the 1964 Tsunami in Alaska, and can vouch firsthand at the destruction tsunamis cause.

Our focus this newsletter is on missions and our friends in countries other than our own. So, too, our focus at this summer's national conference will be global in perspective and an opportunity for us to grow and expand as we learn about other countries and their peoples.

UMCD officers have also been hard at work on streamlining the organization and setting clear goals. A Task Force consisting of the Executive Board and the Jurisdictional Presidents is working on this task. Currently, UMCD has both a set of ByLaws and a Constitution in addition to the Articles of Incorporation used to create the original nonprofit organization. Modern day law only requires the Articles of Incorporation and a set of ByLaws, so the Task Force members are combining the two documents into one clear set of guidelines.

Much discussion has focused on the mission for UMCD. In recent years, this mission has become cloudy, with the group trying in vain to meet the widely diverse needs of its membership. The Task Force is helping the group return to its original focus on worship in the signing community. In our spring newsletter, these changes will be presented for your feedback.

UMCD is also helping a new group get off the ground. Called the UM Hearing Access, this group is focused on accessing the larger church. This group is currently meeting via email. If you are interested in joining the discussions, email me at ffccs@uaf.edu

All of these changes will be presented to the membership for their input and approval at the UMCD 2005 International Conference. Don't

miss this conference. We will have a truly international event, with workshops on ministries in Korea, Japan, Singapore, Kenya, Liberia, Zimbabwe and more. Come for fellowship, growth and fun! The registration material is enclosed in this newsletter. Be sure to send in your registration and a \$100 deposit by February 28, 2005 to reserve your place at the conference!

---- Candis Shannon, UMCD President



-- Sanganai Deaf Club, Zimbabwe

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Ecuador

If you look at a map of Ecuador, you will see a South American republic, about the size of Nevada. The Equator crosses through this little country that includes the famous Galapagos Islands. The capital city is Quito, which means “middle of the earth” in ancient Quechua, the language of the indigenous people of the area. Spanish colonialists, Germans, and Africans have migrated to that country, bringing their languages and traditions.

The newest language to come to Ecuador is Sign Language. About 25 years ago, the Peace Corps introduced American Sign Language to Ecuador. It has influenced the language of signs of Ecuador and as a result, Ecuadorian Sign Language is more accessible to American signers.

The newest mission to Ecuador is a mission to the Deaf people in Ecuador. **Camp Hosanna** is a Christian weekend evangelistic camp for families with deaf members. A church of the deaf, *Iglesia Elohim*, has been formed, with coffee socials, interpreted worship and Bible Study. These ministries have come about as a result of the Deaf leadership’s request for U.S. mission teams including Deaf team members.

For the past four years, U.S. mission teams have gone to Ecuador and touched the lives of the deaf communities in the cities of Quito, Ambato, Riobamba, Portoviejo, Quevedo, Loja, and Guayaquil. For the past two years, Deaf participants have come to Camp Hosanna from as far away as Peru.

Camp Hosanna has been funded by the Advance Special Grants administered by the United Methodist Church’s National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind People. Members of UMCD have participated in classes for children, youth, and adults. Topics requested by the local deaf leadership are as follows: 1) *How do we understand God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit?* 2) *How and why do we pray?* 3) *What are Biblical models for relationships with spouses and children?* 4) *What is Baptism?* Basic Bible studies have led to renewal of wedding vows, baptisms, and commitment to evangelical ministry with Deaf people.

We have taken Bibles, Sunday School materials, T-shirts, clothes, shoes, books, medicines and more and we have come away with a piece of Ecuador in our hearts. The people welcomed us and claimed us as kin. They ask us back every year, for they are still hungry for the Word of God and the fellowship of those who understand their language.

As a result of a unique component of our mission trip, any U.S. citizens with hearing loss will have the opportunity to participate in mission not only to the Deaf people in Ecuador, but also to children of poverty in day care centers. Many children in the day care center who have never met a deaf person before are able to communicate with us through the language of love and caring by working side by side and heart to heart.

---- By Rev. Wineva Hankamer



Editor’s note: The 2004 mission trip to Ecuador included several UMCD members, among them Rev. Tom Hudspeth, Stephanie Gasco, Belinda Gaskins, Barbara Smith, Barbara Kirsch, Jeffrey Roberts and Karen Harrell. Thank you

-- A Camp Hosanna Bible Study Class

Zimbabwe...the journey thus far

In 1999, Bishop Felton E. May of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church requested funds to send a deaf volunteer and two hearing interpreters to Zimbabwe to investigate the possibility of providing the spiritual care for deaf people in Zimbabwe. What they found was a shocking oversight of ministry and a tremendous opportunity for the deaf people in America to be of service to the deaf people of Zimbabwe. At that time, only one opportunity for worship could be found in the entire nation which was held at a school for the deaf in Harare and opened to the wider deaf community of Harare once a month. Furthermore, the status of deaf life in Zimbabwe was a tale of fragmented language and community. Deaf boarding schools had been established in different cities by different organizations that brought in different signed language systems. Government supported education placed deaf children in resource unit classrooms within hearing schools. Beyond these small gatherings of students, the deaf people of Zimbabwe struggled to meet, interact, and organize for self-advocacy. Many teachers of the deaf were either not trained at all in deaf education methods or felt their preparation to be inadequate for the task given to them in educating deaf children. They expressed a deep desire for sign language instruction and practical training for deaf education. The potential for the church to use its resources to foster a deaf community, which would harmonize and stabilize the language, and provide excellence in deaf education preparation through Africa University was tremendous.

This trip was followed up by a large group in 2000 who worked in the deaf resource units at primary schools in Sakubva, Chikanga, and Chirowakamwe in the vicinity of Mutare. Each team worked directly with students using as many Zimbabwean signs as we could learn and incorporate. Our methods emphasized deaf leadership and creative visual and non-verbal communication to convey stories, vocabulary learning, and mathematics. We also worked with the teachers in these



classrooms to enhance their understanding and confidence in using the methods they were seeing in action.

To close our week long work with these three schools, we held a Saturday event which brought together the children, their families, their teachers, their school administrators, their church officials, and their representatives in the governmental bodies overseeing education in Zimbabwe. Deaf adults from the area were particularly sought out. After our opening speeches, prayers, songs, and dramas, presented in Zimbabwean signs, spoken English, and spoken Shona, the children gathered outside for an afternoon of games and activities and the adults gathered inside for an afternoon of discussion and learning. Here deaf adults shared their experiences of growing up deaf in Zimbabwe. For the first time, many of them were able to have a platform to articulate their desires and frustrations in life with those who had the authority in society to create change. Many connections were made that day including hearing parents of deaf children who were able to gain advice from deaf adults on how to communicate and explain things with their children. From this gathering, an interest in deaf ministry began to take root among United Methodists in Mutare. Also an interest began among deaf adults in forming a club to meet weekly for their own support, advocacy, and interaction. Also during this trip, Carol Stevens and I met with Dr. Quarshie, the Dean of the Faculty of Education at Africa University, to discuss the need for improved practical training for teachers of the deaf in Zimbabwe and around the African continent. This conversation planted seeds which are beginning to bear fruit.

Zimbabwe (cont'd)

2003

In June of 2003, a team of four people made a follow up trip which utilized the presence of deaf Zimbabweans when visiting a variety of deaf classrooms in schools. The team also led interactive and practical workshops on deaf ministry and communicating the gospel to deaf people in Zimbabwe. Then they met with Dr. Murapa, the vice-chancellor of Africa University to continue discussion about how that institution could be a participant in the development of deaf education and deaf ministry. Dr. Rukudzo Murapa was invited to preside over the opening of a new building for the deaf club in Mutare which had chosen the name Sanagani, meaning "come together." At this grand opening ceremony, he announced that it was Africa University's intention to establish a deaf education/special needs education program that would serve to train teachers of the deaf in Zimbabwe and all of Africa.

2004

This past February, a team of four people from North America joined a gathering of educators and government officials at the request of Africa University to develop a curriculum to train teachers in Deaf education. This team consisted of myself, a campus minister at Gallaudet University (the only four year liberal arts University in the world specifically designed with the needs of deaf and hard of hearing students in mind), an American Sign Language interpreter (Carol Stevens), and a Canadian director of a Deaf education program at the University of Alberta. The Zimbabwean portion of the team consisted of teachers, headmasters, University professors, and government officials who are stakeholders in the interest of improving deaf education in Zimbabwe and around Africa. After a week of all day meetings and workgroup sessions, we formulated the both the beginning of a full four year curriculum in Deaf education and a plan for offering short courses for the 130 teachers in deaf classrooms in Zimbabwe with no specialized training and no sign language competency. The most urgent need identified by this consultation is the need for training programs which equip teachers of the deaf in using Zimbabwean Sign Language and non-verbal communication. The quandary is that Zimbabwean Sign Language does not exhibit a harmonization of standard usage among deaf people across Zimbabwe and for this reason has not been formally studied and developed.

In June and July of 2004 Carol Stevens and I

went over to assist with a variety of deaf ministry and deaf community events. The most exciting one is that Hilltop UMC has welcomed a group of seventeen deaf people into their membership. I had the honor of baptizing six of them and participating in awareness workshops and worship services. Hilltop UMC had three worship services to raise the awareness of deaf ministry in their church and they drew 200 people a night to share in singing, praying, preaching, bible drama, and learning Zimbabwean signs as well as seeing the stories of deaf peoples' lives and how they wanted to be a part of the church. Also a group of thirty people, mostly younger members, are learning Zimbabwean signs every week from the deaf members.

Sanganai Deaf Club continues to grow and now boasts a membership of over 50 people. They meet weekly on Saturdays for worship, fellowship, a meal, and workshops that help members communicate better and become self advocates. They also support a work project which employs eight deaf people teaching them job skills and making handicrafts, envelopes, and light furniture for selling in the city to generate income. Christ UMCD in Baltimore, Maryland gave funds for them to expand their business to include making candles, peanut butter, and freeze pops. This job training will be an important source of income and self sufficiency during the difficult economic and political times ahead for Zimbabwe.

-- Rev. Kirk VanGilder

Editor's note: There is an excellent article by Melissa Lauber about the Zimbabwe ministry online. Go to www.bwconf.org and click on UMConnection in the left hand column. You will get the Conference news. Look for the word *Archives* and click on that and then on the page that opens, click on September 2004. Scroll down this page to *News From Around the World* and you will see the name of the article *Giving God's Word --and words --to Africa's Deaf*. Click on that title and you'll be at the story. For those of you who are truly computer literate, just type in this address and you'll go straight to the story: http://bwconf.org/BWC_News/UMConnection/2004/Sept15-04issue/p6-News-Giving.html

Jurisdictional Officers

Northeast Jurisdiction Officers

David Ennis, President
nejpres@umcd.org
Darlene Koontz, Vice-President
Toby Witte-Dix, Secretary

Southeast Jurisdiction Officers:

Rev. Wineva Hankamer, President
sejpres@umcd.org
Debbie Bennett, Vice-President
Mary Harris, Secretary-Treasurer
Planning Team:
Pam Crosby, Tizzy Walker, Belinda Gaskins

North Central Jurisdiction Officers

Rev. Curt Keller, President
ncjpres@umcd.org
Pat Lancet, Secretary
Rev. Joo Kang, Treasurer

South Central Jurisdiction Officers

Dr. Julie Howard, President
scjpres@umcd.org
Sheila Finn, Vice-President
Esther Brownalenoir, Secretary
Rev. Rick Springer, Treasurer
Gina Symons, Historian

Western Jurisdiction Officers

Marian Aiken, President
wjpres@umcd.org
Beth Dewing, Vice-President
Forrest Ann Daniel, Secretary
Tom Magee, Treasurer

Officers for each jurisdiction can be contacted by emailing the President of that jurisdiction at the email listed above or by contacting the national office at:
United Methodist Congress of the Deaf
c/o Rev. Tom Hudspeth
9200 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas 75220
214-706-9522 Voice
214-706-9629 TTY
214-692-0803 Fax

National Committee Meeting

The National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People will hold its annual meeting March 8 through the 10th, 2005. The main focus of the meeting will be establishing priorities and developing an action plan to carry out these priorities during this next quadrennium.

The meeting will be held in Lineville, Alabama, at Servants in Faith and Technology (SIFAT), which is where Rev. Wineva Hankamer, UMCD Interim SEJ President and Coordinator for the National Committee, holds down her day job. Rev. Tom Hudspeth, President of the National Committee (and Treasurer of UMCD) will lead the meeting. Committee members are ready to get to work. Let us send prayers their way for a productive meeting. Email tom at treasurer@umcd.org with any input on the planning process.

New web site up and running

Many thanks to Rev. Rick Springer for the many hours he spent transferring the web site over to a new domain server and loading a new, as he terms it, work-in-progress, also known as the UMCD web page. Be sure to check back frequently as we have more changes and additions in store: www.umcd.org.

Submissions needed for May newsletter

The deadline for submitting articles and pictures for the next UMCD newsletter is April 15th. Francine Kenyon, the newsletter editor, would appreciate articles sent as far in advance of that date as possible, to help avoid a last-minute time crunch. She can be reached at archives@umcd.org. The newsletter will be mailed out during the middle of May.





2004 Deaf Blind Camp

In Eleven Countries Hands Folded In Prayer are Already at Work

How to Donate Now to the Relief Effort

Today, the world is feeling a loss as big as any in history. Generations erased. Entire communities swept away. The destruction the people from South Asia to East Africa are enduring is almost beyond belief and understanding. And as the families of those affected by the recent tsunami remain in our heartfelt prayers, the people of The United Methodist Church are already putting those hands of prayer to work.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is responding through its ecumenical partners to the catastrophe. We ask that you join us, and millions around the world, to give to those who have lost so much. One hundred percent of your gift goes to relief and recovery efforts.

To make a donation by phone call 1-800-554-8583 or use our secure server to make an online donation at www.methodistrelief.org

To give by check: Checks are also accepted and should be made out to: UMCOR. Please list in the memo area of your check "UMCOR Advance #274305, South Asia Emergency Fund". Send your check immediately to: UMCOR, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 330, New York, NY 10115. Your donation can also be placed in an offering plate at any local United Methodist Church.



Jurisdictional News

Western Jurisdiction Conference Report

The Western Jurisdiction of UMCD met in Paradise Valley, AZ. What a wonderful conference we had - "Connecting With the Spirit". Friday, January 14th began with an all day workshop presentation by the National Committee. Several local pastors, lay persons and caring ministries staff attended this workshop. All areas of ministering with the Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind and Interpreters were represented. The entire workshop was also covered by CART.

Friday evening was the actual beginning of the WJ conference. All present focused on an inspirational presentation by Rev. Joo Kang. What a wonderful story he has to share about his experiences in Korea and why he has come to the U.S. to minister. If you do not know Joo's story or have not met him, plan to attend the National UMCD meeting in July of 2005 to get a taste of what we witnessed at Paradise Valley.

Saturday morning began with our WJ business meeting. We were able to elect new officers for all positions. President is Elke Sharma, Gooding, Idaho, Vice-President is Aditya Sharma of Gooding Idaho, Secretary is Jeffrey Burns of Julian, CA, Treasurer is Marian Aiken of Los Altos, CA, and Newsletter editor is Francine Kenyon of Honolulu, HI. With this group of officers, we should be able to accomplish much in the next two years. During the business meeting, it was decided not to make any changes in the bylaws until we hear further what takes place at the National level. Jeff Burns is to check out resources in the San Diego area for location of our next WJ meeting.

Following the business meeting, we had three spiritually focused workshops: "Lectio Divinia", "Sensing God" and "Praying With Your Hands". The leaders did a remarkable job of presenting excellent information in a short period of time which allowed us to focus on spiritual themes that we could take home with us. Once again, we had the privilege of

having Rev. Joo Kang speak late afternoon.

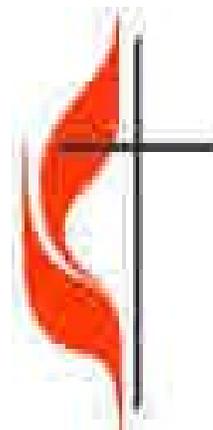
While those who were attending the WJ meetings in one room met, the Social Hall at the church was bursting with a large enthusiastic crowd of interpreters attending an all day religious interpreters workshop put on by WJ. It was inspirational seeing so many interpreters in one room with the desire to improve their skills and share their knowledge to minister with the Deaf.

Saturday evening everyone gathered in the Social Hall for an evening of entertainment by the "Hands of Joy" sign language choir from St. Matthew's UMC, Mesa, AZ. Not one person left that evening disappointed. What an delightful way to end our day!

Sunday morning, we gathered for morning worship in the main sanctuary of Paradise Valley UMC. The congregation at Paradise Valley UMC were able to experience worship with interpreters, CART, the Hands of Joy Choir and an informative sermon by Rev. Dr. Kelly Bender. It's almost certain that no one left the WJ-UMCD gathering without a feeling of satisfaction. Not only were our souls being fed but also our bodies with plentiful meals and refreshments as well as our social needs with the diversity of our group.

May we all applaud the planning committee - Chris Chaille, Ginny Clark-Wright and Rev. Diana Williams - for their exceptional planning to make this meeting a success. We also would like to extend our thanks to Paradise Valley UMC for hosting our meeting.

-- Marian Aiken, WJ Past President



umcd



Northeast Jurisdiction

Deaf Blind Camp 2005

Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf in Baltimore will again sponsor the 2005 Deaf Blind Camp, its eight year of sponsorship! The camp will be held at West River Camping Center in Churchton, Maryland, from June 12, 2005 to June 17, 2005. The camp is designed for Deaf-Blind adults. All forms of communication are welcome. The cost for campers is \$175 and an additional \$50 (optional) is charged if the camper wishes to do horseback riding. The theme of the 2005 camp is "Western Hoe Down." Camp activities will include: Bible study, games, crafts, programs, massage therapy, a trip to Washington, DC (Native American Museum), bowling, swimming, wall climbing, boating, square dancing, and support group.

There is a need for a large group of support service providers, interpreters and volunteers to make the camp work. Each camper is assigned to two support service providers. Anyone interested in volunteering (without pay) is most welcome. They will need to arrange transportation at their own expense but the room and board is free. For more information about the camp or to receive a registration form contact Rev. Peggy Johnson at 410-247-5045 V/TTY or RevPink@aol.com

Each year the camp has grown (6 campers in 1998 to 39 campers in 2004). Last year's camp was blessed to have Father Cyril Axelrod as the Bible study leader and spiritual guide. Father Axelrod is the only deaf-blind priest in all the world. Spiritual nurture and worship is a big part of the camp experience. Many deaf-blind people find it difficult to attend worship due to difficulty with accessing the worship. Camp is a place where worship and spiritual support is readily available. People from all faith communities come together at this camp. God's grace and love is freely shared from hand to hand.

-- Rev. Peggy Johnson



Southeastern Jurisdiction

Will all those who live in Alabama-West Florida, Florida, Holston, Kentucky, Memphis, Mississippi, North Alabama, North Carolina, North Georgia, Red Bird Missionary, South Carolina, South Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, or Western North Carolina Annual Conferences, please email interim president, Wineva Hankamer at winevah@yahoo.com. We will have an open discussion, declare who can vote according to UMCD bylaws, and then the executive committee will call a business meeting and we will take care of anything that requires a vote. Agenda items include the search for a deaf, Deaf, or late-deafened person to serve as president, affirm or reselect vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and select a design team for the next jurisdictional event.

Interim officers are Wineva Hankamer, Mary Harris, and Debbie Bennett. If you know of someone in the SEJ who might be interested in joining our discussion, please invite them to do so by emailing winevah@yahoo.com or calling 256 396-2015. To call by TTY, use relay to call first, leave a number, and you will receive a return call as soon as possible.

-- Rev. Wineva Hankamer, SEJ President

South Central Jurisdiction

Ephaphatha Class Celebration

Congratulations to the Boston Avenue United Methodist Church members and friends for celebrating 42 years of the Ephaphatha class and its importance to the cause of Deaf ministry in the United Methodist Church.

Boston Avenue is an anchor of Deaf Ministry in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a place where deaf people can worship and be involved in the affairs of the church. Karen Harrell, President of the Ephaphatha class is also a UMCD officer, and her efforts are to be commended and rewarded for maintaining a strong deaf ministry in Oklahoma

-- Father Cyril Axelrod blesses a Deaf Blind Camp member at the 2004 camp



Our Condolences and Prayers

By Francine Kenyon

Two SCJ-UMCD members have lost their beloved ones so please send your condolences and pray for them and their families. Sheila Finn's daughter, Tina (Thompson) Henson, passed away on December 24th, due to her long illness. She was survived by her husband, Tim, and two children. The funeral service was held at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma on December 29th.

Barbara Smith's father suffered a stroke since December 5th and was completely paralyzed. He died peacefully on December 27th. The funeral was held at Richard-Colonial Funeral Home in Port Lavaca, Texas on December 30th. So the flowers and donations can be sent to the following address below.

Just received another sad news from Wendy Carrington of North Central Jurisdiction. Shirley Huddleston-Sutherland passed away on January 1st due to a brief illness with cancer. She had been a faithful, loyal interpreter for the most of her life. She did the interpreting for UMCD participants in Springfield, Illinois in 1995. She was a friendly, happy person and it was a great shock to me when I learned about her death today (January 5th).

Condolences can be sent to:

Sheila Finn, 31800 South 680 Road
Grove, Oklahoma 74344

Barbara Smith, P.O. Box 215
Seadrift, Texas 77983

Stacey Sutherland, 65 Sonora Drive
Montgomery, Illinois 60538

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25 NIV

Almighty God, we ask you, O Lord, to comfort our deaf friends, Sheila Finn, Barbara Smith and Stacey Sutherland, who have lost their beloved ones: Open their hearts, so they may know their loved ones are now with You and be completed in joy. O Lord, comfort Sheila, Barbara and Stacey in this time of grief and sorrow and bring them the gladness as they remember their loved ones as time goes by. May their beloved ones be their Guardian Angels with all their hearts, minds and souls.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord the Savior,
Amen.



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.



The Faith We Sing American Sign Language Version

This new book shows how to sign all the songs in the hymnal supplement *The Faith We Sing*. This is a text-only version primarily for signers to use in worship and other church settings.

The book was published in May 2004 and is in a paperback version. The publisher is Abingdon Press and the ISBN number is 0-687-06681-6.

The book sells for \$20.00. *The Faith We Sing American Sign Language version* is available at Cokesbury's www.cokesbury.com or at 1 800 672 1789.

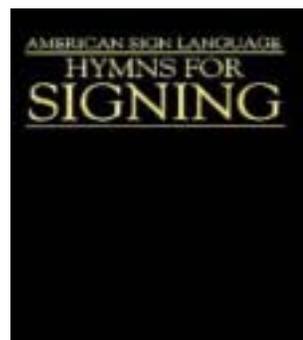
Lighten up your life with prayer

American Sign Language Hymns for Signing

United Methodist Hymnal

American Sign Language Hymns for Signing is an invaluable resource for sign language interpreters., Deaf people and all those involved in Deaf ministry. As anyone who has tried to interpret hymns into American Sign Language knows, the ongoing challenge is figuring out what the concept/meaning is behind the words and what the best translation might be for that concept.

Best used with Martin Sternberg's American Sign Language Dictionary, American Sign Language Hymns for Signing gives suggestions for ASL translation to the hymns in the United Methodist Hymnal. The book translates every song in the hymnal into ASL. The Publisher is Abingdon Press. ISBN nbr is 0-43180-8. The book sells for \$30.00 and is available at the web site www.cokesbury.com or call 1 800 672 1789.



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.

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: _____



Address

City

State

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

**Help the Endowment Fund
Grow!**

The endowment currently totals \$8,428. As soon as we reach \$10,000 we can begin splitting the interest, with half remaining to help the endowment fund grow and the other half seeding UMCD ministries!

The endowment fund is held by the United Methodist Foundation in Houston, Texas. All donations are tax deductible. Help us to meet our goal of \$10,000 in contributions today.