



# The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf

## Signs of Change

June 2005

### 2005 Global Conference

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

**Baltimore Maryland July 14 - 17, 2005**



Two hundred and twenty people are registered to attend the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf 2005 Global Conference. The conference will be held in Baltimore, Maryland July 14th through the 17th. We have had a tremendous response to the conference, and have had to close registration as there are no remaining spots available!

This will be our first ever international conference with participants from Kenya, Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Guam, Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, and the United States. We will have presentations from a variety of global ministries and on Deaf-Blind ministry. There will be several opportunities for worship and Bible Study. We are planning a banquet featuring Bishop John Schol of the Baltimore Washington Conference. Deaf dancers from Korea will be another highlight of the conference. We will hold a formal business meeting to approve the new bylaws of UMCD.

Youth will have a program that runs concurrently with the conference. Display tables will allow different ministries, jurisdictions and cultures to share with the participants and time is planned for fellowship and exchange of ideas and details about ministries.

Communication access is one of the important considerations of this conference. In addition to having sign language interpreters for the various countries represented there will also be real-time text translation. An FM assistive listening system will help hard of hearing people understand the goings on.

Many thanks to those who have provided funding for this conference: The United Methodist Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People, the Baltimore-Washington Conference, the Northeast Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, Middletown UMC, Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf, Magothy United Methodist Church of the Deaf, Emmanuel UMC, St. Matthews UMC, and the participants themselves. Big thanks to the Northeast Jurisdiction UMCD members whose hard work is making this possible.

There will be a meeting of UMCD officers before the conference begins. All those registered must pay the balance of their bill by June 14th.



**The People of The United Methodist Church**

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors



Greetings from Candis ...

So many exciting happenings and changes are going on with the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf. The NEJ Planning Committee members are working extremely hard to make our 2005 Global Conference a success. The logistics at times seem daunting, as we will have sign language interpreters translating into several different languages simultaneously, and computer-assisted real-time text translation into English, and assistive listening systems, but all is falling into place. And that is good, because it will free us up to make new friends and learn about each other.

David Ennis and Rev. Joo Hai Kang are cochairs of the 2005 Global Conference Planning Committee. Rev. Peggy Johnson and Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. are copastors for the conference. Roy White, Dan Kenyon, Toby Witte-Dix, Carmela Kenyon and others are the members of the planning committee that deserve our thanks and our prayers. You are making this historical event possible.

Also, UMCD has been working on its ByLaws and Constitution. Many thanks to the efforts of the UMCD Task Force: Dan Kenyon, Tom Hudspeth, Lisa Harvey, David Ennis, Julie Howard, Wineva Hankamer, Curt Keller and Marian Aiken. They cut, simplified and streamlined our organization's governing rules, bringing us up to date with today's way of doing things. The UMCD Officers UNANIMOUSLY voted to accept the new bylaws and we are presenting them to you, our members, in this newsletter,

The first change we made was to combine the bylaws and the constitution into one document which will be known as our ByLaws. Again, this is in keeping with current practice for nonprofit organizations.

Then, we created a clear and concise mission statement that gives our organization a sense of purpose and direction: **The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf celebrates and promotes Christian leadership and discipleship within the Deaf community.**

Committee Chairs are no longer officers. Their work is vital to UMCD, and it will continue as Committee work rather than Officer work. The new Board will consist of the Jurisdiction Presidents, a new International or Central Conference representative, and a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Once the new ByLaws are voted on by the membership and passed at the Global Conference, all elections will be done by mail after the UMCD Conference every other year. This will allow all members to be involved in our organization and free up time during the Conference for other matters.

Please read the new ByLaws. I know you will like them. Your comments are encouraged and appreciated and know that these proposed ByLaws will be discussed thoroughly at our Global Conference before you vote on them. You will decide.

This will be my last column as your President as my term ends this July, but I'll still be involved in service to UMCD and the United Methodist Church. We have much to do in building our ministry.

Looking forward to seeing you at Global Conference!

---- Candis Shannon, UMCD President



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# 2005 Global Conference

**Baltimore Maryland July 14 - 17, 2005**

## Schedule of Events

Please note this schedule is still tentative and changes are still being made. Many thanks to the NEJ Planning Committee for their help in making this global conference possible!

### Wednesday, July 13

Afternoon  
5:30 pm

UMCD Officers Arrive  
Officers Dinner - Rose Restaurant

Comfort Inn Airport  
6921 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd  
Baltimore, Maryland 21225  
[www.umcdconference.org](http://www.umcdconference.org)  
410-247-5045 v/tty

### Thursday, July 14

7:00 am - 8:00 am  
9:00 am - 12:00 noon  
12:00 Noon  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
4:00 pm  
5:30 pm  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
8:30 pm

Officers Breakfast: Rose Restaurant  
Officers Meeting : Baltimore Room in Sleep Inn  
Officers Lunch : Rose Restaurant  
Officers Meeting: Baltimore Room in Sleep Inn  
Registration for UMCD Participants: lower level of Comfort Inn  
Opening Session : Chesapeake Room  
Dinner : Rose Restaurant  
Opening Worship - Rev. Nam (Korea): Chesapeake Room  
Snacks hosted by Christ UM Church of the Deaf: Rose Restaurant

### Friday, July 15

6:00 am  
6:30 am - 8:00 am  
8:30 am  
9:30 am - 10:00 am  
10:00 am - 11:00 am  
11:00 am - 11:15 am  
11:15 am - 12:15 pm  
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
5:30 pm  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
8:30 pm

Morning Devotions - Rev. Amos Muyambo (Zimbabwe): Chesapeake  
Buffet Breakfast - Rose Restaurant  
Bible Study - Christ Hughes (USA) - Chesapeake  
Break  
Japan Presentation - Chesapeake  
Break  
Deaf-Blind Presentation - Jack Wright: Chesapeake  
Lunch :Rose Restaurant  
Sri Lanka Presentation:Chesapeake  
Break  
Korean Presentation: Chesapeake  
Break  
Dinner : Rose Restaurant  
Worship - American : Chesapeake  
Snack hosted by Magothy UM Church of the Deaf - Rose Restaurant

**Saturday, July 16**

6:30 am	Morning Devotions - Rev. Kanayama (Japan): Chesapeake
7:00 am - 8:00 am	Buffet Breakfast : Rose Restaurant
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Bible Study - Chris Hughes (USA): Chesapeake
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Break
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Kenya Presentation: Chesapeake
11:00 am - 11:15 am	Break
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Liberia Presentation: Chesapeake
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch :Rose Restaurant
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	Zimbabwe Presentation: Chesapeake
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Ecuador Presentation: Chesapeake
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Break
3:45 pm	UMCD General Membership Meeting: Chesapeake
6:30 pm	Banquet - Bishop John Schol: Rose Restaurant
Following banquet	Korean Dancers/Sign Singers: Chesapeake

**Sunday, July 17**

6:30 am	Morning Devotions (Guam): Chesapeake
7:00 am - 8:00 am	Breakfast : Rose Restaurant
8:30 am - 10:00 am	Panel: Chesapeake
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Worship - Rev. Joo Hai Kang (Korea) : Chesapeake
12:00 noon	Lunch : Rose Restaurant
1:00 pm	Farewells and Departure

Exhibit Booths will be on the lower level of the Comfort Inn and next door at the Sleep Inn.

All meetings and worship services will be held in the Chesapeake Room in the lower level of the Comfort Inn, with the exception of the UMCD Board meeting on Thursday, which will be held in the Baltimore Room at Sleep Inn.

All meals are served in the Rose Restaurant, which is adjacent to the Comfort Inn and can be accessed by a covered walkway leading from the Chesapeake Room to the restaurant.

**Youth Program:** Youth will have a separate program of their own on Friday, July 15th and Saturday, July 16th from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. On Friday, a trip to Six Flags has been planned for the day. On Thursday and Sunday, July 14th and July 17th, youth are expected to attend the full meeting with their parents. We regret we are not able to provide child care or programs for children under age 12.

# Proposed UMCD ByLaws

## Article I

### Name, Territory, and Principal Office

#### Section 1: Name.

The name of this organization shall be known as the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf, Inc., hereafter referred to as UMCD.

#### Section 2: Territory.

The primary service area of UMCD shall include the five Jurisdictions and the Central Conference of the United Methodist Church.

#### Section 3: Principal Office.

UMCD shall maintain a registered office at the

General Board of Global Ministries  
Health & Welfare  
United Methodist Church  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 330  
New York, N.Y. 10115  
Tel: (212) - 870 - 3870  
Fax: (212) - 870 - 3624  
www.gb-gm-umc.org

## Article II

### Purpose

#### Section 1:

The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf celebrates and promotes Christian leadership and discipleship within the Deaf community.

Section 2: UMCD shall use the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church as guidance in conducting its affairs.

Section 3: The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf affirms the authority of Scripture in matters of faith.

## Article III

### Membership

Section 1: Members of UMCD are those who share the goals of UMCD as stated in Article II Purpose and are current in their dues to UMCD.

Section 2: Voting members of UMCD meet all of the requirements of Article III Section 1 and, in addition, are lay or clergy members of the United Methodist Church.

## Article IV

### Committees

Section 1: There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and the Treasurer.

Section 2: There shall be a Nominations Committee consisting of members of the Executive Committee and two at-large voting members of UMCD. The nominations committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President.

Section 3. The President and the Board may establish standing and ad hoc committees whenever the need arises.

- A. The President shall have the power to appoint committee chairs and to appoint committee members subject to the approval of the Board. Much important work of UMCD is done by its Committees.
- B. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees.

## Article V

### Board Members

Section 1: The Board shall consist of the following officers:

- A. President
- B. Vice-President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. Northeast Jurisdiction President
- F. Southeast Jurisdiction President
- G. North Central Jurisdiction President
- H. South Central Jurisdiction President
- I. Western Jurisdiction President
- J. International (Central Conference) President

Section 2: During Board meetings, only Board members shall have voting privileges, the President voting only in case of a tie.

Section 3: The Board members shall serve terms of four years and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 4: The President of the United Methodist Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People shall be an ex-officio member of the UMCD Board without vote.

Section 5: Past Presidents of UMCD shall have ex-officio membership on the Board without vote.

Section 6: The Liaison Officer to the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries shall have ex-officio membership on the Board without vote.

## Article VI

### Vacancies on the UMCD Board

Section 1: If a vacancy occurs between general membership meetings of UMCD, the Board is empowered to fill the vacancy until the next general membership meeting of UMCD. At the next general membership meeting, an officer will be elected to serve a full four-year term. The person selected by the Board to fill the vacant position in the interim shall be eligible for election to that position.

Section 2: In the case of the death or resignation of a President, the Vice-President assumes the duties of the President and completes the term of office.

Proposed ByLaws (cont'd)

Article VII

Qualifications of Officers

Section 1: The officers of UMCD must be members in good standing in the United Methodist Church and voting members of UMCD.

Section 2: The officers must be of sound character, competent, and mature in judgment and experience.

Section 3: At least two of the officers of the Executive Committee shall be Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind.

Section 4: A person nominated for office must be a member of UMCD and have attended one Conference or a Jurisdictional meeting, previous to the Congress at which he/she is nominated.

Article VIII

Election of Officers

Section 1: Officer terms are for four years. Elections will be held once every two years on years ending with an odd number via mail balloting, in August, following the general membership meeting held in July. Though terms are for four years, the Officer's terms are staggered so that at no one time will the entire Board composition be voted upon.

Section 2: The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for approval by the UMCD Board. The nominees will be introduced at the general membership meeting of UMCD, held the third week of July every other year on years ending with an odd number.

Section 3: The Treasurer and the UMCD member who is in charge of keeping the membership database up to date shall determine the correct listing of voting members and shall send mail ballots to all eligible voting members at their most recent mailing addresses.

Section 4: The Nominating Committee shall oversee the collection and counting of the ballots under the supervision of the Vice-President. Impartial observers will be involved in each step of the process, from collecting the mail to counting the ballots in order to ensure that the election is conducted with the highest integrity and honesty.

Section 5: Jurisdictional Presidents and the International (Central Conference) President are elected by their respective Jurisdictions or Central Conference.

Section 6: In the event of a resignation of an Officer between general meetings of UMCD, the Board is empowered to fill the vacancy until the next general membership meeting of UMCD (or Jurisdictional or International meeting in the event of the resignation of a Jurisdictional or International President). The President

has the authority to appoint a person as an Interim Officer with the approval of the Board and this person will serve until the next mail balloting at which time the Interim Officer shall be eligible to run for election to the appointed position.

Article IX

Duties of Officers

Section 1: ..... The President shall function as chief executive officer of UMCD and shall:

- a. Preside at all business meetings of UMCD.
b. Provide liaison between UMCD and the United Methodist Church.
c. Work closely with the staff of the Health and Welfare Ministries Program of the General Board of Global Ministries for promoting Deaf ministries.
d. Work closely with the Jurisdictional and International Presidents and Committee Chairs.
e. Officially represent UMCD at national conferences of the United Methodist Church.
f. Maintain contact with the membership of UMCD through regular contributions to the UMCD newsletter.
g. Be an ex-officio member of all UMCD Committees.

Section 2: ..... The Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President in case of the absence of the President and shall:

- a. Work closely with the President on all matters related to UMCD.
b. Shall be in communication with the Jurisdictional and International Presidents of UMCD and receive information concerning activities concerning Deaf ministries within each Jurisdiction.
c. Shall be the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

Section 3: ..... The Secretary shall keep a record of all regular and special meetings of UMCD and shall

- a. Provide all Officers with a copy of minutes of all meetings.
b. Correspond in relation to any business of the UMCD when requested to do so.
c. Be responsible for notification of all meetings and elections.

- d. Discharge all other duties usual to the office of Secretary.

Section 4: ..... The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of UMCD and shall

- a. Collect dues and donations from members and other monies, giving appropriate receipts.
- b. Have the responsibility to write and sign all checks for UMCD, but only upon receiving written authorization from the President.
- c. Oversee the UMCD Endowment Fund serving as Chairperson.
- d. Provide the Board and membership with accurate financial statements.
- e. Discharge all other duties usual to the office of Treasurer.

Section 5: ..... The Jurisdictional Presidents and International President are responsible for their Jurisdiction and/or Conference and shall:

- a. Work to increase the numbers of UMCD members from their area.
- b. Hold a biennial Jurisdictional/International Conference on the even years.
- c. Preside over meetings of the Jurisdictional or International Officers and the general membership meetings of the Jurisdiction or International Conference.
- d. See that the Jurisdictional Officers or International Officers carry out their duties and assist in writing a Jurisdictional/International newsletter when possible.
- e. Follow the By-Laws written for their respective Jurisdiction or International Central Conference and ensure that the By-Laws support the work of UMCD.
- f. Work with the larger church in the respective Jurisdiction or International Conference to establish new Deaf ministries and encourage the growth of existing Deaf ministries.

**Article X  
Conferences/Meetings**

Section 1: Conferences/meetings of the UMCD shall be held in accordance with the following guidelines:

- a. The biennial conference and general membership meeting of UMCD shall be held the third week of July once every two (2) years. These meetings shall be held on years ending with an odd number.
- b. The dates of the biennial conference and general membership meeting can be adjusted by majority vote of the Board.
- c. All conferences/general membership meetings shall be accessible to persons who

are Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind.

- d. The UMCD Board will select a primary site for the upcoming biennial conference/general membership meeting and an alternative meeting site. The sites should alternate between the various Jurisdictions and the Central Conference.

Section 2: The agenda of the general business meetings shall be as follows:

- a. Invocation
- b. Roll Call
- c. Reading of the minutes
- d. Treasurer’s Report
- e. Reports of Officers and Committees
- f. Unfinished Old Business
- g. New Business
- h. Adjournment and Benediction

Section 3: Two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board must be present to constitute a quorum for Board meetings. Board meetings can be conducted in person or via email.

Section 4: In case of questions regarding procedure of any UMCD meeting not otherwise covered in the By-Laws, the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church and Robert’s Rules of Order shall determine parliamentary procedure.

**Article XI  
Finances**

Section 1: The fiscal year shall be from January 1st through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Section 2: There shall be an annual fee for membership dues set by the Board.

Section 3: UMCD Jurisdictions/Conferences shall establish and collect their own dues, set up their own By-Laws, and elect their own officers but shall work with and coordinate with UMCD, the parent organization, and shall follow the purpose of UMCD in all Jurisdictional/International affairs. A financial statement and listing of Jurisdictional/International members shall be submitted to UMCD at least once per year: on even years these reports need to be submitted within 30 days of the Jurisdictional/International Conference. On odd years, the reports should be submitted prior to the UMCD International Conference in July.

Section 4: Standard accounting procedures shall be used. If financial records are maintained on a computer system, backup procedures shall be utilized as established by a designated person and approved by the Executive Committee.

### Proposed ByLaws (cont'd)

Section 5: Within two (2) months after the end of the fiscal year an audit of the financial records of UMCD shall be made by an auditor familiar with standard accounting procedures appointed by the Executive Committee. The auditors shall not be current or outgoing officers. The audit need not be certified.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall provide a financial report at regular Board meetings and a full financial statement at the biennial conference/general membership meeting and complete any necessary financial paperwork required by the Internal Revenue Service.

#### Article XII Resignation and Removal of Officers

Section 1: Any Officer who wishes to resign must submit a letter of resignation to the President at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of resignation. In the event that the President resigns, the letter must be submitted to the entire Board.

Section 2: Any vacancy created through resignation shall be filled by procedure outlined in Article VIII Section 6.

Section 3: The Board may declare the position of an Officer vacant and may remove such Officer for cause on the occurrence of any of the following events:

- a. The Officer has been declared of unsound mind by an order of the Court.
- b. The Officer has failed to attend the last three meetings of the Board.
- c. The Officer has committed a chargeable offense under the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (paragraph 2702).
- d. The officer is no longer a member of the United Methodist Church.

#### Article XIII Dissolution

Section 1: ..... In the event UMCD dissolves, any and all money, assets, and liabilities shall be transferred to the General Board of Global Ministries.

#### Article XIV Amendments

Section 1: ..... These By-Laws, all or in part, may be amended, altered, suspended, or repealed by a majority vote of the voting members of UMCD or by a 2/3 vote of the Officers of the UMCD Board.

### Officer Nominations

The UMCD Nominations Committee met and the UMCD Officers approved the following nominations for officers:

- President: Dan Kenyon (NEJ)
- Vice-President: Julie Howard (SCJ)
- Secretary: Pat Lancet (NCJ)
- Treasurer: Tom Hudspeth (SCJ)

Jurisdictional Presidents and the new International (Central Conference) Presidents are elected by each Jurisdiction/Conference.

If the old structure is kept, the following Committee Chairs are up for election: Lay Leadership: Roy White (NEJ); Church Promotion of Deaf Ministry: Karen Harrell (SCJ); Communication Technology: Rick Springer (SCJ); Archives and History: Francine Kenyon (WJ). These officers are willing to continue their service under the new ByLaws, not as officers, but as Committee Chairs with much important work to do.



Deaf Students and the Llama at SIFAT (see page 12)



# The United Methodist Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People

## National Committee Changes Name

In an effort to show more connection to the United Methodist Church and to reflect its growing international as well as national focus, the National Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People has changed its name.

At its recent annual meeting, Nat Com became the United Methodist Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People.

"This new name clearly describes the diversity of the people we serve and encourages us to maintain a global perspective," President Tom Hudspeth shared.

## New Grant Guidelines Set

Using funds from the Advance Special fund, the UM Committee on Ministries with Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind People has developed new guidelines to assist in the grant process.

The four main areas focused on are: 1. seed monies for ministries with deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing and deaf-blind people. 2. funding to improve access to the United Methodist church amongst the four groups outlined in number 1. 3. Missions, camps and outreach. 4. Scholarships for people wanting to receive training for deaf ministry or specialized ministry with hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind people.

## Mardy Walker FM System

At the March Committee meeting, a dedication service was held for the Mardy Walker FM System that was purchased through donations to a special Advance Fund after Mardy's passing.

Stories were shared about positive experiences through using the system and memories of Mardy were also reflected upon.

## Committee Priorities Set

Below are just some of the priorities that the Committee set as goals for its work during the quadrennium.

1. Support leadership development for lay and ordained through seminary or professional training events for people upgrading their skills or preparing for ministries with Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and/or deaf-blind people.

2. Identify and develop funding sources for ministries with Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and/or deaf-blind people.

3. Launch ministries with Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and/or deaf-blind people.

4. Promote the Advance Special and develop a new brochure.

5. Create a website.

6. Promote Signs of Solidarity through Cokesbury, seminaries, bookstores, Gallaudet, etc.

7. Provide awareness workshops when requested.

8. Produce videos to explain and promote our various models of ministry.

9. Learn and clarify needs of hard of hearing, late-deafened and older adult hearing loss people, and research solutions for their full participation in the life of the church.

10. Support outreach missions in the US and beyond that focus on ministry with Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing, and/or deaf-blind people.

11. Support leadership development for lay and ordained through seminary or professional training events for people upgrading their skills or preparing for ministries with these groups.

These priorities will be refined and more specific objectives made and completed as the Committee continues its work for the quadrennium.

## Jurisdictional News

### Western Jurisdiction



Hands of Joy Sign Language Choir from St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Mesa, Arizona, performing at the UMCD Western Jurisdiction conference in January 2005.

Jeffrey Burns, current WJ-UMCD Secretary, will be serving as a camp counselor this summer at Camp Otterbein, the United Methodist Camp in Logan, Ohio. Please keep Jeffrey and all of our members involved with camps this summer in your prayers.

Baby Ashwin James Sharma was born April 21st at 8.4 lbs. Proud parents are WJ's new President, Elke Sharma and Vice-President Aditya Sharma. Welcome, Ashwin!

Francine Kenyon has been reconfirmed to serve a second term as a member of Hawaii's Statewide Independent Living Council. She will be officially sworn in at the state Capitol this June. Congratulations, Francine!



Marian Aiken, WJ Past President, participating in one of the workshops at the WJ conference.

### South Central Jurisdiction

Karen Harrell has moved to a new church where she is helping to coordinate the deaf ministry and is finding better support. Asbury UMC in Tulsa, Oklahoma provides interpreters for worship services every Sunday and for other services and events as needed. Currently Karen and other Deaf people attending Asbury are in a hearing Sunday School class with a sign language interpreter, but hope to start a Dweaf Sunday School class soon.

### North Central Jurisdiction

#### Signs Institute

This summer's sign camp will be at Living Springs Camp from July 31st to August 5th. Deaf and hearing people from grade 9 to adult in age come together to share and learn from each other. Hearing campers work on their sign language skills int he morning with deaf campers have activities especially for them. In the afternoon, joint activites are planned that include swimming, boating, rock climbin, etc.

For further information, contact Rev. Dr. Curt Keller at [ncjpres@umcd.org](mailto:ncjpres@umcd.org). Living Springs Camp is located at Lewiston, Illinois.

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### Western Jurisdiction

Amy Edwards, who helps out with computer assisted notetaking and translation into text for Western Jurisdiction, was appointed as the Young Adult Ministry Coordinator for the Oregon-Idaho conference. She has really been growing in this position, attending retreats, giving presentations and workshops as part of her new responsibilities. Way to go, Amy!

## Northeast Jurisdiction

### Deaf-Blind Camp

Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf in Baltimore will again sponsor the 2005 Deaf Blind Camp. 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.

A large group of support service providers, interpreters and volunteers is needed 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](mailto:RevPink@aol.com).

### Deaf Camps

NEJ's deaf camps will be from July 24 - 29 this year at West River Camp, 20 miles south of Annapolis. Camp Director is Rev. Peggy Johnson and there are three groups: Elementary - ages 7-10 (Directors: Doris Schwarz and Ruth Cobb); Mid High - ages 11 - 13 (Directors TJ Waters and Kathy McMillan) and Sr. High - ages 14 - 18 (Directors Jason Hays and Mark Jennings). Swimming, tubing, arts & crafts, hiking, campfires, bible lessons, worship, archery and lots of new friends. Cost: \$300.00. Online registration at [www.bwcumc.org/camping](http://www.bwcumc.org/camping) or contact Rev. Johnson.



## Sign Language Camps

Baltimore-Washington Conference's West River Camp will host sign language camps for middle high years (11-13) and Sr. High (14 - 18) from from July 24 - 29. Leo Yates, Jr. is the Camp Director for the Mid High group and Lynn Kohler is the Director for the Sr High group. Cost is \$300.00 per camp.

**Mid High:** This camp is for those who want to learn and use American Sign Language. Campers will receive signing instruction while concurrently participating with the Deaf Camp in daily camp activities. Whether you are learning to sign for fun or for family or friends, this is an unforgettable week.

**Sr High:** This is a new camp and will be geared for new and experienced signers, hearing AND deaf. Campers will participate in an off-site field trip and service project in the Deaf community. They will also explore educational and career opportunities available to deaf individuals and people knowledgeable in sign language. Interaction with the deaf campers on-site plus all the fun of swimming, ropes courses, archery, boating, games and more make this a great week.

At Manidokan camp, near the Potomac River, a Sign Language Camp for grades 5 - 8 will be under the capable direction of TJ Waters and Kathy MacMillan from June 26 - July 1st. The course will offer intensive instructions and allow campers to use their new language while enjoying many of the other fun activities at camp.

(see Deaf Camps for contact and registration information).

### Conference Program Book a Winner

David Ennis, NEJ President and others are designing a special program booklet for the Global Conference. It will include a welcome from Bishop Schol and will include translations into all of the languages to be used at the conference. Translating the words into so many languages has been a real learning process for all involved.

The booklet will be a wonderful souvenir for conference participants to take home with them after saying good-bye to new friends.

## Southeast Jurisdiction

### Deaf Students Go "Around the World" at SIFAT

This Spring forty-one student residents of the Alabama School for the Deaf (AIDB) and the Blind teamed up with sign language interpreters and Servants in Faith and Technology for a day in a Global Village. Servants in Faith and Technology International (SIFAT) has a 175 acre campus in east central Alabama, a mission training facility complete with a global village offering life size replicas of houses from Liberia, Uganda, Rwanda, from Nepal in the Himalayas and the rainforest of Cambodia or the islands of the Philippines, and Central and South American bamboo, stone, and slab wood houses as well as an Andean rope bridge over a small gorge!

Curious, energetic, quick to laugh and smile, eager to learn, just like every other teenager...these words describe the group that walked around the world with us that day.

They learned stick weaving, bamboo dancing, how to make bricks, and carry water on their heads. They fed and petted llamas, goats, guinea pigs, and a pot bellied pig. They learned about how people live, eat, dress, work, and sleep in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In The Village Store, they signed the word "Wow" over and over again; they were enchanted by the crafts from around the world.

The Talladega based AIDB chaplain, Rev. Chris McGaha, was instrumental in arranging the trip to SIFAT for these students, working with SIFAT's, Chris Sunde, and Campus Program Director, Rev. Wineva Hankamer.

-- Rev. Wineva Hankamer, SEJ President

Big congratulations to Rev. Tizzy von Trapp Walker, who recently received her ordination! Tizzy is hard of hearing and hard at work building deaf and hard of hearing ministries at the Virginia Conference, host of the 2007 UMCD Conference!

Debbie Bennett, who is currently the vice-president of SEJ UMCD has been deeply involved with the Deaf Community at Christian Deaf Services. Conway UMC in Orlando, Florida donated office space for Debbie as she advocates for and works with members of her community, helping them get interpreters when doctors refuse to provide them, helping with matters as diverse as how to fill out a Living Will to helping Hispanic Deaf people new to the country learn American Sign Language. Keep up the good work, Debbie!



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.

### Deaf Camp at Overlook in Virginia

Come learn about the life of Jesus in a weekend! Camp Overlook, north of Harrisonburg, Virginia, is holding a Deaf Camp August 12 - 14, 2005. Registration information is available at:

<http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/2244.htm>

This will be the best weekend of your summer: swimming, arts & crafts, hiking, Bible lessons, worship and new friends. Counselors will be Deaf adults and others trained in American Sign Language. Space is limited to 20 youth, ages 12 - 15 years.



## **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](http://www.cokesbury.com) or at 1 800 672 1789.

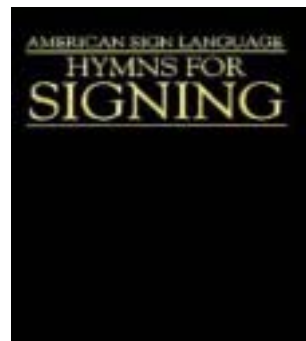
**Lighten  
up your  
life with  
prayer**

## **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](http://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.

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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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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.**

