



The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf Newsletter

Signs of Change

April 2007

2007 UMCD Conference

“Come as a Child and Rest in the Son”

July 20 - 22, 2007

Grosvenor Resort Hotel

Lake Buena Vista, Florida



Everyone is a child in Orlando, they say, and we are all children of God, so come and rest in the sheltering arms of his son, Jesus!

Preconference events will begin Thursday, July 19th, with an all-day Interpreter workshop. Cost for the workshop is only \$35.00, a working lunch is included, and continuing education credits will be offered.

The UMCD Board begins their business meeting Thursday evening. Registration for the conference opens Friday afternoon, July 20th, followed by a meal together and opening welcome at the hotel restaurant.

We'll have ice breakers in the main conference room starting at 7 p.m. and then will enjoy the Mark Mitchum concert at 8 p.m. Don't miss it! Mark Mitchum is a nationally and internationally respected Sign Artist who transforms Christian music into a wonderful visual experience. Deaf since birth, Mark has appeared with many popular artists, such as Twila Paris and the Gaithers. He received a rave

reception at our 2003 Conference in Dallas, and we are excited he will be able to return.

On Saturday, we will be blessed with a devotional with Paul Jones, a worship leader from Florida followed by workshops. Dan Kenyon will be leading a workshop on lay leadership, Joo Kang will be able to help us learn some Korean sign language in preparation for the 2009 Seoul, Korea conference, and much more. We will have time for fellowship and the UMCD General Membership meeting will be held in the evening.

We will have time to play as well, with free time Saturday afternoon to visit Downtown Disney, with its many shops and restaurants. Downtown Disney is not a theme park and there is no charge to attend.

If you haven't made your reservations, it's time to do so. The conference mail-in deadline is June 18th, 2007 to ensure our rate for the hotel rooms. Look within for registration materials or go to www.umcd.org. Looking forward to seeing you soon!



Greetings from Dan Kenyon ...

Happy Spring! May the year 2007 be special and exciting for all of you! I want to thank all of you for electing me as your President at our 2005 UMCD Global Gathering in Baltimore, MD.

This is the first UMCD newsletter going out since I was elected. Please accept my apologies for the delay of this UMCD newsletter. One editor volunteered but quit after more than year due to other commitments. A second editor later volunteered and quit for the same reason. I do appreciate Candis Shannon, our previous UMCD President for taking over this newsletter. Thanks, Candis!

During the past year, I conducted a survey of United Methodist Bishops – 52 Bishops in the U.S. who are responsible for 64 annual conferences and 15 Central Conference (CC)(international) Bishops who are responsible for various countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa. The purpose of this survey was to determine what Deaf ministries are being served in their areas. Very few U.S. and CC bishops have responded, and I will be doing a follow up on them. So far, one CC bishop informed me that there are Deaf ministries in Zimbabwe, and one bishop is interested in setting up Deaf ministries in the Philippines.

I had an opportunity to meet and share Deaf ministry concerns with Ms. Patricia Magyar, Executive Secretary of GBGM's Health and Welfare Ministries in New York. She is very interested in working with Deaf ministries. I have invited her to attend our 2007 UMCD conference in Orlando, FL. If you have concerns, Ms. Magyar would like to hear from you; her email address is

pmagyar@gbgm-umc.org.

Registration forms and information on the 2007 UMCD conference in Orlando, FL, to be held on July 20 – 22, have been mailed out and are in this newsletter as well. Please make your reservations with Winevah as soon as possible. The information is also available on our UMCD web page at www.umcd.org.

We are looking forward and are very excited about our first overseas UMCD meeting in Seoul, Korea in 2009. One of our members from Korea will provide more information about this international conference at our 2007 UMCD meeting. Now would be a good time to raise funds for your trips – like having church suppers, car washes, asking contributions from various churches and groups, etc.

If you are a lay member of your Annual Conference, I hope that you will consider running as a lay delegate to the 2008 General Conference. It is very important the United Methodist Church know and feel the presence of the Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind communities. I also hope that pastors involved in UMC Deaf ministries will let your clergy colleagues know that you are interested in attending the 2008 General Conference as clergy delegates.

For those who would like to read the new UMCD By-laws passed at the 2005 UMCD Global Meeting in Baltimore, MD, please go to the UMCD web page. Also, I invite you to read news items in this web page concerning Deaf ministries, etc.

If you have some news or an article that you want to share with UMCD members, please send them to Candis at fireweedccs@yahoo.com.

If you want to support UMCD, please send your donations to Rev. Tom Hudspeth, UMCD Treasurer, Lovers Lane UMC, Dallas, TX 75220.

See you all in Orlando!!

---- Dan Kenyon, UMCD President

2007 UMCD Conference

Orlando, Florida July 19 - 22, 2007

Schedule of Events

Grosvenor Resort Hotel
1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd.
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830
Free Shuttles to Theme Parks
1.800.624.4109
www.grosvenorresort.com

Please note this schedule is tentative. Many thanks to the SEJ Planning Committee for their help in making this conference possible! All events take place in the Windsor Room.

Thursday, July 19, 2007

8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Interpreter workshop
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner on your own
7:00 pm	UMCD Board Meeting

Friday, July 20, 2007

9:00 am	Board Meeting continues
3:00 pm	Registration and Conference check-in begins!
Afternoon	Jurisdictional Meetings
5:30 pm	Dinner and Opening Welcome
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Ice Breakers
8:00 pm	Mark Mitchum Concert

Saturday, July 21, 2007

7:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am to Noon	Devotional and Gathering, Workshops and Exhibits
Noon	Lunch and Exhibits
Afternoon	Free time at Downtown Disney
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner on your own at local restaurants
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Korea information and General Membership Meeting and fellowship

Sunday, July 22, 2007

8:00 am	Breakfast
Checkout	Checkout unless you are staying longer!
10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Farewells and Group Photo

Hotel Information:

\$110 per person per night with one in a room

\$55 per person per night with two in a room

\$36.75 per person per night with three in a room

\$27.50 per person per night with four in a room

You must find your own roommates and agree to register with each other. If you are planning on arriving early or leaving late, be sure to make reservations through UMCD to get the conference room rate. Don't delay, as that is subject to room availability.

Adult Conference Fee: \$300 includes concert ticket for Mark Mitchum, workshops, hotel use, 2007 & 2008 UMCD Dues; also Friday supper, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast, other meals will be on your own. Deli shop in hotel is available 24 hours a day.

Youth Conference Fee: \$250 includes activities for ages 12-17 during the conference, also Friday supper, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast, other meals will be on your own. Deli shop in hotel is available 24 hours a day.

Day Participant/Commuter Price: \$250 includes conference fee, Friday supper and Saturday lunch.

Youth at UMCD (ages 12-17):

Childcare is provided for younger children by the hotel for a fee, which you must arrange on your own with the hotel.

Friday pm: Supervised Swim

Saturday am: Wonder Works; Saturday afternoon with parents.

Saturday pm: Movie w/Popcorn; Sunday morning with parents.

Shuttle Transportation:

The Grosvenor Hotel uses Mears Transportation for shuttle service to and from the hotel. Round Trip is approximately \$35. UMCD greeters will be at the airport on Friday, July 20, to help you find your way. Or call Mears (407-423-5566) at the airport when you arrive (Florida Relay 1-800-955-8771 TTY). They will drive you to the hotel. If you pay for Mears Shuttle with your conference registration, you will have your return shuttle ticket. Or save and do it direct: www.mearstransportation.com

The UMCD Board will arrive on Thursday July 19, 2007, in time to be in a business meeting by 7pm Thursday evening and Friday morning if further meeting time is needed. Meals on your own until Friday pm. Cost \$110 for single occupancy hotel room. Reduce your cost by finding a roommate.

Questions about Board meeting, email Dan Kenyon, dmj730@comcast.net.

Register for early arrival by adding an extra day's cost on the Registration.

Conference Registration Form

Each adult in your room should fill out a form. Send in by June 18, 2007

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip/Country: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ V _____ TTY _____ Fax: _____

Please check on: Returning UMCD member _____ New UMCD member _____
UMCD Dues for 2007 and 2008 are included in the registration fee (\$20).

Room Preference:

Smoking: _____ Non-smoking: _____ Handicapped Room: _____

You must pay for a single room or list your roommate(s) here and pay for double, triple, or quad. Be sure your roommates also fill out a registration form with your name listed as one of their roommates.

Person 2 _____ adult or youth?

Person 3 _____ adult or youth?

Person 4 _____ adult or youth?

Deposit or total for Room (see hotel info)	\$ _____
Extra Nights	\$ _____
Interpreters Workshop (\$35)	\$ _____
Adult Conference Fee (\$300)	\$ _____
Youth Age 12-17 Conference Fee (\$250)	\$ _____
Shuttle Roundtrip (\$35)	\$ _____
Day Participant (\$250)	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Special Requests:

Interpreter: ASL _____ PSE _____ Tactile _____ Oral _____

CAN/CART: _____ ALDS: _____ Vegetarian Meal: _____ Other: _____

Check all that apply:

_____ Deaf Culture _____ Hard of Hearing _____ Deaf-Blind

_____ Late Deafened _____ Interpreter _____ Hearing

_____ I have a Family Member /Friend who is Deaf, late-deafened, hard of hearing or deaf-blind.