

## **United Methodist Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee Member Guide**

We are a committee of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, with two members who represent each jurisdiction. Additional members represent other ministry committees and specialized functions in the committee. Members have experience and participate actively in Deaf-related ministry (e.g. interpreted ministry, Deafblind ministry, Hard of Hearing Ministry, Deaf missions). As members of a mission committee, they also share ministry experiences with others when asked.

The background we're looking for includes:

- Be an active member of a United Methodist congregation or ministry
- Show signs of being active at the local level
- To view Deaf people as equal and able; to not be paternal, ableist, or audist.
- To have a passion for the inclusion and empowerment of persons who are Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and/or Deafblind the local church.

We are an active group, and ask our members to participate in the following ways:

- Join our conference calls (about 1 hour) every month or every other month.
- Take part in email conversations on UM-DHM business.
- Vote on committee business, including awarding grants and scholarships. This is may be on a conference call or by e-mail.
- Attend the UM-DHM annual meeting when possible (travel expenses and lodging covered).
- Share your ministry news with the committee and our social media.

We also ask members, when it's possible, to support UM-DHM initiatives, and especially the Advance Special.

As a committee member, you are a representative of your area to the connection. So we are hopeful that members will participate in jurisdictional UMCD meetings. We also want people who can serve as a resource person for Deaf ministries in your community, annual conference, and/or jurisdiction.