



The United Methodist Committee on

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministries

## Communication Tips with Hearing Loss

Communication is a two-way street. Here are tips for the person who hears well, and for the person with hearing loss:

### Tips for Hearing Person

#### *Set Your Stage*

- \* Face person directly.
- \* Spotlight your face (no backlighting).
- \* Avoid noisy backgrounds.
- \* Get attention first.
- \* Ask how you can facilitate communication.
- \* When audio and acoustics are poor, emphasize the visual.

#### *Get the Point Across*

- \* Don't shout.
- \* Speak clearly, at moderate pace, not over-emphasizing words.
- \* Don't hide your mouth, chew food, gum, or smoke while talking.
- \* Re-phrase if you are not understood.

### Tips for the Person with Hearing Loss

#### *Set Your Stage*

- \* Tell others how best to talk to you.
- \* Pick your best spot (light, quiet area, close to speaker).
- \* Anticipate difficult situations, plan how to minimize them.

#### *Do Your Part*

- \* Pay attention.
- \* Concentrate on speaker.
- \* Look for visual clues.
- \* Ask for written cues if needed.

Source: Hearing Loss of America website at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). For more information, go to the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries' website at [www.umdeaf.org](http://www.umdeaf.org).



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