

Local Church Survey of Ministries with Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing Persons

The 1992 General Conference of The United Methodist Church approved a plan for Deaf Ministries which includes ***"coordinated research at all levels of the church to provide information concerning programs, needs and opportunities by, with and for deaf, deafened, and hard of hearing persons in The United Methodist Church."***

This survey is being administered in each congregation as a part of the Annual Disability Audit for the 1994 Charge Conference. Your response will provide The National Committee on Deaf Ministries with vital data to develop effective ministry opportunities with these persons.

Each sub-group (deaf, deafened and hard of hearing persons) have special communications needs. As many as 30 million hearing-impaired persons experience the need for such ministries. Our church is seeking to respond more fully to these opportunities and your assistance is crucial to these efforts. Thank you for your participation.

The completed survey should be returned to your District Superintendent.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please refer to the enclosed glossary for fuller definitions of terms used in this questionnaire. Please check all responses that apply to your ministries.

Section 1 - Hard of Hearing Persons *(Definition - Persons who have residual hearing which is benefited from hearing aids and assistive listening devices.)*

1. Our assistive listening devices (ALDs) include:

- ☒ 1. amplification for the whole congregation
- ☒ 2. FM listening devices in the sanctuary
- ☐ 3. infrared system in the sanctuary
- ☐ 4. audio loop system in the sanctuary
- ☐ 5. FM system in meeting rooms
- ☐ 6. infrared system in meeting rooms
- ☐ 7. audioloop system in meeting rooms
- ☐ 8. hard-wire pocket talkers used by pastor and others for one-on-one communication
- ☒ 9. We include information about our ALDs in our church bulletin.
- ☒ 10. Our ushers know how to operate the ALDs and routinely check the batteries.

Section 2 - Culturally Hearing Deaf Persons *(Definition - Persons who are audilogically deaf, and also become deaf after language was established. Their first language is the language of their particular hearing culture. See Glossary.)*

1. We promote printed information in the following ways:

- ☐ 1. graphic reporting at meetings
- ☐ 2. computer assisted notetaking
- ☐ 3. overhead projection, using liquid crystal display (LCD) with computer
- ☐ 4. "real-time" captioning with stenograph machine and computer
- ☐ 5. closed caption decoder for the TV
- ☐ 6. TDD in the church office (phone access)
- ☐ 7. providing copies of the sermon for reading in advance

2. Interpreters

- ☐ 1. Oral interpreters are available as needed.
- ☐ 2. Signed English interpreters are available as needed.
- ☐ 3. Our church members are comfortable writing to communicate.

3. Other services

- ☐ 1. We have a support group for people who became deaf as adults.
- ☐ 2. Other (please specify) _____

Section 3 - Culturally Deaf Persons *(Definition - Persons whose first language is American Sign Language (ASL). These persons have an inability to hear speech with or without a hearing aid.)*

1. Interpreted Ministries

We have sign language ministries with interpreters for:

- ☐ 1. interpreting the worship service
- ☐ 2. interpreting other meetings, as needed
- ☐ 3. Bible study or Christian education
- ☐ 4. one-one-one communication for visitation and counseling

Our sign language interpreter uses

- ☐ 1. American Sign Language
- ☐ 2. Signed English
- ☐ 3. both

2. In separate or segregated deaf ministry we communicate directly with each other

- ☐ 1. in worship services by American Sign Language or Signed English
- ☐ 2. in Christian Education by American Sign Language or Signed English

- ☐ 3. in fellowship by American Sign Language or Signed English
☐ 4. in program administration by American Sign Language or Signed English

3. Our Deaf Ministry is led by

- ☐ 1. our pastor who signs
☐ 2. an itinerant pastor who signs
☐ 3. lay person who signs
☐ 4. a lay committee that directs deaf ministry program

4. Other services

- ☐ 1. Our Deaf Ministry receives financial support from the District or Annual Conference.
☐ 2. We have a sign language choir.
☐ 3. A camp is available for our deaf children.
☐ 4. We have a support group for hearing parents of deaf children.
☐ 5. Other (please specify) _____

5. Our church is affiliated with the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD)

- ☐ 1. yes
☐ 2. no
☒ 3. please send information

Please add any additional information and/or comments.

Name of person completing this questionnaire: Rev. Robert H. Edwards
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Please provide completed survey to your District Superintendent as a part of the reports for the Charge Conference.

*Note to Superintendent: All completed surveys should be mailed by **January 1, 1995** to: General Council on Ministries, Office of Research, 601 W. Riverview Avenue, Dayton, OH 45406.*

For more information about Deaf Ministries contact: Roy M. White, 14300 Twig Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905.

(deafmin2.srv - revised 2/1/94)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR DEAF, DEAFENED AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

The visual, manual language of the Deaf Culture. It is a true language with its own grammar, syntax, and lexicon (vocabulary).

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE (OR SYSTEM)

Technological equipment that allows hard of hearing persons to receive sound directly from the source and therefore "hear" better. The three most common assistive listening systems are the Audio-Loop System, the FM System, and Infra-Red System.

AUDIO-LOOP SYSTEM

An assistive listening system that transmits sound via an electromagnetic field created by current running through phone wire. The sound is transmitted from a microphone through an amplifier into the electromagnetic field. Any person in the room wearing a hearing aid with a built-in telecoil can receive the transmitted signal by setting a T-switch on the hearing aid. For those whose hearing aids are not equipped with a telecoil, receivers must be purchased. The system can transmit through walls, floors, and ceilings, so two loop systems cannot operate simultaneously in adjoining rooms.

CLOSED CAPTIONS

Similar to those printed at the bottom of the screen in foreign films. If a TV program or movie is closed-captioned, it requires a device called a "decoder" to access the captions.

COMPUTER-ASSISTED NOTETAKING

A relatively new technology that permits notes to be displayed as they are taken so that hard of hearing, deafened, and deaf people who are fluent in a written language can follow the course of a discussion, meeting, or lecture. The technology employs a computer hooked to either a monitor or a liquid crystal display (LCD) that sits on top of an overhead projector. The operator (a typist called a "computer-assisted notetaker") types notes into the computer, and the notes are then displayed on the monitor, or via an overhead projector if the group is too large to sit around a monitor. It is most helpful to use a word processing program that will do large print, such as Word Processing for Kids. ® It prints the words in large block letters. It does, however, have limited space capacity in each file.

CULTURALLY DEAF

Identifying with the values and world view of the Deaf Culture, whose preferred language is American Sign Language. Culturally deaf persons associate primarily with the deaf community. "Culturally deaf" is sometimes abbreviated as Deaf with a capital D.

CULTURALLY HEARING

Identifying with the values and world view of hearing people, whose preferred language is English or the oral language of their family. Culturally hearing persons may be deafened or hard of hearing, but they associate primarily with hearing people.

DEAF (deaf)

A general term meaning either audiologically incapable of hearing or culturally deaf.

DEAF

A specific term meaning culturally deaf.

DEAF COMMUNITY

A community composed of those who are culturally deaf, as well as persons with a wide variety of hearing loss and communication modes who share experiences, needs, and goals with them. Structurally, the deaf community can be local or national, and in reality it is a social community as well as a political one.

DEAF CULTURE

A set of values, modes of behavior, and folklore common to those who were born deaf to deaf parents. The Deaf Culture has American Sign Language as its linguistic base. Hearing-impaired persons who were not born deaf to deaf parents may become members of the Deaf Culture when they attend residential schools.

DEAFENED

Having lost the ability to hear later in life. Deafened persons grew up hearing, are fluent in English or the spoken language of their parents, and experience a tremendous sense of loss when they lose their hearing as adults.

DECODER

A device that can be attached to a television to pick up closed captions.

DECODER CHIP BILL

A federal law effective as of July 1, 1993, that requires all television manufacturing companies to include in televisions 13 inches or larger a chip that provides access to closed captioning.

FM SYSTEM

One of the most commonly used assistive listening systems. It functions with a transmitter that is like a small radio station and a receiver that is like an FM radio. The sound is transmitted on a narrow radio band and received through a device with ear phones. An FM System can be used in conjunction with an Audio-Loop System by persons who have their own hearing aids equipped with a telecoil (T-switch). The sound waves go from the receiver to a small loop of phone wire worn around the person's neck. The sound waves are then converted into an electromagnetic field, which is picked up through a telecoil in the hearing aid.

GRAPHIC NOTETAKING

A visual method of taking notes, usually done with colored markers on either newsprint or large butcher paper taped to a wall or blackboard. It is a communication tool used in meetings that allows hard of hearing and deaf persons to follow the conversation.

HARD OF HEARING

Having a degree of hearing loss but retaining some residual hearing. Hard of hearing persons are culturally hearing and use English as their primary language. Some may have a profound hearing loss and might be considered "deaf" by audiological standards, but because they are culturally hearing, they do not associate with other deaf persons, do not use sign language, and identify more with the hearing population.

HARD WIRE

A sound-transmission technology that requires wires to run from the sender to the receiver. It is appropriate for one-on-one visitation or counseling but is too awkward for large rooms containing multiple persons.

HEARING

An adjective that refers to persons who not only have "normal" hearing but also approach life from an oral/aural perspective. This term is used to describe individuals (hearing persons), churches (hearing churches), worship (hearing worship), and culture (hearing culture).

HEARING-IMPAIRED

A generic term that refers to all persons with any degree of hearing loss. Deaf persons do not appreciate this term, because it compares them unfavorably with the majority culture and implies that deafness is a limiting factor in their lives. More and more this term is used to represent only those who are either deafened later in life or who are hard of hearing. The more appropriate terms today are deaf, deafened and hard of hearing.

INFRA-RED SYSTEM

An assistive listening system that uses infra-red light to transmit sound. In homes where there is one hard of hearing person and the rest of the family is hearing, an infra-red device can be attached to the television and used by the hard of hearing person to control the volume in a headset so that the sound is not too loud for everyone else. For large room settings, transmitters in the form of boxes flood the rooms with sound borne on infra-red light waves, and hard of hearing persons wear headsets that receive the sound.

LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY (LCD)

A digital device that consists of two sheets of glass separated by sealed-in liquid crystal material. A voltage applied to the material darkens the liquid enough to form letters and numbers in prearranged patterns.

POCKET TALKER®

A hard wire personal assistive listening device.

SIGNED ENGLISH

A generic term that covers a variety of sign systems and manual codes of English. It can be used in conjunction with spoken English or by itself. (See also American Sign Language, Linguistics of Visual English, Pidgin Signed English, Essential English, Signing Exact English.)

SIGNING EXACT ENGLISH (SEE II)

A manual code created to reproduce the English language.

SIMULTANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Signing and speaking at the same time. The term can be a little misleading in that while two communication modes are existing simultaneously, two languages are not. When someone attempts to speak and sign simultaneously, the English delivery is usually fluent but the sign communication usually suffers.

SOFT WIRE

A technology that permits transmission of sound to a receiver without use of wires. The most common soft wire assisted listening systems are the Audio-Loop System (which uses an electromagnetic field), the FM System (which uses radio waves), and the Infra-Red System (which uses infra-red light waves).

SPEECHREADING

The technical terms for what most people know as lipreading. Speechreading is difficult, because only about 40 percent of spoken English is produced visibly on the lips; 60 percent is formed inside the mouth and out of sight.

TDD

Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf. TDD is a relatively recent generic term that includes all the various models of machines that convert telephone communication to and from a visible print format. The term TDD was invented by hearing people and is therefore most acceptable to those who are hard of hearing or deafened. Most culturally deaf people still use the traditional term TTY (teletype machine) to refer to any kind of telecommunication device.