



PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY

Michelle Menefee provides American Sign Language interpretation at the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. Menefee is a member of First United Methodist Church in Houston.

## HOW TO GIVE TO THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING MINISTRIES ADVANCE:

- By check:**  
 Make payable to your local church or "Advance GCFA." Be sure to write Advance #982562 and "Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries" on the check. For local church and annual conference credit, give your gift to your local church treasurer.
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## UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING MINISTRIES

### Our Vision:

*“To share Jesus’ love by equipping and advocating access through effective communication and leadership among the diverse deaf communities.”*



For more information and for grant and scholarship applications, contact:

### UMCOR Health

General Board of Global Ministries  
 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1523A  
 New York, NY 10115  
 212-870-3871

### United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries

[www.umcdhm.org](http://www.umcdhm.org)

### United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities

[www.umdisabledministers.org](http://www.umdisabledministers.org)

### The United Methodist Committee on Disability Ministries

[www.umdisabilityministries.org](http://www.umdisabilityministries.org)

### The United Methodist Congress of the Deaf

[www.umcd.org](http://www.umcd.org)

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## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries

General Board of Global Ministries  
 The United Methodist Church



## The United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries (UMCDHM)

provides funding for deaf communities to engage in ministry with United Methodist churches. This community is largely unchurched due to ineffective communication and lack of deaf Christian leadership development. When United Methodist churches open their doors so that those who are deaf may participate more fully in worship, mission and ministry, the Church and the world are enriched.

Your gift helps share Jesus' love by providing effective means of communication and leadership among churches, deaf communities and individuals. It will assist in partnering and networking with churches that are establishing or have a deaf ministry, including:

- Seed money to establish new ministries with the deaf communities
- Mission and ministry internships
- Global outreach to Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind people
- Opportunities for camping, such as Deaf and Deaf-Blind camps
- Communication access assistance: assistive-listening devices, sign language or oral interpreters, real-time text translation, etc. Such assistance is not intended as an ongoing, long-term solution to access, but for start-up or special-event assistance.

“You shall not revile the deaf...”  
— Leviticus 19:14

We believe that advocating for technologies and effective communication, as well as training deaf and Deaf Christian leaders can attract Christian growth among the deaf communities. We share Jesus' love by advocating for and with those who struggle to respond to God's invitation to be part of Christ's body. We are called to “not curse the deaf” (Leviticus 19:14), and to encourage all people, including those who are deaf, to participate in the blessings of God's creation and saving work.



With your gift to this Advance project, we are able to respond to unusual, but worthy requests, such as:

Funding a capital improvement project at the Njia Special School in Kenya, where Deaf children and children with disabilities are taught living skills and literacy;

Funding a scholarship for a Deaf young man to attend a two-week mission training, with interpreters, on how to use resources in a developing country to purify water and build efficient, clean-burning stoves;

Providing funds, though modest, to make a timely and significant difference in the lives of people and ministries who are responding to God's call to serve Deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, or Deaf-Blind people.



Paul Aseka leads a Deaf Ministry Bible Study at Dallas Indian United Methodist Church in Texas.

## WHO WE SERVE:

We serve four distinct deaf groups: Deaf, Late-deafened, Hard of hearing, and Deaf-Blind. Deaf people view deafness not as a disability but as a way of life and culture, because of the use of sign language—American Sign or other indigenous signs. Hence, the capital letter “D” in Deaf. For those who are late-deafened, many are unfamiliar or reluctant with audio/verbal therapies and assistive-listening technologies to aid in communicating with their hearing peers. People who are hard of hearing may also struggle to relate to hearing peers, but have often adapted to a combination of therapies and medical technologies, such as cochlear implants in order to relate to others. Deaf-blind people may communicate through tactile signing, Braille, and assistive technologies. All of these groups have unique skills and needs to thrive in the Deaf and hearing worlds.