

UMAMD & DisAbility Ministry Committee Conference Call
September 6, 2018

Those connecting: Leo Yates, Brian Burch, Greg Edwards, Nancy Webb, Janine DeLaney, Russell Ewing, Sharon McCart, Susan Gregg-Schroeder, Tim Vermande, Lisa McKee, and Debbie Newman. Lynn Swedberg not present due to vacation.

This is a joint meeting between the leadership of the UMAMD and the DMC along with representatives from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministry and Mental Health Ministries.

What is our purpose of our groups?

DisAbility Ministry Committee: What we do is educate and train to reach out to churches to raise awareness. We are not politically active, but our focus is on education. A recent accomplishment is that we wrote a confirmation curriculum geared those with intellectual developmental disabilities. <https://www.umdisabilityministries.org/>

UMAMD Committee is a caucus within the UMC, with the focus on support, education and advocacy of those persons serving in ministry, lay or clergy.

<https://www.umdisabledministers.org>

Mental Health Ministries uses a 5-step caring congregation as our foundation. We worked with the Church and Society and now working with the Disability committee. Focus is on education to remove stigma due to mental illness. Worked with Jack Day in the past. Publish an informative newsletter. <http://www.mentalhealthministries.net>

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries started before 1996 with the UM Congress on the Deaf. General Conference voted the existence of the committee. We provide grant, resources, bulletin inserts, consultations, strategies for growing deaf ministries. We have been pushing more Deaf leadership. We are working with the GBHEM for a Lay ministry course for Deaf and the Hard of the Hearing. <https://www.umdeaf.org/>

What are ways we can work together?

In terms of legislation within the UMC, two topics were discussed.

In 2016, a proposal to remove the question of disability from the medical form required in the candidacy process did not get out of committee. We would like to present this again.

Resolution 3001, which was updated in 2016, states that the UMC will provide accessibility grants for US churches. At this point, no funding for these grants has come from the General Fund to the GBGM to underwrite such grants. <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/accessibility-grants-for-churches>

Sharon McCart and Susan Gregg-Schroeder would like to be added to the UMAMD Legislative Committee.

Other ideas suggested:

Hold more regional meetings

Put together a brochure so we can be more visible. Debbie Newman will work on this.

Meet the with conference directors of connectional ministries during their jurisdictional gatherings.

Have someone tell their story. It is highly effective.

Next meeting Thursday, October 4

7:30 pm Eastern, 6:30 pm Central, 5:30 pm Mountain, 4:30 pm Pacific