

**Horizon Texas Conference
The United Methodist Church**

2025 Journal Errata

Page	Heading	Change														
59	BAC: 7	Add: \$941,415														
59-60	BAC: 8(b) 1-7	Replace: What are the apportionments to this conference for the ensuing year <table><tr><td>(1) For the World Service Fund</td><td>\$ 1,913,718</td></tr><tr><td>(2) For the Ministerial Education Fund</td><td>\$ 661,951</td></tr><tr><td>(3) For the Black College Fund</td><td>\$ 264,046</td></tr><tr><td>(4) For the Africa University Fund</td><td>\$ 59,093</td></tr><tr><td>(5) For the Episcopal Fund</td><td>\$ 943,303</td></tr><tr><td>(6) For the General Administration Fund</td><td>\$ 323,432</td></tr><tr><td>(7) For the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund</td><td>\$ 27,394</td></tr></table>	(1) For the World Service Fund	\$ 1,913,718	(2) For the Ministerial Education Fund	\$ 661,951	(3) For the Black College Fund	\$ 264,046	(4) For the Africa University Fund	\$ 59,093	(5) For the Episcopal Fund	\$ 943,303	(6) For the General Administration Fund	\$ 323,432	(7) For the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	\$ 27,394
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		Add: Courtesies: Honoring 25 Years of Deaf Ministry at Lovers Lane UMC and Support for Seeds (included on next page)														

COURTESIES

HONORING 25 YEARS OF DEAF MINISTRY AT LOVERS LANE UMC AND SUPPORT FOR SEEDS

Whereas, God commands us to not curse, or cut off, the Deaf from the blessings of Creation (Leviticus 19:14);

Whereas, the “language of signs is the noblest gift God has given to the Deaf” (George Veditz in the 1913 film “Preservation of Sign Language”);

Whereas, the 2000 General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Cleveland, Ohio established the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries (UM-DHM);

Whereas, in the fall of 1999, members of a young adult “Real Live Christians” Sunday School Class at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas considered the inclusion of one of their deaf friends in worship while studying the Social Principles of the UMC and with the encouragement of Rev. Dr. Stan Copeland, began to research and recruit a sign language interpreter;

Whereas, on January 16, 2000, American Sign Language interpretation of worship at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church began on MLK Sunday by Charlotte Winters, an African American woman and Baptist spouse of a Dallas Fire Department chaplain, called by God to interpret for at least one Deaf person at any church in Dallas;

Whereas, in June 2001, Rev. Dr. Stan Copeland and Bishop William B. Oden of the legacy North Texas Annual Conference requested the appointment of Rev. Thomas H. Hudspeth, a Hard of Hearing elder from the Texas Annual Conference to expand the interpreted ministry at Lovers Lane to be a ministry of, by, for and with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;

Whereas, on July 29, 2001, Lovers Lane began its first Deaf Sunday School class, Cross-Heart-Hands Class and offered ASL classes;

Whereas, in May 2002, Rev. Thomas H. Hudspeth received a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary for his project “American Sign Language as a Means of Grace”;

Whereas the Lovers Lane UMC Deaf ministry (hereafter “Deaf ministry”) has led Deaf mission teams to Kenya, Honduras, Ecuador, Mexico, South Korea, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Hurricane Ike recovery in Santa Fe, Texas, Red Bird Mission Kentucky, and SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology) Alabama;

Whereas, the Deaf ministry has sponsored or assisted other Deaf missionaries in Jamaica, a Deaf dorm mother at Njia Special School, Kenya, and the first ordained Deaf woman in the Methodist Church of Kenya;

Whereas, the Deaf ministry has hosted: DFW Metroplex area “Deaf Saturday Night Live Worship” ecumenical Deaf gatherings; Jurisdictional and general meetings of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD); the 4th Global Methodist Missions Conference of the Deaf in Waxahachie, Texas (2017); the UM-DHM; and consultations with our full communion partners from the Episcopal Deaf Conference and Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association;

Whereas, the Deaf ministry established SEEDS (Serving and Educating Exceptional Deaf Students), a 501c3 impact ministry which from 2008-2016 operated Lovers Lane Academy for the Deaf, a school and life skills training center for children and young adults who are Deaf and have additional disabilities;

Whereas, the Deaf Ministry Sign Choir has performed for Annual Conference worship services and at the 2012 General Conference worship in Tampa, Florida, directed by a lay member of Lovers Lane, Melinda Powell;

Whereas, the Deaf ministry and the UM-DHM, represented by Rev. Dr. Tom Hudspeth and a small team from North Carolina and North Texas, led workshops on Deaf ministry for the Methodist Church of Brazil at Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro in June and July 2016;

Whereas, the UMCD and UM-DHM awarded Lovers Lane UMC with The Daniel E. Moylan Award for Church Excellence in Deaf Evangelism and Mission on July 13, 2016;

Whereas, the Deaf ministry in November 2016 led an interfaith Deaf Holy Land tour of Christian and Muslim Deaf pilgrims who met with Deaf Jews in Natanya and Jerusalem;

Whereas, SEEDS and the Deaf ministry sponsored the first Deaf theology student and sign language interpreter at Africa University in Zimbabwe from 2019 to 2023, and which student, Collins Prempeh, became the first Deaf theology graduate from Africa University (and as of January 2025, is the first Deaf General Board of Global Ministries' Regional Missionary for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in Zimbabwe and beyond);

Whereas, the Deaf ministry responded to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing a livestream worship ministry based at Walnut Hill Church, that has in the past five years reached hundreds of Deaf and hearing friends of the Deaf in Europe, Africa, Asia, South and North America;

Whereas, Lovers Lane, the UM-DHM and other United Methodist churches are engaged in raising funds for the Tanzania Annual Conference Yatasha Deaf School project in the Lakes District;

Whereas, the UMCD and UM-DHM awarded Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Hudspeth with the Philip Hasenstab Award for Excellence in Deaf Mission and Evangelism on November 4, 2023;

Whereas, for twenty-five years, the Deaf ministry has been a powerful example of Christ's love, hope, and inclusion, in breaking down barriers, and creating a truly inclusive community where all can worship and serve together;

Whereas, the Deaf ministry has dedicated itself to making the Gospel accessible to the Deaf and hard of hearing communities through its mission, "To share the love of Christ to the d/Deaf near and far;"

Whereas, on MLK Sunday, January 19, 2025, Lovers Lane UMC and Walnut Hill Church celebrated 25 years of Deaf Ministry, during which Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr, resident bishop of the Horizon Texas Conference declared in his episcopal letter, "The expansion of your ministry outreach through the new Horizon Texas Conference presents exciting opportunities to build new networks and touch even more lives with God's grace in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit;" and

Whereas, on April 5, 2025, Rev. Dr. Thomas Hudspeth was elected president and executive director of SEEDS and given the opportunity to expand SEEDS from an educational focus to developing a Deaf

mission church UMC to reach the 50,000 Deaf and hard of hearing people in the DFW Metroplex, of which only 2% have a church home; it is therefore

Resolved, That the 2025 Horizon Texas Conference with gratitude for the past 25 years and excitement for the future of Deaf ministry, blesses and encourages all our churches to pray for and participate with expanding the work of Deaf Ministry throughout our Horizon Texas Conference through SEEDS, an impact ministry of Lovers Lane United Methodist Church and Walnut Hill Church, Dallas, Texas.

Submitted by Rev. Tom Hudspeth