

## AMAZING HISTORY

The Episcopal Church has had a rich Deaf history for nearly 175 years.

**The Rev. Thomas Gallaudet** sparked a movement when he led the first worship for Deaf people in 1852 in New York. His leadership paved the way for the founding of St. Ann's Church for the Deaf. **The Rev. Henry Winter Syle**, one of Gallaudet's students and a parishioner of St. Ann's, was the first Deaf person ordained in ANY denomination in America in 1876.

The Conference of Church Workers Among the Deaf (CCWD) was established in 1881. The name later changed to the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD).

Today the ECD represents many ministries. The most common ministries are:

- ◆ Deaf congregations worshipping in American Sign Language (ASL) or preferred language
- ◆ Interpreters and/or visual aids for deaf members within hearing congregations

Churches strive to find creative ways for Deaf people to fully participate in the Word of God, prayers, Sacraments, and the life of the Church.

Deaf parishioners are often, unintentionally, excluded in church. Does your church offer accessibility to Deaf parishioners to be included and involved? If not, the ECD can help!

## WHAT IS THE ECD?

Episcopal Conference of the Deaf is a national organization that provides support to churches with Deaf members, lay and ordained alike.

### Mission:

Empower Deaf people with the Good News of Jesus Christ, encourage full participation in Church Life, and advocate for Deaf Ministries.

### Vision:

Full inclusion in Church life.

The ECD is recognized by The Episcopal Church as having responsibility for coordinating this specialized ministry across the country and throughout the Episcopal Church.



**Episcopal Conference of the Deaf**

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

[info@ecdeaf.org](mailto:info@ecdeaf.org)

# Episcopal Conference of the Deaf

**A National Organization  
serving Deaf  
Ministries**



**Empower**  
*Deaf people with the Good News of Jesus Christ*

**Encourage**  
*full participation in Church Life*

**Advocate**  
*for Deaf Ministries*

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Episcopalians believe that all people have the right to access the Holy Scriptures and worship in their own language. Deaf people have the same rights. God loves all people of all races, cultures, religions, gender/identities, and sexual orientations. Why? We are all God's children.



**LOVE IS THE WAY!**

-The Most Rev. Michael Curry  
Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

## ACCESSIBILITY & DEAF CHURCHES

The conversation about access often begins with expense and convenience— but many churches' mission statements ethically compel them to make access a missionary and budgetary priority. Adapting Church worship to include Deaf language and culture brings the good news of the Gospel to those who have no way of hearing it.

Deaf churches are few and far between and are invariably small and underfunded. Additionally, they are often marginalized and do not receive support from surrounding hearing churches.

Churches throughout the country who wish to provide access to Deaf people can look to the ECD for support. The ECD willingly shares information and provides tools to get churches the access they desire for their Deaf members. Visit [www.ecdeaf.org](http://www.ecdeaf.org) for more information.

## RESOURCES

The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf works with dioceses and parishes to assist with:

- ◆ Parish/Diocese visits
- ◆ New and expanding Deaf ministries
- ◆ Consultations
- ◆ Grants (application required)
  - \*Program
  - \*Internship
  - \*Equipment
  - \*Interpreter... and more
- ◆ Triennial ECD National Convention
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Quarterly *Deaf Episcopalian* newsletter
- ◆ Support for members preparing for, or currently attending, seminary
- ◆ Mentoring contacts (individual basis)
- ◆ Lots of support!!

If you have questions, feel free to contact the ECD at [info@ecdeaf.org](mailto:info@ecdeaf.org).



## ECD MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member       Renewal

Membership forms are at our website [www.ecdeaf.org/membership/sign-up](http://www.ecdeaf.org/membership/sign-up)

**Annual Membership Fees: \$30 each**  
(After Feb 28th, add a \$5 late fee) **Pay online at:**  
<https://www.ecdeaf.org/donation>

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (Voice/VP):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Text:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Parish Information

**Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your role (member, lay minister, rector, etc...)**



### DONATE TODAY

ECD is an organization that is supported by membership fees and also donations.\* Donations and bequests are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your donation!

**Yes, I would like to donate \$** \_\_\_\_\_



**Please mail your application or donation to:**

Episcopal Conference of the Deaf  
c/o Episcopal Church of the Advent  
9373 Garber Rd  
Crestwood, MO 63126

\* Your donation to the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf is tax deductible under the group exemption of The Episcopal Church EIN #31-1629166