

Designing a Deaf/Hearing Worship Using Deaf Interpreters

2018 Deaf Church Leaders Conference: Refocus

Refocusing/ Reframing Your Thinking

Current status

- In most hearing churches, hearing interpreters are looked at as leaders of deaf groups
- In most hearing churches, deaf people receive the sermon (message) through hearing interpreters
- In most hearing churches, deaf people feel they are excluded or forgotten

Refocus/Reframing (solutions)

- Deaf leader instead of hearing interpreter as a leader
- Use deaf interpreters to deliver the pastor's message in their natural language with help from hearing interpreters
- Establish a partnership with hearing church leaders to have ongoing communication

How to change the perspective in your hearing church

- Develop a team within your church Deaf community
- Host a meeting with the team to prioritize needs/desires and select a leader to be the coordinator/communicator with the church leadership
 - examples: deaf interpreters, language access, deaf friendly activities
- Establish an initial meeting with hearing church leaders to communicate the needs of the deaf community
 - Agree on next steps/actions and when to follow up
- Follow up as agreed, remain patient/persistent, and pray often
- Host a meeting within the Deaf community at least twice each year to reflect and refocus

Why using
Deaf
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Your next step?

- How can you build a trust relationship with hearing church leaders? How do you break down current barriers and colonization?
- Is there a deaf person at your church who is qualified to be the leader of deaf community inside your church? If not, how can you train them?
- Why is it important to implement deaf interpreters? What minimum goals/qualifications of a deaf interpreter should look like for your church?