



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission - Western Jurisdiction

Equipping Volunteers, Empowering Partnerships

April 24, 2022



As UMVIM Jurisdiction Coordinator, I am often asked: *"is being a volunteer and serving in another country really worth it. Wouldn't the money for the travel and food and lodging, etc. better spent if it was just sent to the site to answer that need or request?"*



The answer is 'NO'. Volunteers in Mission is so much more than just building building a house or teaching Vacation Bible School. Volunteers in Mission is the **RELATIONSHIPS** that are made between the team and the people we are serving. When we are on a mission we not to do **FOR** but to do **WITH** or along side of them. With those relationships and people's stories we return home with us where we share them with our churches and other friends. We don't just serve in mission for 1 to 2 weeks and return home. But we take those relationships home with us and we continue to build on those relationships using various types of social media.

COVID-19 created a huge barrier in maintaining those relationships especially if mission journeys were scheduled to return to strengthen their relation ships. Teams are just starting to return to mission. Once such team was the Los Gatos UMC 2022 Punta Colonet, Mexico mission team. The team members came from the Silicon Valley, Nevada, and Scotland served during Holy Week. They were in Mexico less than a day and I got an email from the team leader about how wonderful it was to be in mission again. Upon return, team leader Pete Taylor stated,



"It's very uplifting to be able to look outside our own borders again, now, as we work to resurrect mission programs like this one that had flourished pre-COVID. We are looking forward to more short-term mission successes like this one in the future."

Yes there were challenges & fears related to getting back on the road with short-term missions, but the mission field is open now.

If you are being called to serve please answer that call.

For more information or assistance to reconnect with a mission site, contact Ronda Cordill, WJ UVMIM Coordinator at umvimwj@gmail.com

Domestic Team Insurance Update

Risk-taking mission and service makes space for many challenges. It is always a prayer that teams serve safely and without incident, however, sometimes accidents

happen or missionaries become ill while on the work site.

We have been able to update our Domestic Insurance Plan to provide more robust coverage for teams serving in the US. In the Western Jurisdiction we have many teams doing a "Done in a Day" or multiple weekend projects so we are piloting a **daily rate of \$1.25 per team member** without a processing fee like other jurisdictions are doing. The UMIVM Board wanted to make the process easy and affordable for all who want to serve even for a day or two in your community. AIG insurance offers benefits to \$50,000 for medical and accident coverage. The process to request **team insurance** is the same. Simply download the Excel sheet, include team leader information and the names of each missionary with departure and return dates. The sheet automatically calculates the total for you.



Contact Ronda Cordill at umvimwj@gmail.com or more information if you would like the instructions and form.

WJ UMVIM Sites

During the Summer, we are going to feature several of the UMVIM sties in the Western Jurisdiction and sites where teams from the WJ serve in mission through out the country and the world. If you have a favorite one that you would like to have featured please let your Annual Conference Coordinator know.



The **Blackfeet United Methodist Parish** in Browning, MT is a UMVIM site that is not a -traditional UMVIM Site. There is little construction or teaching Vacation Bible School at this site but it offers an Agriculture program through which volunteers learn about Native American culture and Leadership through their service.

Go to their website at BUMPmission.com and learn more about the site or register your team. The video on the Home Page is very informative and gives you a feeling for the type of work and ministry that makes BUMP so special. They are accepting mission

teams this year. All of June is filled but they still have openings in July and August, and possibly September. You can find the mission application on BUMPmission.com

The Mission of the Blackfeet United Methodist Parish is to create a Christ-centered community to serve all people.



Alaska: Birchwood Camp needs volunteers

Birchwood Camp has a full schedule this summer, but not enough paid staff at this point.

Do you love camping ministries and Birchwood, or love service to children and youth? Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one week beginning May 1. The biggest need is food services and housekeeping.

[Fill out a Volunteer Form Here](#)



For LONG TERM RECOVERY

Wildfire Rebuilding Missions in Cal/Nev for 2022:

The California Nevada Conference is at two Long Term Recovery/Rebuild sites in Northern California. Contact [Steve Elliott Cal/Nev UMVIM](#) Conference Coordinator for more information.

Town of Paradise. We are assisting with homes for those who cannot afford to build themselves. For more details - [California-Nevada Conference of The UMC | California - Rebuilding Homes in Paradise and Butte County \(cnumc.org\)](#)

Happy Camp, California. West of Yreka in far Northern California. We are rebuilding homes lost in the 2020 Slater Fire. For more information - [California-Nevada Conference of The UMC | California - Slater Wildfire Home Rebuilding - Siskiyou County \(cnumc.org\)](#)

Long Term Recovery in the PNW: Okanogan Wildfire Rebuild

Teams are also needed in through out the summer for home rebuilding.

Contact Cheryl Reagan the PNW UMVIM Conference Coordinator for more information.

[Click here to contact Cheryl.](#)

Mission Volunteers

Application and more information is [here](#).

Are you interested in
serving as a long-term
Mission Volunteer?

Apply now!

2022 Trainings

March 16-19 in Haverford, PA

May 18-21 in Carlinville, IL

Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in Grand Prairie, TX

umcmmission.org/mission-volunteers



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Your UMVIM WJ Conference Coordinators are there to assist and support you as you answer your call to serve as a short-term mission volunteer. If you are already scheduled to serve on a mission journey, let us know about it, so that we can share your story. Please feel free to contact them for information or connection to other VIM Resources.



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