



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission - Western Jurisdiction

Equipping Volunteers, Empowering Partnerships

June 15, 2022



CHANGING SEASONS

For the past 3 years I seemed to be overwhelmed during the Month of May. There is so much going on around us. There is war, illness, and disasters plus school is ending and other life changes like a birth of baby and marriage. Everything seems to be happening at the same time causing stress and those feelings of being overwhelmed. This year that chaos has extended into June for me. *Does that ever happen to you? Do you ever feel overwhelmed and unsure what to do next?*

It is times like these that we need to slow down or even stop and listen for God's quiet voice to help us or give us a direction. Spring is moving into summer and I believe that God is reminding us that as the seasons are changing that new season brings us a **'newness'**. New opportunities, new challenges, and new ways of doing things.

The new season of summer brings new opportunities for Volunteers in Mission:

- Education with our Monthly Mission Seminar next week and Summer Mission Academy at the end of July,
- Long Term Recovery sites need more volunteers at various sites.
- Virtual missions are planned for August and September.

**With these new opportunities becoming available,
I hope you can to hear God's nudge to service.**

See the information below and in other newsletters this summer.

*For more information contact Ronda Cordill,
WJ UMVIM Coordinator at umvimwj@gmail.com*

UPCOMING EVENTS



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

Monthly Mission Seminar

Disability Awareness and Engagement in our churches and communities

Saturday, June 25, 2022 11:00 AM EDT

(10:00 AM CDT/9:00 AM MDT/8:00 AM PDT)

Presented by:

Rev. DEBBIE HILLS,

Chairperson of the Disability Ministries Committee of the UMC



Topics to be Discussed:

- Disability Theology Framework overview (Do no harm)
- First steps in your church
- Creating spaces to foster acceptance and belonging in the Church
- Taking it to the streets (joining with others/pioneering)
- Resources

To Register Go To:

<https://forms.gle/pvNzPeBSJPesBDVw5>

For more information contact Ronda Cordill, Western Jurisdiction UMVIM Coordinator at umvimwj@gmail.com



The Greater Northwest Episcopal Area Abundant Health Ministries invite you to a Virtual Educational Event



Food Insecurity & Hunger

**Monday, June 27, 2022 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.
PDT**

(5:00 p.m. Alaska/7:00 p.m. MST)

**Speaker is Sharon Thornberry (Ze/Hir),
Columbia Gorge Food Bank Manager, Oregon
Food Bank**

During this session we will learn: ❖ About what our churches in the Greater Northwest are doing regarding hunger ❖ What our Social Principles say about hunger ❖ Discuss the shopping model for food pantries; ❖ How to serve everyone with special needs (diet and cultural); and Why it is our duty as Christians to Advocate for food security for everyone.

To Register for this Virtual Experience exploring Food Insecurity and Hunger:

<https://forms.gle/NTwGZJw8CcXp8V5B6>

If you have any questions, contact Emilie Kroen at ekroen@yahoo.com



UMVIM Summer Mission Academy

July 25-30, 2022

via Zoom

UMVIM Refresher Team Leader Training will be on Saturday, July 30, 2022



For LONG TERM RECOVERY

Long Term Recovery in the PNW: Okanogan Wildfire Rebuild

Teams are needed through out the summer for home rebuilding. John Melvin an UMVIM Team Leader reports the following: The Omak Fire Recovery Project currently has 8 houses under construction with the goal of completing them all this year. These houses are all rebuilds from 2019-2020 wildfires. Seven of the eight houses are dried in with interior work in progress at various stages, the eighth house just had its foundation poured and will be ready for wall construction soon.

There was an almost continuous Mennonite Disaster Services volunteer team on site from Jan thru April, which really helped them move progress forward. But MDS has left now and additional volunteer teams are desperately needed.



Teams are being formed for at least one week each month starting in June and continuing through the summer and fall. Aimee, the site volunteer coordinator has secured two apartments at the Cariboo Inn in Okanogan for June and the Okanogan UMC (aka the rock church) is right around the corner for additional low or no cost housing. Another housing option is the Omak Inn in double or single rooms at your own expense.

If you would like to volunteer in the Okanogan contact contact [Cheryl Reagan](#) the PNW UMVIM Conference Coordinator for more information.

Wildfire Rebuilding Missions in Cal/Nev for 2022:

The California Nevada Conference has 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 \(cnumc.org\)](http://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 \(cnumc.org\)](#)

Disaster Sites

Tonga Disaster Relief Focus of Western Jurisdiction Annual Conferences

By Kristen Caldwell, OR-ID

Through song, dance, tool drives, informational videos and more, ministry settings across the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church are doing their part to provide support and relief to the small island nation of Tonga in the aftermath of a devastating volcanic tsunami in January.

With many Tongan United Methodist faith communities scattered throughout the Western Jurisdiction,

the College of Bishops and Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team have committed to supporting Tongan siblings as they begin to pick up the pieces. [Click here to see more.](#)



During annual conference gatherings this month and in the fall, each of the seven conferences that make up the Western Jurisdiction will be collecting an

offering for Tongan relief. Best of all, people do not have to attend annual conference to give, as each conference has set up online portals for giving.

- [California-Pacific Conference](#)
- [California-Nevada Conference](#)
- [Desert Southwest Conference](#)
- [Mountain Sky Conference](#)
- [Greater NW Area Conferences](#)



But the response does not end there. When deemed appropriate, the Western Jurisdiction disaster response coordinators hope to send Early Response Teams and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission to support relief and rebuilding efforts.

“We are looking at rebuilding and reconstruction,” Tu’itahi said. “Communication is still ongoing with Tonga on the best way to maximize our aid.”

Flooding in Yellow Stone National Park



flooding continues.

Prayers for the People affected by the Flooding throughout the Western Jurisdiction especially in "YELLOWSTONE PARK" as

More information will be sent out as it becomes available.



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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Cal/Pacific: [Doug & Judy Lewis](#)
Cal/Nevada: [Steve Elliott](#)
Mountain Sky: [Rev. Kenneth Daniell](#)
Desert Southwest: [Mike & Lorraine Eyer](#)
Oregon/Idaho: [Louise Kienzle](#)
Pacific Northwest: [Cheryl Reagan](#)



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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