

# DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATE

## DESERT SOUTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Saipan Update

At a recent training event, Liz Gibson, the Voluntary Agency Coordinator of FEMA, shared with the gathering the funding for Saipan teams is available through April 2020. Under the VALOR (Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair), FEMA invites volunteer workers, including faith based organizations to make repairs to houses damaged by cyclone Yutu in October 2018. According to Gibson, the funding for the VALOR program may be diverted for other purposes. She is hopeful other sources of funding will be identified.

Recent teams deployed from the Western Jurisdiction installed windows and doors in the damaged homes. There is still some roof repair and replacement to be done.

Teams deploy for a two-week mission. FEMA provides airfare, lodging, per diem for food and other qualified expenses.

If you are invested in joining a future team, please contact our Western Jurisdiction coordinator, Linda Wilson at [lwilson6215@gmail.com](mailto:lwilson6215@gmail.com)



### Report from Conference Disaster Response Coordinator Training

In November, Polly Turner and Tom Mattick attended the denominational training event for CDRCs to learn best practices from experts in the field and network with other CDRCs from across the nation. One of the important announcements at the event was UMCOR has registered as 501-C3, a tax-exempt, charitable organization that will continue beyond any possible divisions of our denomination. Donations to UMCOR continue as in the past.

It was also announced that UMCOR has entered into an agreement with Lowes for a 7% discount for disaster response supplies.

From the training event while recognizing our annual conference is doing some things well (our structure, disaster response trailer and equipment, connections to conference), there are needs to revise and develop new protocols and practices. In the coming year, the Disaster Response Committee will:

- Revise the Conference Disaster Response Plan
- Map our disaster response assets (ERTs, equipment...)
- Promote Connecting Neighbors program
- Identify regional coordinators
- Identify representatives to VOAD

We look forward to your participation and input.

## UMVIM Training

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission serve locally, nationally and internationally in a variety of capacities. Volunteers represent the full spectrum of United Methodists with various skills without age restrictions. More information on the Western Jurisdiction UMVIM, go to <https://umvimwj.com>.

The Desert Southwest Conference coordinator, Mike Eyers, is offering a training event on **January 18, 2020 at Boulder City UMC** (700 Wyoming St), from 9:00am-1:00pm. Some of the topics will be finding and selecting projects, gathering a team, registering a mission trip, insurance, special issues for International projects and much more.

For more information, Mike can be reached at [clnwe@gamil.com](mailto:clnwe@gamil.com) or 623-810-5600.



## Future Training Events Update

- ☑ Feb. 1, 2020 - First UMC, Yuma  
Basic ERT - 8 hour class  
Qualifies for ERT and Saipan responses  
Polly Turner, Instructor
- ☑ March 14, 2020 - Central UMC, Phoenix  
Basic ERT class  
Level 200 classes  
Leadership  
Assessment  
Safety  
Logistics  
Practical skills  
Tarping  
Ladder Safety  
Mold and Asbestos  
Many more  
Polly Turner, Instructor  
Tom Mattick, Instructor

### *Watch for Online registration details*

#### Conference Disaster Coordinators

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