

DISASTER RESPONSE SPECIAL UPDATE

Desert Southwest Annual Conference

UMCOR West Closes

Recently word was received UMCOR West Depot located in Salt Lake City, UT is closing the end of this month. For years, the depot has warehoused cleaning buckets, hygiene kits and other relief supplies as a remote location for the Sager Brown depot in Baldwin, LA. Significant operating losses no longer make the West Depot feasible.

Throughout our conference, churches have not only contributed buckets, kits, and funds to the Depot, but also sent mission groups to volunteer. As a mission station, this is a huge loss for us.

Since learning of the closure, the Disaster Response Coordinators in the Western Jurisdiction have

CONT'D NEXT PAGE - UMCOR



Masks Donated

In a recent email, Barbara Matthew of the BCT Institute for Media Productions of San Mateo, CA graciously offered tens of thousands of facial masks to the Annual Conference. In her message she states:

We are contacting advocate agencies for the homeless, different church denominations, community clinics, agencies that provide services for the poor and needy, etc., in numerous regions of the country, offering them free masks for distribution among those that they serve, including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul, United Way, etc. The important thing is to put together a large order of masks.

In working with our conference staff who contacted our community ministries and some churches, a request for 85,000 masks was submitted.

Having received confirmation of our request, we are now waiting for details on the shipment. When the shipment arrives, most probably at the Conference Center, ERTs will be needed to break down the pallets and repackage the masks for distribution. Watch your email for information about volunteering.

UMCOR -

collaborated with UMCOR, directors of other regional supply depots, and the WJ Council of Bishops to develop a plan to manage disaster supplies.

With the expanse of the WJ, a geographical area approximately the size of the continental US east of the Mississippi River, the Coordinators are recommending decentralizing storage locations with each Annual Conference having its own. This will place supplies closer to the point of need in the event of the disaster. Each location will keep supplies specific to the types of potential disasters in the area. The inventory in each location will be shared with the other conferences so when disaster strikes, materials can be moved between areas.

What this means for the Desert Southwest Conference is needing to identify types of available storage facilities, possibly even used shipping containers, and location/s most suitable for our area.

While having separate storage facilities in the West, we are still connected to UMCOR and can receive and send supplies and teams to Sager Brown.

As the plan evolves for our Annual Conference, more information will be forthcoming.

Lara Martin Named as Interim Director

“Lara S. Martin, MA, MPH is the interim director of Disaster Response and U.S. Partner Relations of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. She leads the UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response Team in supporting and empowering United Methodist annual conferences in their local response to emergency situations in the United States, from relief through early response and toward long-term recovery. Martin is a public health and nutrition expert, as well as a recognized global leader in humanitarian aid. She worked for Save the Children in various roles from 2007 to 2013, including as an aid worker managing emergency health and nutrition programs. Most recently, Martin was a humanitarian researcher and managed the Center for Humanitarian Emergencies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a frequent lecturer at Emory University and teaches at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Martin is a member of the congregation at North Decatur United Methodist Church, part of the North Georgia Conference.”

Quoted from umcmmission.org



Desert Southwest
The United Methodist Church