

Navajo Nation and Covid-19

Daryl Junes Joe, United Methodist Women Director

May 19, 2020

I am Navajo, Dine (de' neh) as we call ourselves. I live in Shiprock, New Mexico which is in the Northwest Corner of New Mexico, our people live in three states, the NW corner of NM, Northeast Arizona and Southeast Utah. The entire reservation covers 27,413 square miles (about the size of West Virginia), our population in 2016 was 356,890. I'm not sure what it is by now. Our reservation is struggling having difficulty obtaining supplies to our people, especially those residing in the remote areas, in the mountains, desert plains and small communities. Currently our Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez has placed an emergency curfew on the entire reservation, starting at 8 pm to 5 am Sunday to Saturday. More recently he increased the restrictions of a complete lockdown for the same time beginning Friday 8 pm to Monday 5 am – no one is allowed to travel during the weekend. Law Enforcement are enforcing it as much as they can by issuing citations which have fines up to \$1,000.00.

Currently the small town I live in is 40 miles west of the border town in Farmington, New Mexico, that's where the nearest Walmart stores are located. Our town has a food market but it's not large. The next border town is south of us called Gallup located 100 miles, the mayor asked the Governor to order a complete shutdown of the town due to the very high number of covid-19 patients and deaths. Gallup is in the same county as Farmington and the numbers are rising fast. As of Sunday, May 10, 2020 there were 2,973 positive COVID-19 cases and 96 deaths; Monday, May 11, 2020 there were 3,204 positive COVID-19 cases and 102 deaths and Wednesday, May 13, 2019 there were 3245 positive COVID-19 cases and 103, that's how fast the virus is traveling.

Many of our population reside in remote areas on our expansive reservation near the mountains or on the desert plains with livestock, without running water or electricity. They travel many miles just to shop for their needs. The local hospital is small and is fill with Covid patients, a nearby school gym was recently converted into cubicles with patient beds to accommodate the overflow at the hospital. The pharmacy is closed, any medication requests is given out in the parking lot by hospital staff, no one enters the hospital. Many critical patients are flown out to either Albuquerque, NM, Flagstaff or Phoenix, Arizona hundreds of miles from home. The sad part is having loved ones flown out and having no relatives around when they pass away.

Requests for donations have been made by the Navajo Administration as well as the local agencies. There are many donations arriving but the need for more is increasing. There are people who are sewing masks for the community and the hospital staff, water is sorely needed in the remote areas, hay is needed for livestock (horses, cows and sheep) as well. The monetary donations are used to purchase water tanks; food for the livestock; some families still need wood to warm and cook in their homes so that is also purchased from local people. There are 110 chapters on the Navajo Nation. Shiprock Agency is the largest land base and most populated with 21 chapters. I am advocating for our Northern agency as it covers over 21 chapters.

Any donation will be a blessing to our Navajo people and appreciated. God is good all the time and we live with hope that the virus to lift soon, we pray for families to bond stronger and be thankful to our Creator who blesses us always. God bless you all. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Ahe'hee'

United Methodist Women - A National Call to Respond Native American Accompaniment in this time of Covid-19

Dear Members of the Program Advisory Group,

As you are aware, Covid-19 is disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities in the U.S. in devastating ways. Today, we lift up the plight of Native American communities in this very trying time. Currently, the Navajo Nation is ravaged by Covid-19, having the highest infection rate per capita in the U.S. Our own National Director, Daryl Junes Joe, a member of Navajo Nation, has shared the needs for her people at this time. *(A full report from Daryl on the situation in the Navajo Nation is attached.)*

The United Methodist Women Act of Repentance (AOR) Working Group shares with you, as national leaders, this **Call for Accompaniment**, in hopes you will lead the way in encouraging United Methodist Women to 1) contribute and show support for our Native American siblings and live out our commitment to the UMC Act of Repentance. In addition, we ask you to 2) reach out to your Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) to get their guidance on assessing continuing needs of various Native communities and let us know about those needs and how donations can be made, so we can add to a growing list.

For now, we begin with Navajo Nation. **Here's HOW YOU CAN HELP and MOBILIZE** your Conference. Needs of other Native American Communities will be forthcoming in our next update early next week.

I. Monetary Donation:

1. **ONLINE: Official Navajo Nation Covid-19 Relief Fund**

<http://www.nndoh.org/donate.html>

2. **BY MAIL: NORTHERN DINE AGENCY (Shiprock Agency):**

Checks can be made out to: **Northern Dine Covid-19 Relief Effort** (or simply **NDCVRE**) and mailed to:

Indian Country Grassroots Support
c/o Josephine Foo
913 N. Orchard Avenue
Farmington, New Mexico 87401
northerndineagencyreliefteam@gmail.com



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OR to:

Daryl Junes Joe
Post Office Box 607
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420

All DONATIONS will be used to purchase **55-gallon barrels** for those homes without **running water; food and other essential items such as food, sanitizers, cleaning products, children's diapers, hay for livestock, pet food, wood, etc.**

II. Face Masks, Sanitary Gloves, Food items, Cleaning Products, Other Essential items:

1. **Large packages** of masks, gloves, dry products, food, etc. can be sent via UPS to:

Shiprock Bethel Church
Junction of US Hwy 490 & US Hwy 64
Shiprock, NM 87420

2. **Smaller Packages** of masks, gloves, dry products, food, etc. can be sent to:

Daryl Junes Joe
5205 Hubbard Street
Farmington, New Mexico 87402

These masks, gloves, essential products, and food will be distributed to the local communities: Nursing/Elderly Homes, senior kitchens, and chapter houses making deliveries to remote homes.

III. FINAL Request

ONCE you make your DONATION and SHIP your items, PLEASE LET US KNOW!!
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In an effort to keep track of our giving, we ask you to please report every gift to:

Cynthia Rives – member of AOR Working Group: cynrives@yahoo.com

1. What was given
2. How many (quantity)
3. How much money donated
4. Where your donation was sent

For questions regarding donations: please send them to Cynthia at: cynrives@yahoo.com

Thank you for putting faith, hope and love into action!

Stay safe. Stay well. Blessings to you.

United Methodist Women Act of Repentance Working Group

Cynthia Rives, Daryl Junes Joe, Cindy Saufferer, Deborah Williams



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**United Methodist Women—A National Call to Respond
Native American Accompaniment in the time of Covid-19
Part II**

Dear Program Advisory Group members,
You received our call to response—Part I—which shared the needs of the Navajo Nation. We are sharing additional information on how United Methodist Women can participate in accompaniment with Native American communities.

Here's HOW YOU CAN HELP and MOBILIZE your Conference to HELP

1. Four Corners Native American Ministry serving Navajo, Ute Mountain Utes, Jicarillo Apache, Southern Utes, Zuni and the Pueblos.

Contact: Rev. Tweedy Sombrero Navarette, tweedyandfelipe@yahoo.com (505) 368-4122

Mail Monetary donations to:

New Mexico Annual Conference
Attn: Rev. Tweedy Sombrero Navarette
11816 Lomas Blvd, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
Memo line: Four Corners Ministry

Ship items donated to:

Four Corners Native American Ministry
PO Box 400
Shiprock, NM 87420
or
Four Corners Native American Ministry
Mile Post 23.3 US 64 Hwy
Shiprock, NM 87420

Materials needed: medical supplies, cleaning products, food and other essential items such as:

Caps, surgical
Disinfecting wipes and sprays
Face shields
Gloves medical grade
Gloves non-latex
Goggles and eye protection
Gowns isolation and level II surgical
Hand sanitizer
Masks, surgical and isolation
N95 masks
Pulse oximeters, portable
Shoe covers
Thermometers
Tyvek coveralls
Ventilators
Wipes, alcohol based

2. Yankton Sioux—South Dakota serving the Yankton Sioux

Contact: Shelly Saunsoci, community leader, Yankton Sioux (605) 481-8714

Part II

Native American accompaniment in Covid-19

Mail Monetary and donated items to PO box:

Materials needed:

Walks on the Day Foundation
Attn: Shelly Saunsoci
PO Box 143
Lake Andes, SD 57356

face masks
cleaning supplies
sanitary gloves
food and other essential items

3. Schurz UMC (Cal/Nevada conference) serving the Walker River Paiute.

Contact: Rev. Nathan Sam Whistler, nathan.samwhistler@cnumc.org (775) 316-0467

Mail Monetary donations to:

Ship items donated to:

Schurz UMC, Native American Ministry
Attn: Rev. Nathan Sam Whistler
PO Box 5
Schurz, NV 89427-0005

Schurz UMC, Native American Ministry
Attn: Rev. Nathan Sam Whistler
1019 Hospital Rd (PO Box 5)
Schurz, NV 89427-0005

Materials needed:

cloth masks (adult & child) N95 masks (for a cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy) gloves non-latex surgical.

4. Native American Fellowship UMC of Southern California (Cal/Pacific conference) serving an urban population of Native Americans (there are 109 federally recognized Indian tribes in California)

Contact: Rev. Gregory W. Douglass, naumcoffice@aol.com (714) 535-2429

Mail Monetary and donated items to:

Materials needed:

Native American Fellowship
UMC of Southern California
Attn: Rev. Gregory W. Douglass
800 South Lemon St.
Anaheim, CA 92805-4607

100 cloth face masks
12 hand sanitizers
6 sanitizer wipes
6 sanitizer sprays

5. Native American Fellowship UMC (Desert Southwest conference) serving the Gila River Indian Community

Contact: Rev. Floy Scott, cumc.office@centralumc.com (602) 258-8048

Mail Monetary and donated items to:
Make checks out to:

Materials needed:

Native American Fellowship UMC
c/o Central UMC, Attn: Rev. Floy Scott
1875 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004-1507

cloth masks
Memo : Native American Fellowship

Part II

Native American accompaniment in Covid-19

6. Fort Yuma UMC (Desert Southwest Conference) serving the Fort Yuma Quechan

Contact: Rev. Robert Klein, fortyjmaumc@gmail.com (928) 257-4765

Monetary donations are needed for essential items—mail to:

Fort Yuma UMC
Attn: Rev. Robert Klein
PO Box 844
Yuma, AZ 85366-8844

7. First UMC of Cortez (Mountain Sky conference) serving the Navajo, SE Utah section of the reservation

Contact: Rev. Jean Schwiem, fumccortez@gmail.com (970) 565-3002

Mail Monetary donations to:
Make checks out to: First UMC of Cortez

Ship items donated to:

First UMC of Cortez
Attn: Rev. Jean Schwiem
PO Box 1016
Cortez, CO 81321
Memo: Navajo COVID Project

First UMC of Cortez
Attn: Rev. Jean Schwiem
515 N. Park St
Cortez, CO 81321

Materials needed:

N-95 masks for Indian Health Service
Hand sanitizer and wipes

spam or other canned meats (NOT tuna)

8. Great Spirit UMC (Oregon Idaho conference) serving Burns Paiute, Coos, Lower Umpqua and Suislaw, Coquille, Cow Creek Reservation Band of Umpqua, Grand Rond community, Klamath, Siletz, Umatilla and Warm Springs

Contact: Rev. Allen Buck, greatspiritpdx@gmail.com (405) 431-9912

Mail Monetary and donated items to:
Make checks out to Great Spirit UMC

Materials needed:

Great Spirit UMC
Attn: Rev. Dr. Allen Buck
3917 NE Shaver St.
Portland, OR 97212-1961
Memo: COVID 19

face masks
cedar
Sage

ONCE you have made your DONATION and you have SHIPPED your items,
PLEASE LET US KNOW to help us keep track of your generous giving!

Report every gift to:

Cynthia Rives, member of the AOR Working Group: cynrives@yahoo.com

1. What was given
2. How many (quantity)
3. How much money donated
4. Where your donation(s) was sent

For questions regarding donations (send to Cynthia): cynrives@yahoo.com

Thank you for putting Faith, Hope, and Love into action!
Stay safe. Stay well. Blessings to you.

United Methodist Women Act of Repentance Working Group

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