

Information Sheet: September 17-21, 2018 NTX. Conference Mission trip Victoria, Tx. area - Hurricane Harvey recovery

➤ **Team Leader: Rev. Clay Womack** – FUMC, Rockwall
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➤ **Pre-trip Team meeting: Monday, Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m. Location
TBD**

➤ **Trip registration, fee, & required forms/checks/Ministry Safe:** Interested persons may register at the Center For Missional Outreach's Hurricane Harvey response webpage. Go to <https://ntcumc.org/missional-outreach/disaster-response/hurricane-harvey-trips>. A registration page will be before you. Fill out the online form and submit. Upon submitting the online registration form -- a trip fee payment page will follow. Trip fee payment of **\$90.00** (covers nine meals and snacks & \$10 per night per person facilities lodging fee) is by credit card at this site.

If folks cannot, or do not wish, to register and/or pay for this trip online, contact Clay at your earliest convenience for direct registration and trip payment through the auspices of FUMC Rockwall.

Required forms for filling out are available for download at riotexasresponse.org/forms/ or from the trip registration page.

For **FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANTS** in a Rio Texas Hurricane Harvey trip, the needed forms are four: Skills, Medical/Liability Release, Emergency Contact, and Mission Trip Covenant. THE MEDICAL/LIABILITY RELEASE FORM WILL NEED NOTARIZING.

For **RETURNING PARTICIPANTS**, only the Medical/Liability Release form will need to be filled out, notarized anew, and submitted. The Rio Texas Conference office stores prior participants' copies of the other three forms, and those forms only need to be filled out again in the event that a returning participant's vital information changes.

****All trip participants must have passed a background check administered by their local church or the Center For Missional Outreach of the North Texas Conference. The background check should not be more than one-year old (not taken prior to September 16, 2017). All required forms and verification of background check**

are due to Clay by August 30, 2018. Materials can be mailed or scanned/mailed to the snail mail or email address noted above.

Rio Texas Conference requires that for adult mission teams, *2 out of every 8 participants be Ministry Safe trained. Persons interested in this September trip are strongly encouraged to take the Ministry Safe online training. Express interest & register to do so with your local church staff or with Rev. Andy Lewis, Director – Center For Missional Outreach, NTX Conference (lewis@ntcumc.org). Once trained, please send a copy of the completion certificate to Clay asap.

- **Team size: 20 persons**, at present. No one will be counted as part of team until his/her registration and trip fee have been received. *Once the 20-person limit has been reached, a waiting list will be established on a first come, first served basis.* If interest prompts, an attempt will be speedily made to increase our team size via approval by the Rio Texas Conference disaster recovery leadership. If granted, the new numerical team-limit will be communicated to interested congregations and persons.
- **Lodging: First United Methodist Church, Victoria** (407 N. Bridge St 77901) (fumcvictoria.com); dedicated rooms with bunkbeds but bring your own bedding; six available showers; full sized commercial kitchen & dining/meeting facilities. A very good set up for teams. WE WILL TAKE A FULL TIME KITCHEN MEISTER/CHIEF COOK. The Team will eat well! *Persons with special dietary needs or health concerns, plus persons of vegetarian or vegan practice, will certainly be respected and have their needs/concerns fully addressed. Please inform Clay of your dietary needs or preferences asap.*
- **Travel/transportation:** given that team members may come from the width & breadth of the North Texas Conference, the travel approach .. both to and from Victoria .. will be by private vehicles, carpooling or caravanning where possible or desired. Please communicate with Clay, or the total team, if you desire to caravan or carpool. The goal will be to rendezvous at FUMC, Victoria on the evening of September 17. You will be on your own for supper that evening.

Fuel costs per vehicle will be an out of pocket expense by those persons riding in the specific vehicle, as mutually agreed upon. Team members are encouraged to seek travel/fuel cost support from their local congregations.

- Anticipated **types of work and tools** to be brought by team members: as with any disaster recovery trip – Early Response or rebuild – it generally is the case that a final defining of specific projects may not be fully known until arrival in the stricken community; however in Victoria, expect a combination of Early Response type work (roof tarping or stabilization, sheet rock tear out and mold

mitigation, perhaps some chainsaw work) and rebuild type work (basic carpentry, sheet rock installation, taping & bedding, painting, perhaps some flooring installation).

Therefore, **TOOLS**, as you may have them: your preferred hand tools, work gloves, breathing masks, ladders, chainsaw (if you are certified to operate a chain saw in a disaster setting), sawhorses, extension cords-power strips, pry/crow bars, battery powered drills & drivers, sheet rock bits, tape & bed tools, box knife, circular saw, chop/mitre saw, perhaps a framing nail gun or screw gun, measuring tape, straight edge or T-square. *Tools will be discussed in greater detail at the September 10 pre-trip team meeting.* Ice chests/coolers will also be needed for packing lunches and iced-down bottled water.

- (optional, but encouraged) **Rio Texas Harvey Recovery Materials Fund**: Team members – through their respective local congregations – are encouraged to make a small/moderate contribution to the Rio Texas Conference’s harvey recovery materials fund. This fund helps provide for the building, or repair, materials used on the homes. *A suggested donation of \$50 per person* has been given. If you/your fellow team members from your church are interested in making this donation, please talk with your Pastor or missions director. At their initiative, a church check can be made out to the Rio Texas Conference, with memo note “Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Fund/project materials”. Mail the check to the Rio Texas Conference: 16400 Huebner Rd., San Antonio Tx. 78248. Mark the envelope “in care of Vicki McQuiston”.
- **Special volunteering**: opportunity will be available for other types of team ministry volunteering while on the trip --- kitchen assistant as needed; morning prayer leader; work project team leader and/or safety person, group recorder/photographer/listener, & evening worship/sharing leaders. Players of musical instruments & vocalists are welcome to share their talents, too!

Additional questions, clarification, or interests? Shoot me a text, phone call, or email!

Thank you for prayerfully considering this September 17-21 NTX Conference harvey recovery trip to the Rio Texas Conference, greater Victoria area. I hope you will be part of the undertaking and come away awesomely blessed by what Christ does through, and to, you. Be praying for this trip, its Team, and the many future endeavors of our Conference for the people impacted by Hurricane Harvey and to the glory of God.

For Christ, and neighbor.
Clay