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March 19, 2021

New Mexico Conference of Churches  
1019 Second St NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
505-243-6234  
NMChurches@gmail.com  
www.NMChurches.org

On behalf of the denominational leaders of the New Mexico Conference of Churches, I write to share our concern for the ending of Covid-19. We are especially concerned for the elderly, the immune-compromised and people whose employment places them in vulnerable situations. We commend the creative ministries of our member congregations during Covid-19. We value the work of scientists. We respect the many sacrifices made for the common good of our state by medical professionals, government leaders and essential workers.

As we grieve for the nearly 4,000 New Mexicans who have died, and stand with the nearly 169,000 who are recovering, we urge members of all of our denominations and all New Mexicans to protect one another by registering for vaccination at the NM Department of Health (<https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org>). We have the faith and power to help save lives. Getting vaccinated is an act of compassion for all people, for ourselves and for all those with whom we live in community.

In hope and healing love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Kim Fields-Haley".

The Rev. D. Kim Fields-Haley, Regional Connection Minister, New Mexico, El Paso and Far West Texas, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

The Rt. Rev. David Bailey, Bishop Episcopal Church in Navajoland

The Rev. Earl Bledsoe, Bishop New Mexico Conference United Methodist Church

The Rev. D. Kim Fields-Haley, Regional Connection Minister, New Mexico, El Paso and Far West Texas, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

Mr. Ken Gingerich, New Mexico Deputy, Mountain States Mennonite Conference

The Rev. Jim Gonia, Bishop Rocky Mountain Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn, Bishop Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

The Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons, Conference Minister  
Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

Elder Conrad Rocha, Stated Clerk/Executive Synod of the  
Southwest Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop, Archdiocese of Santa Fe - Roman Catholic

The Rev. John Williams, New Mexico Deputy, Rio Grande Mission Center,  
Community of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Kay E. Huggins, Interim Executive Director, NMCC

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Community of Christ, The Episcopal Church,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Mennonite Church USA, Presbyterian Church (USA),  
Roman Catholic Church, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church