



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Classifying Church Services and Personnel as Essential)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...”; and

WHEREAS, During this worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the Council has taken proactive measures to respond to, mitigate, and prevent the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, Among those measures have been the enactments of stay-at-home orders, a mandatory curfew, and an alcohol ban, all of which were implemented to try and prevent gatherings and transmission of this deadly disease; and

WHEREAS, In light of recent requests from community members and pastors to reduce restrictions on churches and worship services, the Council has determined that classifying church services and church personnel as essential is in the best interest of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that church services and personnel, including pastors, ministers, and other persons serving ministerial functions are hereby classified as “essential personnel” for the purposes of the Tribe’s COVID-related regulations and planning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on FEBRUARY 10, 2020 duly adopted by a vote of NINE for, ZERO against, and ONE abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the

Resolution No. 02-2021-24

enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman

3/1/2021

Date



Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary

Date