COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER
When you have completed your church disaster plan, meet with your local office of Emergency Management to share the plan. Make sure you have included ways your church is prepared to assist when disaster strikes the community.

Listen to the needs of Emergency Management and see how your church fits in their process. Begin a relationship that will benefit Emergency Management and the community.

Coordinate and plan with other church and community organizations and leaders

FAITH BASED COMMUNITY
Discuss your disaster plan with other pastors in your area. Create a plan to work together in the event of a disaster. Know your community: its strengths, weaknesses, areas of need and service.

Need help preparing a church plan or deciding what training or volunteer opportunity/training is right for you? Give us a call!

They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage. Isaiah 41:6

Communication in Disaster
Disaster Recovery (800) 282-8011 X 148
Ministry Protection (800) 282-8011 X 137

When Disaster Strikes...

1. YOUR CHURCH
   • Contact your District Superintendent
   • Contact Ministry Protection
   • Activate your church disaster plan

2. YOUR COMMUNITY
   • Contact your District Superintendent
   • Contact your District Disaster Coordinator
   • Activate your church disaster plan
   • Volunteers self-deploy per church plan and their training

3. ANOTHER COMMUNITY IN YOUR DISTRICT
   • Contact your District Disaster Coordinator
   • Check the Web site for updates & instructions
   • If members in your church are trained and registered volunteers with the conference, they will receive email updates and instructions

4. OUR CONFERENCE OR BEYOND
   • Contact Disaster Recovery to offer assistance (supplies, volunteers, etc.)
   • If members in your church are trained and registered volunteers with the conference, they will receive email updates and instructions
   • Check the Web site for updates & instructions

Disaster Recovery
A ministry of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church
Office for Ministry Protection
www.flumc.org/DisasterRecovery
Email: DisasterRecovery@flumc.org

ANOTHER COMMUNITY IN YOUR DISTRICT
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HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO A DISASTER IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH?
LEARN HOW TO PREPARE A Response PLAN SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR CHURCH!

How To Develop A Local Church Disaster Plan

Disaster Recovery
A Ministry of the Office of Missional Engagement Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church

460 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33815
800-282-8011 Ext. 148
DisasterRecovery@flumc.org
www.flumc.org/DisasterRecovery

Serving Local Churches
You know your church and the specific needs and skills of your congregation. This process will help you tailor a plan that will work for you.

**Developing a Local Church Disaster Plan**

**ORGANIZE, PLAN, MITIGATE AND PREPARE BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES**

**PLAN ALTERNATE MEETING SITES FOR:**
- Worship
- Sunday School & Small Groups
- Auxiliary Groups
- Mother’s Day Out/Day School

**INSURANCE COVERAGE REVIEW**
- Check to make sure your church property and contents are covered and insured to value.
- If you have questions about your coverage, call the Conference Office for Ministry Protection at 800-282-8011, Ext. 137.

**BACK UP YOUR DATA SYSTEM**
- Print hard copies of all your important records.
- Back up data electronically and keep a copy in a safe place, off church premises.

**ITEMS TO COPY (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)**
- Church historical records, books, artifacts, photos.
- Property records, plats, deeds. Inventory (written & video) of church and property.
- Membership records (Confirmations, baptisms, weddings).
- All financial records.

**PROTECT CHURCH FACILITIES:**
- Secure church buildings and parsonage.
- Unplug electronics and raise them off the floor.
- Cover electronics/musical instruments with plastic.
- After it is safe to drive, check the church buildings to assess damage.
- Contact Ministry Protection to report any damage and follow their instructions.
- If necessary, do what is possible (safely) to secure buildings from further water damage (tarps).

**CARRYING FOR OTHERS IN THE CONFERENCE AND BEYOND IN DISASTER**
- Work with the district and Disaster Recovery to provide volunteer teams to areas in need.
- Take an offering for UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, designated for the particular disaster or for FL Conference Advance #112010 (Disaster Relief).
- Find out from Disaster Recovery what relief supplies are needed and do what you can as a church to help meet that need.
- Resist the urge to “go & do” without first checking with Disaster Recovery at the Conference.

**DRAWING ON THE STRENGTHS AND DESIRES OF THE CONGREGATION, TRAIN VOLUNTEERS TO RESPOND:**
- Select a disaster team leader in your church. Create a team (with strong ties to church leadership) that can mobilize when disaster strikes.
- Know your congregation: strengths, weaknesses, areas of need and service.
- Identify vulnerable populations in your church and community. Develop a plan to contact them quickly after a disaster.
- Make sure members with special needs have registered with county emergency management.
- Train members to provide initial pastoral care to those hurting spiritually and emotionally.
- *Contact Disaster Recovery to learn how to be part of a trained Spiritual Response Team*.
- Have a list compiled of those in your congregation who have special gifts or training.
  - Chain Saw (Certified Only)
  - Leadership/Administration
  - Stephen Ministry
  - Communication/Ham Radio
  - Medical
  - Hospitality (Shelter & Food)
- Set up a telephone tree to connect with members prior to and after a disaster.
- Provide information to members about preparing for disaster.

**RESOURCES AND TIPS**
- Call Disaster Recovery Ministry at 800-282-8011, Ext. 148 for guidance and assistance.
- Keep on hand a current, well-stocked first aid kit. Consider staff training in CPR and First Aid.
- *Contact Disaster Recovery to learn how to be part of a trained Early Response Team*.
- Keep on hand emergency items that are up to date and useable: water, canned food, diapers, batteries, generator, flashlights.
- Store a supply of tarps, roofing nails, plywood, tools, visquene, etc. Participate in the “6-4-1 Program.”
- *Contact Disaster Recovery to learn more*.
- Schedule a Community Arise Basic Disaster Ministry Training for your church.
- *Contact Disaster Recovery to learn more*.
- Check all emergency signs, fire extinguishers, evacuation plans and have a “meeting place” plan for your church in the event of a fire or disaster.
- Create a plan for managing donations.
- Set up accounts with local businesses prior to a disaster (hardware, grocery, etc.)
- Keep accessible for the pastor and lay leaders a list of contacts office/home/cell phone numbers including:
  - Church Disaster Leader
  - District Superintendent
  - District Disaster Coordinator
  - Local Fire, EMS, Red Cross, hospital, etc.
  - List of contacts, Disaster Recovery Ministry and Ministry Protection at the Conference.

Our Mission... **Disaster Recovery Ministry**

To resource and equip local United Methodist Churches and districts as they assist their communities and individuals to prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster.

We accomplish this mission through training and associated resources, communication and relationships.

Revelation 2:19

He knows thy works, and charity, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.