UNITED METHODISTS IN DISASTER MINISTRY

Where Do I Begin?

To get involved, contact:

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Disaster Preparedness and Response Programs

UMCOR.org
UNITED METHODISTS IN DISASTER MINISTRY
of the United Methodist Church

UMCOR.org
A Church Prepared
When disaster strikes, the local church usually provides the first response. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—helps form a foundation for UMCOR’s national training and response. UMCOR equips United Methodists to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, supporting conference and church ministries on disaster response so that they can be the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world. The following programs are available for your church through the Rocky Mountain Conference Disaster Committee:

Connecting Neighbors
This program has the goal of inspiring congregations and communities to be better able to minimize disaster-caused harm to people and property and to respond to our neighbors in helpful, cooperative and caring ways on behalf of the church and in the spirit of Jesus Christ. The curriculum is broken into three modules.

Module 1: Ready Congregants focuses on preparing individuals and families to be disaster-ready.
Module 2: Ready Churches emphasizes the importance of protecting church property and the people within the property, before and immediately following a disaster, and of appropriate use of church property in disaster response.
Module 3: Ready Response encourages churches to explore their capacity for various disaster response ministries and to consider ways to engage community partners.

Early Response Team (ERT)
This program combines training in specific skills and team building to allow volunteers to work together as an Early Response Team (ERT). This team fills a specific need in the early days after a disaster to clean out flood-damaged homes, remove debris, place tarps on homes, and otherwise help to prevent further damage, while providing a caring Christian presence.

ERTs are not a first-response group of emergency workers, nor are they recovery, rebuild, or repair teams. Under very specific guidelines, ERTs assist survivors, without causing further harm or being a burden to the affected community.

Disaster Spiritual Care (DSC)
Disaster Spiritual Care is an essential part of helping survivors recover from a disaster. Spiritual care providers provide a specialized service and are usually trained as pastors, counselors or chaplains. They offer presence and hospitality to any persons affected by a disaster by meeting, accepting, and respecting persons exactly as they are. DSC providers never evangelize, proselytize or exploit persons in vulnerable need. Often they work in partnership with other DSC providers. Local spiritual care providers and communities of faith are the primary resources for post-disaster spiritual care.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)
UMVIM exists to promote, encourage and enable Christians to exemplify “Christian Love in Action” through short-term mission service at home and abroad. The UMVIM program provides comprehensive training resources for team leaders to help them prepare their teams for the mission field.