


**A "Disaster Ready Congregations" Curriculum  
of the United Methodist Church**

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## INTRODUCTION



Inspire 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.

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## MODULES



- Disaster Ministry Overview
- Module 1: Ready Congregants
- Module 2: Ready Churches
- Module 3: Ready Response

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# DISASTER MINISTRY OVERVIEW



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## GROUNDING IN MISSION

- Disaster-ready congregations view disaster preparedness and response as a mission and ministry of the church.
- Enabling our ability to respond is our "response-ability."

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## UNDERGIRD BY FAITH

- Our work is based on our faith in God and respect for the communities we serve.



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## GUIDED BY VALUES

- Provide practical, proactive support to most vulnerable
- Honor cultural differences
- All people have God-given dignity and worth
- Work with local partners
- Be good stewards of donated resources
- Don't tie aid to religious or political viewpoint
- Incorporate best practices and standards
- Welcome gifts, prayers, service

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## WORK ACCORDING TO STANDARDS & PRINCIPLES



- National VOAD Points of Consensus
- Consistent with church's mission, values
- Communities and individuals "own" their recovery

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## STAY MISSION-FOCUSED

- To help people
- Respect their faith, culture, values
- Work cooperatively (not judgmentally)
- Be positive presence of God's love for all
- Act with humility, justice, peace
- Remember *who* we are and *Whose* we are

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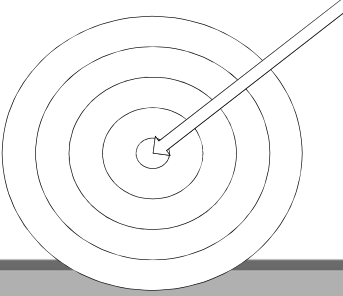
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## SUPPORTED BY OUR CONNECTIONS



- LOCAL CHURCH
- DISTRICT
- CONFERENCE
- JURISDICTION
- GENERAL CONFERENCE

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## UMCOR: YOUR PARTNER IN DISASTER MINISTRY

- Training
- Expertise
- Relief Supplies
- Funding

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## SOURCES OF UMCOR FUNDING

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- The Advance 100%
- NOT apportionments / shared giving

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## OUR STRUCTURE IS OUR STRENGTH

*Our mission is to show Jesus Christ to the world, and let us pray that our structures do the same.*

Thomas Kemper, General Secretary  
General Board of Global Ministries



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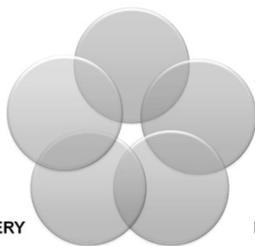
### READINESS

REVIEW

RESCUE

RECOVERY

RELIEF



## PHASES OF DISASTER



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### FUNCTIONS

- Clean-up
- Volunteer coordination
- Construction management
- Donations management
- Fiscal management
- Emotional / spiritual care
- Casework / case management
- Administration
- Information management
- Communications

### RESOURCES

- Money
- Materials
- Muscle
- Minds
- Management



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# VISIBLE PRESENCE



*"When the local church gets involved, that's our door into disaster ministry."*

Byron Mann, VIM Coordinator  
Janice Mann, Disaster Response Coordinator  
Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church



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# READY CONGREGANTS

## MODULE 1

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# PREPARE YOURSELF

- Put your own mask on first





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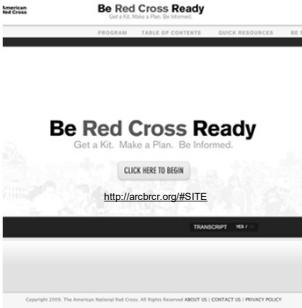
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## PREPARE YOUR FAMILY

- Get a Kit
- Make a Plan
- Be Informed



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## PREPARE NOW

- What's in your kit?
- What's your plan?
- Emergency Contact Card
- Family Preparedness List
- Text Alerts
- Home Inventory



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## PREPARE TO CARE FOR AT RISK CONGREGANTS



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## PREPARE TO IDENTIFY READY CONGREGANTS

- Identify those who are willing and capable to respond in varying ways during or following an emergency or disaster
- Record Congregational Assets / Skills
- Provide opportunities for learning and practice

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## NEXT STEPS

How can we help each other to be prepared as individuals and families?



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## READY CHURCHES



### MODULE 2

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## READY CHURCHES

- Plan to protect people
- Plan to protect property
- Anticipate how church property may be used following a disaster



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## DISASTER READY CHURCH



- A place of safety and security
- A refuge in times of trouble



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## READY CHURCHES RESTORE HOPE



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# READY CHURCHES PREPARE

- Buildings
- Facilities
- Parsonages
- Contents
- Procedures



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# READY BUILDINGS



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# READY FOR WORSHIP



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## CHURCH FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

*Self-Inspection Safety Checklist*  
 for worship centers and related facilities



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## CHURCH RECORDS



- Protect the church's historical record
- Fireproof / waterproof safe storage
- Cloud storage / digital back-up
- Archival storage of historical documents
- Purge unnecessary documents, books, paper



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## ON-GOING MINISTRIES

- Be a Ready Congregation
- Draft a "Continuity of Operations Plan"



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## PREPARE TO IDENTIFY READY CONGREGANTS

- Identify those who are willing and capable to respond in varying ways during or following an emergency or disaster
- Record Congregational Assets / Skills
- Provide opportunities for learning and practice

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## CHURCH BUILDING USAGE IN DISASTER RESPONSE

How can your church be used in disaster response?



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## CHURCH BUILDING AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

- What actions or resources will be necessary in order to make the building "response ready"?



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## DONATIONS MANAGEMENT – MATERIAL GOODS



- Be careful what you ask for
- It's OK to say "no thank you"
- Affirm the offer, refer to other organizations

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## DONATIONS MANAGEMENT - \$\$\$

- Maintain records of incoming and outgoing funds
- Assure equitable distribution of resources
- Maintain donor intent
- Direct assistance in the form of vendor payments, material goods, services (no cash payments)
- Inform district / conference of funding raised and expended

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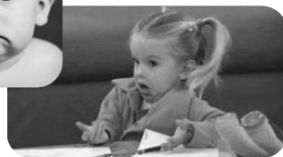
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## AUTHORITY / ACCOUNTABILITY



- Who has the responsibility and the authority to put the ministry into action?

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## VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

- Develop an "Emergency Action Plan"
- Reference Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship (FEMA)
- Reference Active Shooter in a House of Worship Tip Sheet (NDIN)

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## RESPONDING TO IMMINENT VIOLENCE

- Run
- Hide
- Act




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## RESTORING WHOLENESS

Without intentional intervention, the cycle of violence and other issues may continue.

- How do we stay true to our faith after the violence?
- What are ways we support our church family, especially our most vulnerable, when our church experiences violence?




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## SECURING THE CHURCH

- What is the first step you will take to get this process going?
- With whom will you share this information?
- Who are the people you will involve in decision-making?
- What steps can you/your church take to make your property more secure and free of hazards?
- Are there other people/places/agencies you need to talk with that can give guidance?

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## NEXT STEPS

- Plan to protect people
- Plan to protect property
- Anticipate how church property may be used following a disaster



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## READY RESPONSE

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## READY RESPONSE OBJECTIIVES

identify  
disaster  
ministry

initiate a  
preliminary  
plan



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## PREPARE TO IDENTIFY READY CONGREGANTS

- Identify those who are willing and capable to respond in varying ways during or following an emergency or disaster
- Record Congregational Assets / Skills
- Provide opportunities for learning and practice

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## BE THE CHURCH

- Our community "owns" the disaster
- Our church is an integral part of the fabric and culture of the community
- Our church has much to offer – and to receive – by investing our time, talent, gifts, service and witness in our community's recovery.
- What might people need?
- What do we have to offer?

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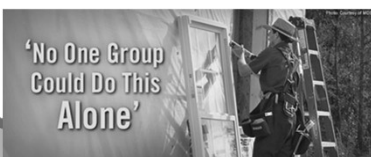
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## POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Working with other agencies/organizations in your community will...

- promote shared resources and information
- eliminate duplicated efforts
- allow us to know where help is needed



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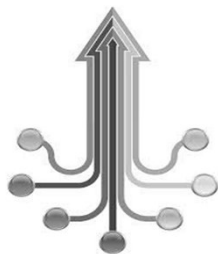
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## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Faith-based
- Government
- Non-profit
- Civic
- Business
- Academic



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## CONNECT WITH VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER

- National / State VOAD [www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org)
- Standards / Principles / Guidance
- Points of Consensus

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## BE EMPOWERED BY CHURCH CONNECTIONS



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United Methodist Women

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Church

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WALK-ABOUT



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## Volunteer Navigators

A community-based volunteer ministry during the early days of a disaster

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## What do volunteer navigators do?

- Offer a visible presence and caring outreach
- Provide accurate and timely information
- Offer referrals to available resources
- Gather categorical information




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## What is the context?

- Short-term
- No crisis counseling, structure assessment, promises
- No forms for survivors to complete
- Faith-based, not governed by outside agency
- When safe




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## Who can be a volunteer navigator?

- Volunteers from local community
- Associated with the local church
- Willing to participate in the orientation
- Able to be compassionate, non-preferential




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## What about badges?

- Wear name tags or shirts representing the local church or community group
- The church will only send those who are known and only in pairs.




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## What's in the orientation?

- How to stay safe
- What to say/not to say
- Information to provide to survivors about community response
- A reporting and referral mechanism
- How to maintain boundaries




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## The church's role

- Communicate with district / conference disaster leadership
- Recruit volunteers
- Develop materials
- Determine area(s) to be reached
- Assure it is safe to "walk about"
- Provide orientation and support




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## What is in the Navigators Orientation Packet?

- Let's take a look!




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## CONNECT IN SERVICE

- Disaster ministry is an opportunity for discipleship and service



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## NEXT STEPS



- Identify at least one disaster ministry
- Initiate a preliminary plan
- Identify faith-based and other community partners



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