
Reimagining

DISASTER RESPONSE

This plan was developed to provide a phased approach for reopening the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area (GNW) Disaster Preparedness and Response Missions. It details how ministry and safety-related issues of the Reimagining Life Together document (RLT) will be addressed. This plan is submitted for pre-approval by the GNW Conferences Directors of Connectional Ministries in accordance with the RLT.

This plan is a living document which will change as guidance and conditions change. It is based on the RLT and CDC guidance. This plan also uses UMCOR's [Guidance for Early Response Teams \(ERT\) During COVID-19 Outbreak](#). Lessons learned from implementation will also be considered to improve the plan.

This plan emphasizes the use of virtual activities to support the mission. This is especially stressed for volunteers from high-risk populations. The use of virtual meetings and training is reinforced.

Phase 1 doesn't allow any physical interactions. Phase 2 only allows the physical response of local volunteers for commute-from-home ERT deployments with face coverings, social distancing and other controls. Phase 3 allows regional ERT responses with face coverings, social-distancing and other controls, but doesn't allow communal sleeping or eating. Phase 3 also allows resumption of controlled in-person training activities. Phase 4 allows more typical ERT missions and training, but still maintains controls.

ERT missions will be evaluated to assure they can be performed safely in the given stage and, if accepted, strong preplanning and risk reduction controls will be applied. All ERTs, whether internal or external, will follow current Conference disaster response guidelines. In an abundance of caution the most conservative of RLT, CDC, State and County guidelines will be applied.

This plan is guided by the following tables of allowed activities and required safety controls. All actions will be evaluated to assure our involvement in each situation will do no harm, will do good, and will promote staying in love with God for the volunteers, the survivors and the community.

ADDENDUM to Reimagining Life Together for 2020 NW Wildfire Relief

Effective September 11, 2020

For Wildfire Relief only, this addendum supersedes the Disaster Response guidance in the Reimagining document.

Ministry settings planning to provide relief support in their communities will work with their District Superintendent (local churches) or Director of Connectional Ministries (other ministry settings) to discuss the community need and the request from a local government authority and/or established disaster response agencies (such as the Red Cross) for relief support. District Superintendents or Directors of Connectional Ministry **must** approve plans to use church facilities for wildfire relief support activities.

Phase 2.1 Addendum - Added March 23, 2021

Disaster Response Programs planning Early Response Team (ERT) deployments as immediate response for disaster relief should evaluate the deployment against the criteria specified in Addendum: Phase 2.1 – an option within Phase 2 (RLT Addendum) from Reimagining Life Together. The Conference Disaster Response Coordinator (DRC) is responsible for evaluating the RLT Addendum determination criteria (www.CovidActNow.org) of counties providing volunteers as well as the counties where they would be deployed. The DRC will assure the RLT Addendum criteria is met for all applicable counties before applying Phase 2.1 to the disaster response. This may require limiting where volunteers are accepted from as well as the scope of disaster activities.

A disaster response under Phase 2.1 may deploy regionally within the GNW Episcopal Area using the Reimagining Disaster Response protocols of Notation B. Safety protocols will be tailored to the disaster response by the DRC and ERT Coordinator assuring the ERT volunteers are protected and risks are minimized in accordance with Reimagining Disaster Response. These criteria will assure safety precautions of the RLT Addendum are met as well.

GNW Disaster Preparedness and Response Mission

Reopening plan Summary Table

Essential Missions	Phase 1 Activities	Phase 2 Activities	Phase 3 Activities	Phase 4 Activities
EARLY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No ERT Missions ▪ Virtual Training ▪ Maintain trailers and equipment. ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local, limited ERT-Missions^A ▪ Virtual Training ▪ Maintain and locally transport trailers, equipment. ▪ Max group of 7 on local mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional (within Conference) ERT Missions^B ▪ Limited Live and Virtual Training ▪ Maintain and regionally transport trailers, equipment. ▪ Max group of: ERT mission - 7 Live Training - 15 (physical space dependent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discretionary Regional/Beyond Conference ERT Mission participation evaluated on case-by-case basis ▪ Training (live or virtual) ▪ Maintain and transport trailers, equipment as required for mission ▪ Max group of: ERT mission - 10 Live Training - 35 (physical space dependent)
CONNECTING NEIGHBORS (CN) PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidance on application of CN techniques to pandemic ▪ No live training, virtual mentoring ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual Church Support ▪ No live training, virtual mentoring ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited live or virtual Church support ▪ Limited live or virtual mentoring ▪ Max training group of 15 (physical space dependent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discretionary Church Support (live or virtual) ▪ Training (live or virtual) ▪ Max training group of 35 (physical space dependent)
CHURCH/ ORGANIZATION OUTREACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual coordination and outreach ▪ Virtual meetings and presentations ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual coordination and outreach ▪ Virtual meetings and presentations ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conditional live,- virtual coordination and outreach ▪ Virtual and limited meetings, presentations ▪ Follow church, organizational protocol and guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discretionary coordination and outreach ▪ Meetings and presentations (live or virtual) ▪ Follow church, organizational protocol and guidelines
UMCOR, VOADS, PARTNER COORDINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual UMCOR, VOAD meetings and interaction ▪ Virtual support of LTRGs, Un-Met Needs Boards, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual UMCOR, VOAD meetings and interaction ▪ Virtual support of LTRGs, Un-Met Needs Boards, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conditional live, virtual UMCOR, VOAD meetings and interaction ▪ Virtual and limited in person support of LTRGs, Un-Met Needs Boards, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discretionary UMCOR, VOAD meeting and interaction (live or virtual) ▪ In person support of LTRGs, Un-Met Needs Boards, etc.

GNW Disaster Preparedness and Response Mission

Reopening Safety Actions Summary Table

Essential Missions	Phase 1 Activities	Phase 2 Activities	Phase 3 Activities	Phase 4 Activities
EARLY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All meetings virtual. ▪ Virtual participation with UMCOR, VOAD, FEMA “best practices” webinars, other safety trainings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All meetings virtual. ▪ Virtual participation with UMCOR, VOAD, FEMA “best practices” webinars, other safety trainings. ▪ ERT Missions^A Follow current RLT, CDC, State, county health and safety guidelines. Refer to UMCOR “ERT Guidance for ERTs during COVID-10 Outbreak” (4/20/20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited live meetings. Use virtual options, if possible. ▪ Virtual, limited live participation with UMCOR, VOAD, FEMA “best practices” webinars, other safety trainings. ▪ ERT Missions^B Follow current RLT, CDC, State, county health and safety guidelines. Refer to UMCOR “ERT Guidance for ERTs during COVID-10 Outbreak” (4/20/20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discretionary Regional/Beyond Conference ERT Mission participation ▪ ERT Missions Follow current RLT, CDC, State, county health and safety guidelines. Refer to UMCOR “ERT Guidance for ERTs during COVID-10 Outbreak” (4/20/20)
CONNECTING NEIGHBORS (CN) PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No live training, virtual mentoring ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virtual Church Support ▪ No live training, virtual mentoring ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow current RLT, CDC, State, county health and safety guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow current RLT, CDC, State, county health and safety guidelines.
CHURCH/ ORGANIZATION OUTREACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow church, organizational protocol and guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow church, organizational protocol and guidelines
UMCOR, VOADS, PARTNER COORDINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No physical interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow organizational protocol and guidelines for discretionary live, virtual meetings and interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow organizational protocol and guidelines for discretionary live, virtual meetings and interaction

Notations:

A)

- ♦ **ERT Coordinator to clarify primary work scope with local coordinator and determine if appropriate for team to deploy under current conditions and restrictions.**
- ♦ Local ERT missions performed by people near the affected community who can report to the job site each day from home. Consider smaller ERTs depending on type of disaster, scope, team skills.
- ♦ High-Risk population ERTs (per RLT) may perform support functions virtually but do not serve physically with the team.
- ♦ Deploying ERT members will self-certify that they are not in a high-risk population per RLT.
- ♦ Focus on outside tasks, inside if safety protocols can be applied.
- ♦ Teams set up disinfectant stations for hands and tools at work site. Build in regular “wash breaks”.
- ♦ Disinfect high touch areas – tools, equipment, vehicles, handrails, doorknobs, etc. Assure bathroom facilities meet sanitation requirements.
- ♦ Team members wear proper PPE for work being performed. PPE will not be worn for personal protection from COVID-19 since teams will not be sent into situations where there is a suspected risk.
- ♦ Face coverings and social distancing guidance will be followed at all times. A face covering is not considered PPE as it protects the people around them not the individual wearing it.
- ♦ Members to be self-sufficient. Travel individually or with cohabitants. Members to either bring or purchase own food separate from team mates.
- ♦ Only one team member will interact with one local coordinator and/or survivor from each work site.
- ♦ Guidelines for face coverings and social distancing will be followed.
- ♦ Evaluate and assure sanitation supplies prior to mission. Each team member is expected to bring their own face coverings and PPE.
- ♦ Conduct temperature checks each day prior to work. People displaying COVID-19 symptoms per CDC guidance will be immediately isolated and sent home. People who learn of potential exposure to COVID-19 will be sent home.
- ♦ Recognize added layers of stress for team. Provide extra resources and guidance prior to mission.

B)

- ♦ **ERT Coordinator to clarify primary work scope with local coordinator and determine if appropriate for team to deploy under current conditions and restrictions.**
- ♦ Regional ERT missions performed by people within a one-day drive of the affected community. No air travel.

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- High-risk population ERTs (per RLT) may perform support functions virtually but not serve physically with the team.
 - Deploying ERT members will self-certify that they are not in a high-risk population per RLT.
 - Teams deploy with handwashing and disinfectant stations.
 - Teams set up handwashing and disinfectant stations for hands and tools at work site. Build in regular “wash breaks”.
 - Disinfect high touch areas – tools, equipment, vehicles, handrails, doorknobs, etc. Assure bathroom facilities meet sanitation requirements.
 - Team members wear proper PPE for work being performed. PPE will not be worn for personal protection from COVID-19 since teams will not be sent into situations where there is a suspected risk.
 - Face coverings and social distancing guidance will be followed at all times. A face covering is not considered PPE as it protects the people around them not the individual wearing it.
 - Members to be self-sufficient. They will travel and lodge individually. Members to either bring or purchase own food separate from team mates. The team may co-locate in separate camping spaces with trailers, campers or tents. Hotels or other individual accommodations are also an option. Cohabitants can lodge together.
 - While teams are deployed, they will be considered a “family unit”, such as wildfire crews are implementing, and minimize interactions with other teams and groups.
 - Interactions within the team (family unit) will seek to minimize internal risk through use of face coverings, social distancing and sanitation.
 - High risk activities, such as close quarter inside muck out, must be evaluated for safety.
 - Only one team member will have intentional interaction with one local coordinator and/or survivor from each work site. Survivors may initiate interaction with other team members. Guidelines for face coverings and social distancing will be followed.
 - Evaluate and assure sanitation supplies prior to mission. Each team member is expected to bring their own face coverings and PPE.
 - Conduct temperature checks each day prior to work. People displaying COVID-19 symptoms per CDC guidance will be immediately isolated and sent home. People who learn of potential exposure to COVID-19 will be sent home.
 - Recognize added layers of stress for team. Provide extra resources and guidance prior to mission.

Developed by Dana and Kathy Bryson with contributions from Larry Johnson, Dan Wilcox and Jim Truitt - all of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area Disaster Response mission.