

# Dakotas Disaster Response Action Plan

Definition of Disaster Response by UMCOR: “A disaster is a severe disruption of personal and community life, involving a significant number of people and causing spiritual, emotional, physical, and social crisis to which the church can respond with God’s love and help. Such disasters may include: tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, toxic poisonings and other community-wide occurrences. The United Methodist Committee on Relief seeks to provide relief for acute human needs that might otherwise go unheeded. This assistance may come in the form of cash allocations, specialized services, volunteer ministries or other avenues of mission services.” (page 59, UMCOR Disaster Training Manual.)

## Checklist of Responsibilities by Position

### Local Church Pastor/or Lay Leader/or Chair of Trustees

Assess general situation and physical needs of people, affected area and forward initial assessment (either by telephone or by email) to the District Superintendent and/or the Ministry Team Disaster Coordinator and/or the Presiding Elder.

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Establish contact with any local community emergency management committees or agencies as soon as possible.

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Provide specific needs assessment (within 24 hours if possible) of any damage to the church or parsonage.

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Begin seeking local response to needs: general and specific.

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinate relief efforts on the local level.

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Implement your local church disaster plan.

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

When disaster response has concluded, review local church disaster plan and evaluate your response efforts.

### District Superintendent

Contact pastor/s involved and the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator/s as soon as possible.

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Receive the report of the local pastor/s and/or the Trustees Chair for churches within impacted areas.

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make initial contact with the Bishop (within 24-36 hours if possible.)

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Conduct an on-site visit (within 36 hours if possible.)

Done \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Remain in close pastoral care of churches and pastoral families of the impacted areas.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

Participate in the Conference Disaster Response Crisis Management Team.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

When the crisis is over, review your district's disaster response plan and the plans of the congregations within the impacted area. Evaluate your response efforts.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

### **Conference Disaster Response Coordinators**

Conduct an on-site visit with the Bishop, District Superintendent, Presiding Elder and (if possible) the Ministry Team Disaster Response Coordinator of the impacted area (within 36 hours if possible).

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

Coordinate efforts on area-wide or state-wide basis.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

Work with Bishop and/or the District Superintendent/s of impacted area to coordinate communication and general response efforts to the disaster.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

Activate the conference disaster response plan.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

When the crisis has passed, work with other conference leadership to evaluate the conference disaster plan.

### **Presiding Elder or Ministry Team Disaster Coordinator**

Accompany the Bishop and/or Conference Disaster Coordinator/s to survey the impacted area.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

Meet with the Bishop, affected District Superintendent/s, Conference Disaster Response Coordinators and Conference Disaster Response Crisis Management Team to assess the needs and coordinate the response.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

Implement the District Disaster Response Plan so that healing is brought to the affected disaster area.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

When the crisis has passed, work with the District Superintendent of the affected area and the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator/s to evaluate the District Disaster Response Plan and local church disaster response plans within the affected area. Continue your ministry of training and mitigation.

Done \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_