

DISASTER RECOVERY

NO. 3



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disaster Recovery



APRIL 2025
VOL 3, ISSUE NO 3

MENNONITE DISASTER
SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

2025 HURRICANE
SEASON

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING HOPE: MDS VOLUNTEERS MAKE A LASTING IMPACT IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



For seven months, volunteers from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) dedicated their time and skills to helping rebuild lives in the recovery of Hurricane Ian. Their unwavering commitment transformed not just homes, but an entire community—one built on resilience, service, and hope. Throughout their stay, the MDS teams worked tirelessly, installing roofs, painting, flooring, and tackling countless other essential repairs. In total, they assisted 36 households, contributing an incredible 12,000+ hours of volunteer labor. The financial impact alone is astounding—an estimated \$414,137.34 in savings for survivors who might otherwise have struggled to afford repairs.

But beyond the numbers, the real impact of this work lies in the relationships built. Volunteers didn't just repair homes—they connected with homeowners, listening to their stories, sharing meals, and offering emotional support. Many survivors were invited to join the teams for dinner, fostering a deep sense of community and mutual appreciation. This effort is a continuation of a long-standing partnership, one that has brought hope and restoration after past disasters. We are profoundly grateful for the dedication of these volunteers and the spirit of compassion they bring to every recovery effort.

Together, we are rebuilding more than homes—we are rebuilding lives.



PREPARE AND RESPOND: 2025 HURRICANE SEASON & DISASTER RECOVERY MINISTRY

As the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season approaches, forecasts indicate a potentially active period ahead. Meteorologists predict:

- 13 to 18 named storms
- 7 to 10 hurricanes
- 3 to 5 major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher)
- 3 to 6 storms with potential U.S. impacts

Empowering Churches for Disaster Response At this year's Annual Conference, our Disaster Recovery Ministry is dedicated to equipping and empowering congregations to respond effectively:

- **Pop-Up Party:** In collaboration with Creation Care, we are launching the Buckets of Hope campaign. This initiative encourages churches to assemble and store flood buckets (cleaning kits) essential for post-disaster recovery.
- **The Bishop's Offering:** This year, half of the Bishop's Offering will be allocated to disaster recovery efforts. These funds will provide flexibility in addressing urgent needs, including purchasing rolling assets such as tool and shower trailers—critical resources for volunteers aiding in recovery efforts.
- **The Expo:** Visit our booth to gain insights into disaster preparedness, response strategies, and recovery efforts. Learn practical steps to enhance your church's resilience and discover opportunities to volunteer and support affected communities.

Be the Hands and Feet of Christ Disaster recovery extends beyond physical rebuilding—it's about restoring hope and demonstrating Christ's love in times of crisis. By preparing now, we can respond effectively and compassionately when our communities need it most.

We invite you to be part of this vital ministry. Together, let's stand ready to serve and support our neighbors throughout the 2025 hurricane season and beyond.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Early Response Team Training

An Early Response Team (ERT) is a self-contained team invited to a disaster-affected area to provide specialized physical, emotional, and spiritual assistance to survivors. ERTs help with specific needs in the early days after a disaster.

Upcoming Basic Trainings:

[St. Lukes UMC, Orlando - April 26, 2025](#)



Church Disaster Plans - May 1, 2025

As we focus on readiness, we ask every church to complete and submit their disaster plan by May 1, 2025. If your church has already completed a plan, please review and update it to ensure all contacts and information remain accurate. For assistance in creating or reviewing your plan, please reach out to your district disaster response coordinator.

For a template to help you complete your church disaster plan, please use the following link. Plans can be submitted through the church dashboard.

[Church Disaster Plan Template](#)





CONNECT WITH US

Thank you for being a part of our ministry. Your support and engagement mean the world to us! Here's how you can reach out and stay in the loop:

Social Media

Follow us on our social media platforms for real-time updates, behind-the-scenes content, and interactive discussions.

- Facebook: Disaster Recovery Ministry - Florida Conference - United Methodist Church
- Instagram: @flumcdisasterrecovery
- LinkedIn: Disaster Recovery Ministry - The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church
- Website: <https://www.flumcdisasterrecoveryministry.org/>

Events and Webinars

Stay informed about upcoming events, webinars, and workshops. Mark your calendar and join us for insightful sessions!

Events Calendar: [flumcdisasterrecoveryministry.org/training-events](https://www.flumcdisasterrecoveryministry.org/training-events)



Trish Warren

Conference Disaster Response
Coordinator
pwarren@flumc.org
8636885563 ext 148



Jill Hockin

Hurricane Ian Volunteer Coordinator
jhockin@flumc.org
813-763-2832



Krista Cornelius

Administrative Assistant
kcornelius@flumc.org
8636885563 ext 146



Rev. Tom Vencuss

Early Response Team Coordinator
tvencuss@flumc.org