

# DISASTER RECOVERY

NO. 3

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ESF-15 CONVENING  
ERT ACADEMY

PREPARING FOR  
HURRICANE SEASON



The Florida Conference  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disaster Recovery



# ESF - 15 CONVENING

**Seven members of our staff had the privilege of participating in the annual Volunteer Florida Emergency Support Function 15 Convening.**

This event serves as a crucial gathering point for key organizations and professionals in our state dedicated to responding to disasters through volunteer efforts and donations. This year's convening provided an invaluable platform for our team members to engage, learn, and network with influential leaders across various sectors.

The agenda covered a wide array of pertinent topics such as grants management, private sector collaboration, addressing human trafficking post-disaster, safeguarding client information, and effective volunteer management strategies. Noteworthy attendees included representatives from other disaster-focused voluntary organizations, state and county officials, academic institutions, FEMA, among others.

We are deeply appreciative of the opportunity afforded to us to enhance our collaborative capacity by forging meaningful connections with those that we respond alongside.



volunteerflorida



# ERT ACADEMY



The Early Response Team Academy was a comprehensive training program designed to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively respond to emergencies and disasters in their communities. The academy consisted of a series of workshops and hands-on exercises, all aimed at preparing individuals to provide early assistance in times of disaster.

We were joined by 37 registered participants, including 5 trainers, and leadership from the Florida Conference and UMCOR.

Throughout the academy, participants learned about various aspects of disaster response, including basic early response, site evaluation, cleaning out a flooded home, tarping skills, chainsaw safety, and more. Experienced instructors led sessions including the comprehensive UMCOR ERT training program which ensured that participants are well-rounded in their understanding of disaster response.

The academy also provided opportunities for practical application, with simulated disaster scenarios allowing participants to put their training into action. These exercises included evaluating a house using the criteria provided in the class, physically tarping a roof, and applying chainsaw safety to cut logs provided by the camp. These exercises helped participants develop critical thinking skills, teamwork abilities, and the ability to adapt to dynamic and challenging situations.

The academy fostered a sense of community among participants, encouraging collaboration among individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences. This sense of camaraderie not only enhanced the learning experience but also laid the foundation for effective collaboration in real-world emergency situations.

Overall, the Early Response Team Academy was a valuable opportunity for participants to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to serve their communities as a caring Christian presence. By completing the academy, participants were better equipped to make a meaningful difference in times of crisis and contribute to the resilience and recovery of their communities.



# CHURCH PREPAREDNESS

Church disaster plans will be due May 1, 2024. Each church is expected to complete a disaster plan and submit it by Wednesday May 1, through the online Church Dashboard.

This plan walks through church assets, plan for securing buildings, who to connect with before and after a storm. The plan also offers direction on reaching out to congregants after a storm. It is important to have this information on hand prior to a disaster so that it may be easily accessed in a time of need. It is recommended that the plan be stored both online and in a printed copy.

For questions while completing your disaster plan, please contact your district disaster response coordinator, or Trish Warren at [pwarren@flumc.org](mailto:pwarren@flumc.org).





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Early Response Team Training

- Wesley Memorial UMC (Fort Myers) - 4/13/2024
  - 9:00-5:00
- Bridges UMF (Bunnell) - 5/11/24
  - 9:00-5:00

Interested in hosting an ERT Training? Please reach out to our ERT Coordinator, Tom Vencuss at [tvencuss@flumc.org](mailto:tvencuss@flumc.org)



## Warren Willis Camp Serve Day

- April 13, 2024
  - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Registrations can be found on our website.**



# 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
- TikTok: @flumc.dr
- 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)



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