

DISASTER RECOVERY

NO. 1



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disaster Recovery



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JANUARY RECAP

2024 GOALS

RECOVERY UPDATE

JANUARY RECAP



Early Response Team Train the Trainer

This month was busy, showing a promising start to events in 2024. In the first week back of the new year, the Disaster Recovery Ministry hosted UMCOR's ERT Train the Trainer class. Thank you to our trainer, Angela Overstreet, for her incredible guidance in this class.

Six participants will go on to facilitate a class evaluated by UMCOR in order to receive their training credentials.

Volunteer Leadership Kickoff

Later on in the month, we hosted all of our volunteer leadership teams in the Lakeland office to kickoff and plan for the year ahead. It was a wonderful day discussing how we can involve churches, individuals, and communities in the disaster response and recovery mission. This meeting included our District Disaster Response Coordinators, Disaster Response Front Team, and Early Response Team Trainers

Warren Willis Camp Service Days

Our partnership with the camp and conference center has already proven beneficial. Our first monthly service day was held on January 20th where our team assisted the camp's operations staff on maintenance of prayer paths, challenge course areas, and other areas around the property. Our partnership will continue on to include a monthly service day. Anyone school age or over is welcome to participate. Registration is required. Our next service day is scheduled for February 10, 2024.

2024 GOALS

2024 holds incredible promise for our capacity building and training activities.

Church Disaster Planning

Our first goal is for every church in the Florida Conference to submit their Church Disaster Plan by May 1, 2024. This can be found and submitted through the Church Dashboard. District Disaster Response Coordinators are prepared with resources and able to provide assistance completing this plan.

Our local church trainings will be held on February 10th and 13th and will go into depth on this plan.



Church Outreach

This year, we would love to visit the churches of the conference. Our goal is that each month, a representative from the Disaster Recovery ministry will attend and share the mission with two churches in each district. If you would like us to join you in worship or other gatherings to share our ministry, please reach out to our team.



TRAINING GOALS

As we looked back at our recent responses, we recognized a need for more early response team members in each district of our conference. So, our team met to plan how to grow this team and set two goals for the ERT program.

Host a minimum of three ERT Trainings in each district this year.

Our team is already working toward this goal with three trainings scheduled in the Atlantic Central District.

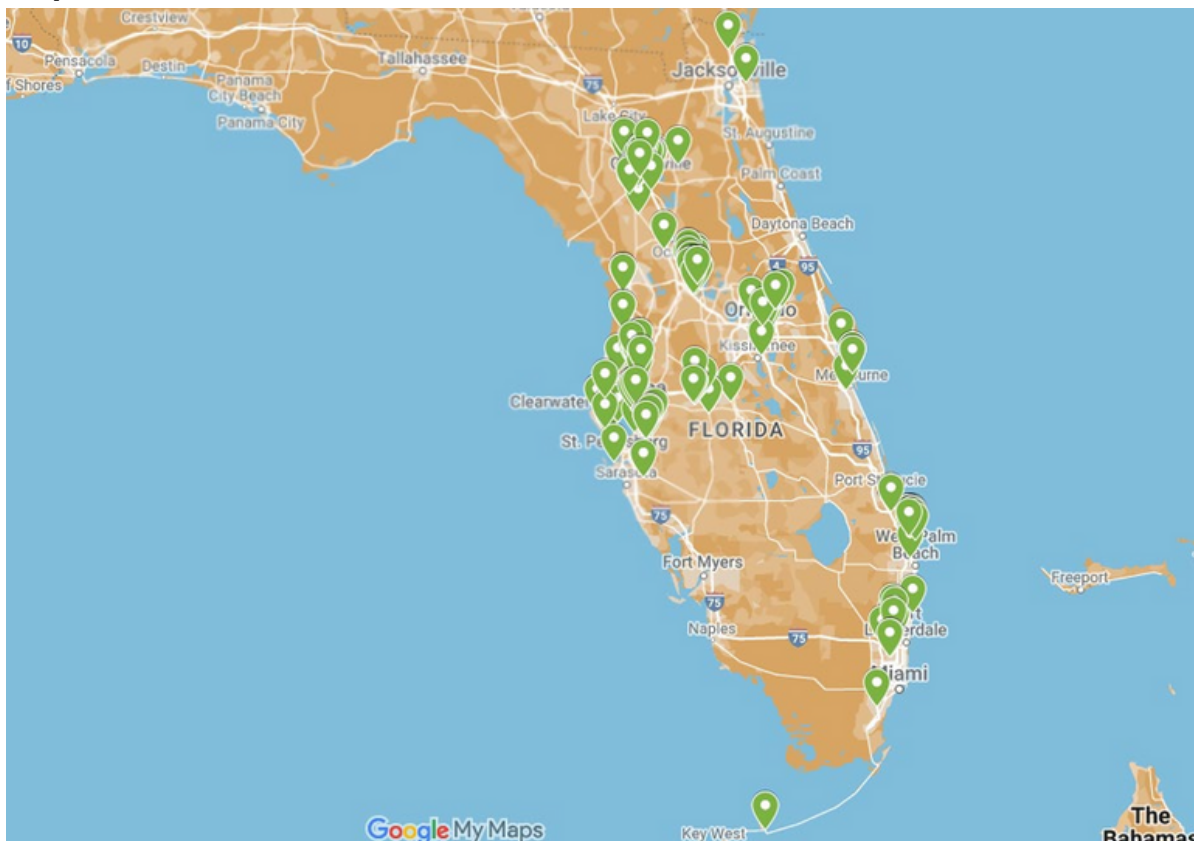
If you would like to assist in this goal by hosting an ERT Training at your church, please reach out to Tom Vencuss at tvencuss@flumc.org to coordinate a training.

Grow and diversify our ERT program.

With the development of our early response team, we hope to engage volunteers across the conference of different ages, experiences, and skill levels.

Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to become an Early Response Team member by completing the 8 hour course and passing a background check.

Map of Current ERT Members in the Florida Conference



LONG TERM RECOVERY

Staff and volunteers continue to work with survivors of Hurricane Ian.

As we embark on our second year of the Hurricane Ian Long Term Recovery project, we continue to be extremely grateful of the support of volunteers, churches, and community partners. Our disaster case managers and volunteer and construction coordinators are working to support survivors return to their normal. Our staff and volunteers have conducted outreach to 4084 households since the beginning of the Southwest Florida Tornado recovery. Many households have received case management services through the 103 open cases our team has worked on.

To date on the long-term recovery project, we have hosted 474 volunteers from all across the nation, who have served a total of 1179 hours. These hours have amounted to \$344,361.69 in volunteer labor. We will continue to need is volunteer support throughout the project, without you, this work is not possible.

The work is not done and there is still much to be done.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the outpouring of support from partners, churches, and volunteers throughout this recovery. Thank you for efforts in supporting the community when they need it most.



EARLY RESPONSE TEAM ACADEMY

March 15 - 17th, at Warren Willis Camp and Conference Center,
Join us for a comprehensive weekend of Early Response Team trainings, team building, and worshipping together in nature.

This weekend will include ERT Basic & Recertification, Team Leader Training, Safety Officer Training, and more. We will also offer a 16-hour chainsaw safety course.

Please note that there will be a cost associated with this retreat. Don't miss the opportunity to enhance your capabilities, forge lasting connections, and find inspiration in the tranquil surroundings of Warren Willis Camp.

Look out for registration launching February 9th!



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.

- Tomoka UMC - 2/24/2024
 - 9:00-5:00
- UMC of the Palm Beaches - 3/9/2024
 - 9:00-5:00
- Port St. Lucie - 4/6/2024
 - 9:00-5:00

Registrations can be found on our website.



Local Church Training

Join Trish Warren, via zoom, in walking through what the Disaster Recovery mission is, how to complete the disaster plan, and how to get involved.

- February 10, 2024
 - 10:15 AM
- February 13, 2024
 - 2:00 PM
- February 13, 2024
 - 6:30 PM

Registration is found at flumc.org



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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