

DISASTER RECOVERY

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SEJ DISASTER ACADEMY

HONORING HAP HOPKINS

PREPARE FOR UMCOR
SUNDAY



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disaster Recovery



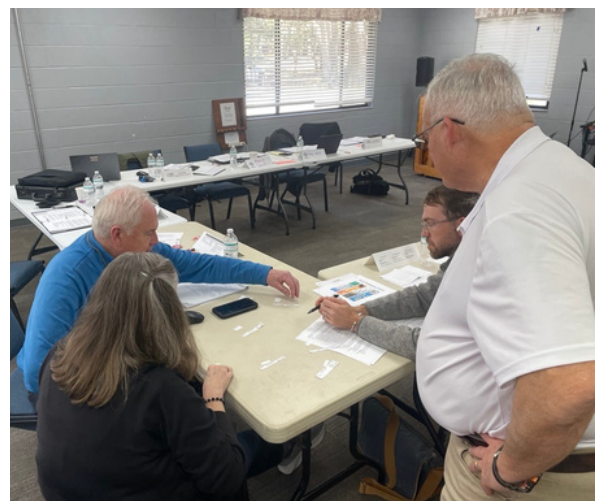
SEJ DISASTER ACADEMY

The Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) gathered for a time of community and learning at the 2025 SEJ Disaster Academy, taking place January 9–12, 2025, in Fruitland Park, Florida. This event strengthened our network and equipped us with the tools and training needed to meet future challenges head-on.

Nearly 150 representatives from the Southeast Jurisdiction made the trek to Warren Willis Camp and Conference Center to improve their community and knowledge in the disaster response and recovery space. The jurisdiction left the academy more prepared and connected than ever before. Trainers led courses such as UMCOR ERT classes, understanding the long-term recovery processes, and a series of connecting neighbors courses.

Each day began with morning worship complete with a message from various leaders who have been impacted by disaster response in different ways. Keynote speakers featured UMCOR and Vibrant Emotional Health. Participants learned the importance of caring for the self while caring for others.

Overall, the event was a striking success which led to new connections, new ideas, and strong leadership throughout the jurisdiction. We are thankful to the attendees for joining us, and for the SEJ for allowing us to host this wonderful event to kickstart a year of preparedness for the jurisdiction.



HONORING HAP HOPKINS

FEPA 2025 Volunteer of the Year

In January, Hap Hopkins was honored as the FEPA 2025 volunteer of the year. This award is given each year to a volunteer in the Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster community and recognizes an individual who serves in an outstanding capacity.

Trish Warren, our Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, joined a dedicated team of volunteers at the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association Annual Meeting, where we celebrated the life and service of Hap Hopkins.

Hap, a longtime Florida United Methodist and disaster Early Response Team (ERT) volunteer, was posthumously awarded the Florida VOAD Volunteer of the Year award. His unwavering commitment to helping others, even in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton, left a lasting impact.

Florida VOAD—a coalition of over 100 nonprofits responding to disasters—recognized Hap’s selfless service, and his family received this award in his honor.



UMCOR SUNDAY 2025

UMCOR Sunday will be held on March 30th, 2025.

UMCOR Sunday seeks to increase awareness and support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday play a vital role in enhancing the church's global humanitarian response because these funds cover UMCOR's administrative costs. This support ensures that 100% of donations given to UMCOR throughout the year can be directed toward on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts, allowing UMCOR to effectively respond to crises and provide assistance where it's needed most. By investing in UMCOR's operations, we empower the church to mobilize resources quickly and efficiently, making a meaningful impact in communities affected by disaster and hardship around the world. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. Last year, your generosity delivered almost 2 million dollars in support of UMCOR's work to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing through these ministries.



2025 Resources

United Methodist Churches traditionally observe UMCOR Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent. However, congregations are encouraged to celebrate on a date that best suits their schedule. Resources to help you celebrate and promote this Special Sunday are available [here](#).



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)



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