

# DISASTER RECOVERY

NO. 2



The Florida Conference  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disaster Recovery



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HURRICANE IAN  
CLIENT STORY

CHURCH DISASTER  
PLANS

UPCOMING EVENTS

# HURRICANE IAN RECOVERY



One client is a 72-year-old retired veteran who moved to Southwest Florida 18 years ago to live out his dream of retiring in warm weather. He spent his days playing golf with friends and getting well acquainted with his neighbors, who after 18 years, he considered to be part of his family. In September 2022, Hurricane Ian devastated his small one-bedroom, one-bathroom mobile home. He was fortunate to have evacuated to the east coast of Florida with his son from Kentucky, who traveled down to assist his father during the storm. Upon his return a week later, he found his home severely damaged, and his carport torn completely off. Due to no electricity for two weeks, he had no choice but to join his son in Kentucky until power and water were restored. Once power was restored several weeks later, he returned home to discover mold in the ceiling and walls. Despite this, he decided to stay in the home and rebuild. Within a few months, his health began to decline, and he was admitted to the hospital and then to rehab until he could return to a safe, secure, and sanitary home.

With the help of FEMA, The Salvation Army, United Way of Lee County, Lee County Unmet Needs, and the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church-Disaster Response Ministry, his home was repaired. New insulation, drywall, and flooring were installed throughout the home. New cabinets, a ceiling fan, and lights were installed in the kitchen, and the entire home received a fresh coat of paint. A new carport was installed, ensuring his compliance with his community association. Our client and his son stated they are "beyond grateful and appreciative" to all the organizations and individuals who contributed to making sure he can live out the rest of his days as planned in his home.



# CHURCH DISASTER PLANS

After the 2024 hurricane season, it is clear that ongoing support and preparedness remain crucial for our state. 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](#)



# 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:

[Mandarin UMC - March 22, 2025](#)

[Trinity UMC, Gainesville - March 29, 2025](#)

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

Upcoming Recertifications:

[ERT Virtual Recertification - March 11, 2025](#)



## UMCOR SUNDAY - [MARCH 30, 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.





# 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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