



# Regional Disaster Leader Handbook

"Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless . . ." Matthew 9:36

The *Great Plains United Methodist Disaster Response* is a Ministry of Care that has theological, material, mental health, advocacy, and social service components designed to provide for the spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery of disaster survivors and for the well-being of their caregivers. The Conference Disaster Response Ministry exists for the purpose of responding to natural or man-made disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own and additional help is requested by the community.

## Position Summary:

- To promote, administer, train, communicate, and coordinate the disaster response efforts in any of your districts within your region.
- This position is tasked with organizing, supervising and coordinating our response to disasters along with the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator and the District Disaster Leader.
- This is not a "hands-on" position during a disaster, but more of a coordinating of volunteer teams, work orders, office, etc.
- It is recognized that this is a volunteer position.

## Goals:

- To support the vital ministry of Disaster Response and help strengthen the program in your Region of the Great Plains Conference.
- Work with and support the District Disaster Leaders in your Region.
- Encourage more congregations to be actively involved in Disaster Response.
- To help congregations in your Region be prepared for Disaster Response and disasters and working with the District Disaster Leader to present trainings:
  - Basic Disaster Response

- Early Response Teams
- Connecting Neighbors
  - Ready Congregant
  - Ready Church
  - Ready Response
- Spiritual and Emotional Care
- Case Management
- To keep check on the trailer (if one in your district), keep it up and in good shape and ready to deploy.
- Work cooperatively with other disaster response organizations.
- Make personal contact with your local Emergency Manager.

## Responsibilities:

- Preparedness:
  - Maintain a current UMCOR Early Response Team certification and Safe Gatherings certification.
  - While in disaster response, visibly display your badge.
  - Attend a SCJ Mission Academy at least every 2 years.
  - Coordinate, along with the District Disaster Leader, Disaster Response Trainings in your Region.
  - Create and maintain a strong relationship with the District Superintendents in your Region, helping them to understand their role in disaster response.
  - Communicate with your District Disaster Leaders and local churches regarding disaster needs and available trainings.

- Required to attend both yearly Disaster Response Committee meetings. One will most likely be a conference call or video call.
  - Be a positive advocate for our Disaster Response Ministry!
  - Meet, or call the District Disaster Leaders in your Region monthly to inquire about events in their district (trainings, etc.)
  - Promote "One Great Hour of Sharing" and "Giving Tuesdays", and other special UMCOR, or Conference Disaster Fund appeals or offerings.
- Response:
    - Inform the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator when alerted to or made aware of a possible disaster in your area.
    - Contact the District Disaster Leader in the potential area of the disaster to begin planning.
    - Help organize and coordinate the base of operations in disasters large enough to warrant it.
    - Attend the local disaster meetings.
    - Communicate regularly with the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator during the disaster phases.
- Mitigation:
    - Attend post disaster de-briefing meetings to be held by the Disaster Response Spiritual and Emotional Care Team, or Conference Disaster Response Coordinator.

- Consider our response and determine areas of strengths and areas that might need to be revised per that Region.
- Attend local VOAD and COAD meetings to build relationships with our partners in disaster response.
- Meet with your District Disaster Leaders on a somewhat regular basis.