

“Well done, good and faithful servant...”

We salute Rick Cornwell who completed his term as the Conference Disaster Coordinator after two years of faithful service.

Rick has assisted with trainings, provided leadership at meetings and offered valuable suggestions for improving this ministry.



We look forward to working with Rick in other ways as we continue in ministry together.

Thank you, Rick!



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disaster Recovery Ministry

Communication and Team Work

Marvin Hammontree, Conference Disaster Coordinator, Shares His Vision for 2008

As the South Central District Disaster Coordinator, it's been exciting to be part of the development of this important ministry.

In my new role as Conference Disaster Coordinator, I am committed to improving communications and expanding teamwork, by sharing information pertinent to all areas of our efforts. My goals include:

- Developing strong working relationships with county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) around the state, to share with them what United Methodists can bring to the table;
- Encouraging District Disaster Coordinators (DDC's) to continue building district teams, to help churches and develop appropriate relationships—before disaster strikes;

- Implementing an Amateur Radio network; and
- Continuing conference-sponsored disaster trainings.

Local United Methodist churches and volunteers remain our biggest asset and an integral part of this ministry. We are excited about involving more churches and engaging more volunteers in 2008!

With God's guidance, committed volunteers and excellent staff support and leadership, we look forward to seeking these goals together and seeing where God leads!

Did You know...

Case management is considered the best practice in long-term recovery. Family by family problem solving + a caring case manager for each family + cash assistance = the core of UMCOR's response in the Gulf Coast.



Marvin Hammontree is a retired executive from the Union Pacific Railroad, where he served for 32 years. He and his wife of 47 years, Mary, have two daughters and 4 grandchildren. They live in Dover and attend Dover UMC. Marvin has been the District Disaster Coordinator for the South Central District for almost 2 years and will continue in that role while serving as the Conference Coordinator. Marvin can be reached by cell at 813-317-3774.

A Comprehensive Response

UMCOR's response to the 2005 hurricanes—Dennis, Katrina, Rita, Stan, Wilma — and their unimaginable devastation, was both swift and comprehensive, and will continue for years to come.

UMCOR has allocated \$60 million of your gifts to support annual conferences, national mission institutions, international work teams and additional staff in their response efforts.

Storm Centers in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi came online as conduits for UMCOR's long-term response. These centers coordinate relief efforts throughout their regions — providing supplies, volunteers, and other resources as needed. International response in Central America continues, as farmers receive assistance in restoring their fields and replanting crops.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

is our partner, providing expert assistance in planning, preparation and disaster response.

Much of the work of recovery throughout the conference is funded by grants from UMCOR, as well as the generosity of Florida United Methodists.

Working with UMCOR, helps United Methodists rebuild shattered lives.

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“Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.” Author Unknown

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This newsletter is published twice a year to benefit the churches of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church.

To request additional copies, submit an article or for other information, please contact Disaster Recovery Ministry.

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“Here I am, Lord, Send me...” Community Arise: Basic Disaster Ministry Training

Disaster strikes a neighboring community. We are stunned, horrified, grief-stricken. Then we wonder, how can I help? What can I do?

Many of us instinctively jump in to help without ever asking the most important questions: What is needed? Am I needed, or will I be in the way?

Disasters are unpredictable. Preparing for disaster is a challenge and responding to disaster requires patience and flexibility.

Basic Disaster Ministry Training provides churches and individuals with an overview of disaster and introduces the unique and important role the faith community plays in mitigation, preparation and response.

This training provides your church with a practical foundation for disaster response in your community and beyond. The importance of communication and collaboration in meeting the needs of disaster survivors is explained, as well as the importance of being the church in the midst of a crisis.

Please visit www.flumc.org in January to find a training near you.

If you have other obligations and feel this might not be the right time for you, please be a part of this ministry through PRAYER. It's the unseen soldiers on their knees who make missions successful.



Stay Connected Please call us at 1-800-282-8011 X 149 with any changes to your contact information

What Area of Volunteering is Right For You? Discerning the Clarity of the Call

Table with 4 columns: Early Response Teams, Disaster Response Teams, Volunteer Work Teams, and Spiritual/Emotional Care Teams. Each column contains details on purpose, work, requirements, and time.



A Day In The Life...

One Roof and A Whole Lot of Hearts

Excerpt from Story Submitted by Mary-Ann Luther
Program Coordinator for VIND



VIND, Volusia Interfaith Agencies Networking in Disaster, is one of the dozens of organizations United Methodists have worked with over the last three years to provide training and funding for recovery from the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005. But it's the people who make the real difference.

A disabled gentleman slowly and carefully climbed up a ladder. "I love my roof. It is the most beautiful roof in the world! I want to live on my roof." Not many moments later, it was followed by, "It sure is hot up here. How do you fella's stand it?" And then... "I don't have much to offer you, but I do have one thing." Slowly, he descended the ladder. When he returned, he held in his hand a plate of toasted English muffins, the last of the supplies from his pantry. He sat and enjoyed the food and conversation with the construction workers.

Volunteers were repairing a roof badly damaged in the 2004 hurricanes. Helping this homeowner, disabled and on a fixed income, is what long-term recovery organizations are all about.

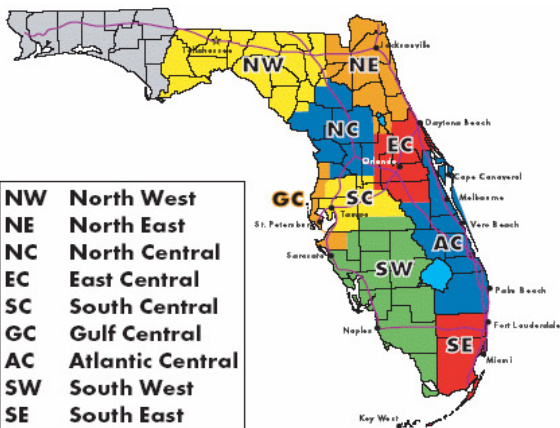
The case was presented to VIND who was able to use funds donated by a faith group. The next phase was for the VIND staff to organize the timeline, pull a permit, have a dumpster and materials delivered and schedule volunteers. A local citizen who had ordered too many shingles on a construction job donated them to the American Red Cross who in turn, called VIND. VIND used federally funded laborers to load the shingles. A local citizen, reading a request in his church bulletin, donated many used tools. Volunteers replaced moldy ceilings and installed a light fixture. A disabled gentleman discarded the rainwater buckets that had become a fixture in his home.

If you have been a part of this picture, supported government and local agencies, faith groups, volunteered or donated, sold materials at a discount or simply thought or prayed for victims of disaster, take a moment. Savor a bite of toasted English muffin on a roof in the sweltering Florida heat. Chase it down with lukewarm tap water. It's the best meal you will ever have. If you want to be a part of the feast, give. You are helping a disaster victim become a survivor.

While munching the English muffins the client said, "I've been listening to you fella's sing and talk up here all day. I've always been a tough guy, but I think I get this Jesus thing." WOW!

Conference Disaster Coordinator—Marvin Hammontree
813-655-6238
marvin@verizon.net

Does your church have a disaster plan? Do you need help preparing a plan? Would you like to be part of the district team for disaster planning and preparation? Contact your District Disaster Coordinator to learn more.



- Atlantic Central District**
Patti Aupperlee 561-687-5411 newcomers@bellsouth.net
- East Central District**
Donald Bremer 386-428-4371 dontherev@cfl.rr.com
- Gulf Central District**
Tom Norton 727-822-3343 tn2flaus@yahoo.com
- North Central District**
Dan Jones 352-622-4475 djones144@earthlink.net
- North East District**
Will Clark Ext 204 904-264-2241 wclark@opumc.net
- North West District**
George Potter 850-576-2541 georgedpotter@earthlink.net
- South Central District**
Marvin Hammontree 813-655-6238 marvin@verizon.net
- South East District—by area**

Did you know? About 43 percent of volunteers became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer, most often by someone in the organization.

Have you asked someone today?

Information from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics January 10, 2007

- Broward-CJ** Walter 954-972-3424 cj.walter@verizon.net
- Miami-Dade-Mata** Burke 305-945-3505 martaburke@flumc.org
- The Keys-Greer** Jensen 305-872-2470 revgreer@bellsouth.net
- South West District**
Robert Thorn 863-453-3759 srthorn@juno.com

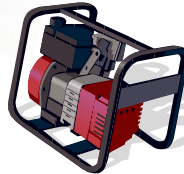


Gone But Not Forgotten

“He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.” Psalm 107:29

Communities are still struggling with putting lives back together. Long-term recovery organizations are bringing assistance, hope and a brighter future to those who otherwise would have been helplessly left behind. Energetic volunteer teams are putting their hands to the plow and physically rebuilding structures damaged by the storms. The combined efforts of Disaster Recovery, along with local long-term recovery organizations, have resulted in recruiting and placing volunteers where they are needed most. The storms of 2004 and 2005 are gone, but the needs left behind have not been forgotten. Earlier this year, the Groundhog Day tornadoes caused considerable damage in Sumter, Lake and Volusia counties.

Currently, we are in need of skilled and unskilled teams in Florida to assist with major repairs and rebuilds. Teams are needed in the following counties:



Broward
Collier
Glades
Hendry
Lake
Monroe
Palm Beach
Polk
Volusia



Volunteers can create their own flexible schedules, working a day, a weekend, a week or longer. In most cases, housing is available. To learn more about volunteer needs and opportunities, or to schedule a team, Please contact Disaster Recovery by phone at **1-800-282-8011 X 149** or email **DisasterRecovery@flumc.org**

Lives Are Being Restored

Monies and Man Power, Working Together

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has committed to providing \$4,065,265 to the work of recovery for 2004 and 2005 hurricanes throughout the Florida Conference.

Payments are received from UMCOR on a quarterly basis that continues into 2008. These funds have allowed the Florida Conference Disaster Recovery Ministry to offer grants to churches and other organizations working in long-term recovery.

As of September 30, 2007, the Florida Conference Disaster Administrative Team has approved the distribution of \$2,305,018 to local churches, districts and long-term recovery organizations working in disaster-affected areas throughout Florida. Grant applications for recovery are reviewed on a quarterly basis and grant decisions are based on the need for assistance in those areas. The Florida Conference also continues to support these areas with training, as well as volunteers.

UMCOR also granted \$60,000 for recovery from the 2007 Groundhog Day Tornadoes in Lake, Volusia and Sumter Counties. These funds have been distributed to the long-term recovery organizations serving these counties: Lake and Sumter Emergency Response (LASER) and Volusia Interfaiths Networking in Disaster (VIND).



A volunteer team helps I Hope in Immokalee, Fl. November 2007



Volunteers coming together, to make a difference in lives.

**Individuals add.
Team members multiply.**
Author Unknown



The Deland Tornadoes
Photo courtesy of Grisel Hernandez

VOAD News

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) come together to improve processes and communications between agencies and organizations responding to disasters. Florida United Methodists play a vital role in the work of local VOADs around the state. In addition, our own Marilyn Swanson, Disaster Recovery Project Director, serves on the Executive Committee of the Florida VOAD.

December 2007

Greetings Friends, Colleagues and Co-Workers in Christ,

We have been blessed again with a peaceful hurricane season and though it has been a restful respite, the work continues in preparation, recovery and mitigation.

This newsletter shares Disaster Recovery's stepping stones on the path to bringing hope and restoration into so many lives. Looking back, we have achieved some exciting milestones together since 2004.

*Communications has improved and training has been strengthened.
The connection between churches, volunteers and the ministry of*

Disaster Recovery is more vital than ever, and our work together testifies to our part in God's transformation of the world.

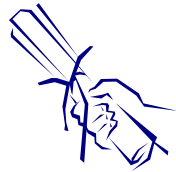
It is with great excitement that we look forward to what the Lord has planned for this ministry, and all who share in it with us.

During this joyous season, we unite our hearts with yours in celebration of Jesus, the Son of God, and we are filled with awe at the goodness and mercy of God.

Merry Christmas!

*Marilyn Swanson Pam Garrison Sandy Lovern
Yohanka Cabezas Greg Harford Grisel Hernandez
Dawn Oliver Bill Roy*

**Congratulations
to our 2007
Early Response Team
Graduates!**



Elaine Amandola
Louis Amandola
Shirley Karin Ashley
Sean Bell
Timothy Bell
Stella Bergeson
Jerry Booth
Betty Bower
Tony Bower
Janet Broadhurst, Jr.
Gerald Broadhurst
Alice Brooks
Jeffrey Campbell
Ralph Caputo
Gabriel Cespedes
Edward Clark
Mona Clark
Wilbur Cummings
Faye Drewry
Ronald Drewry
Lynne Dykes
Chip Eifler
Wayne Flora
Steven Focazio
Larry Frum
Danny Gatchell
Karen Geraci
Charles Getchell
Shirley Gould
Thomas Gould
Julian Graham
Linda Graham
Andrew Hamilton
Gayle Hamilton
Zachary Hamilton
Rosemary Hand
Greg Harford
Larry Harford
Kevin Hays
Keith Heinly
Cathy Helms
Jerry Hendricks
Gene Heuston
Jan Heuston
Louis Hunt
Roger Keeney
Jonathan Kopley
Alan Letch

Dale Levendoski
Mary Long
Dwight Loomis
Sue Macchiarella
Nelda Malm
Wayne Malm
Jason Marberry
Ray Martinez
Charles McPherson
Victor Miller
Michael Morris
Neal Multop
C. Arnel Nutter
Debby Oetinger
Donna Pierson
Kent Powers
Marilyn Preston
Don Quast
Mim Quast
Victoria Rash
David Reeves
Karen Reeves
Annette Reyes-Burnsed
Jinny Reyngoudt
Lyle Richard
Steven Riddle
Lee Schneider
Joan Seekins
Warren Seekins
Herman Small
Kenneth Weldon Smith
Burt Stephens
Karen Stroman
Thorunn Taylor
A. Marguerite Torres
Bob Van Kley
Joni Van Kley
Edward Varley
Carol Ann Watson
Eugene Watson
Wilbur Watson Jr.
Rose Webster
Terry Webster
Frances Widick
Betty Williams
Neil Williams
Cathy Wittman

Early Response Team Update

“If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father”
John 14:9



Hurricanes are often the first thought of Floridians when they think of disasters, but wildfires, floods, terrorism and technological disasters are also threats.

While 2007 has been free from hurricanes in Florida, those living in Sumter, Lake and Volusia Counties know very well how quickly tornadoes can turn life upside down. If you live in the Tampa area, where an ammonia leak caused hundreds to be evacuated from their homes for several days, you know how easily life can be disrupted.

Early Response Teams (ERT’s) are a specialized ministry of trained, certified, “self-contained” volunteer teams who enter a community for 3-4

days, and help make the area safe, sanitary and secure for disaster survivors. Emergency management personnel recognize the value of these green-shirted United Methodists and welcome their assistance.

ERT’s continue to evolve in the Florida Conference as training, certification and follow-up require new levels of commitment and an increased understanding of the role of ERT’s in a disaster.

It is a joy to work with so many enthusiastic volunteers, dedicated to developing excellent Early Response Teams. Thank you for all you do!

Early Response Leadership Team

“If I raise my voice, may it only be in praise. If I clench my fist, may it only be in prayer. If I make a demand, may it only be of myself.”
Max Lucado

This year, Disaster Recovery recognized the importance of involving more volunteers in ministry decisions. Our first focus was on Early Response Teams, and the ERT Leadership team was established.

The widely diverse 12-member team includes pastors and laity, volunteers with and without disaster experience, several with first response experience, and some with ERT experience.

The result has been an amazing collaboration of ideas and possibilities. The team, initially scheduled to meet once, continues to meet regularly and has made a tremendous impact on the design of ERT’s for the conference, as well as the training requirements.

THANK YOU to this committed, passionate group of volunteer leaders.

We look forward to providing more opportunities for volunteers to help shape the ministries of Disaster Recovery. Want to help? Call us at 1-800-282-8011 Ext. 149; or Email: DisasterRecovery@flumc.org.

**2008 ERT Training
Schedule**

Disaster Recovery will offer two Early Response Team Trainings in 2008 at our conference camp and retreat sites.

Dates: Feb 29th and March 1st, 2008

Riverside Retreat (formerly South Camp) in LaBelle

Dates: October 24th and 25th, 2008

Warren W. Willis Camp in Fruitland Park

Registration will be available online approximately 4-6 weeks before the training. Cost is \$25 per person and \$35 per couple which includes 3 meals, 1 night’s lodging, a background check, T-shirt and training materials.

Come and be a part of what God is doing in the lives of his people!



Sanlando UMC receives ERT certificate.

Thanks for giving of yourself to others!

“A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Peace of Mind

A story from CROS Ministries, an extension ministry of the conference that continues to play a prominent role in long-term recovery in Palm Beach County.

In late September, Sue Grimm, Volunteer Coordinator for CROS Ministries, (Christians Reaching Out to Society) accompanied a woman — we'll call her Mary — to the Department of Motor Vehicles to transfer title of her new mobile home into her name. Mary had been living in a one-room FEMA travel trailer for two years — ever since her home was destroyed by a hurricane.

Time was of the essence and frustration was running high as Sue helped Mary navigate the final steps to transfer the title. It had been a long time coming and many had offered assistance and support along the way.

Sue was brought to tears when she saw Mary shaking, overwhelmed that the ordeal was over and the home was finally hers. "The outcome was worth ten times the effort," said Sue, "because we were handing over

ownership of a home."

This experience reminded Sue of the importance of long-term recovery efforts and what a difference we can all make in the lives of survivors.

Her message to volunteers: "To the people you are helping, you are bringing hope for the future and peace of mind every day that they are safe and secure in their own homes. May God's blessing be with you as you continue in service to others."

Last Minute Gift Idea!

Please consider a gift to the FL Conference Disaster Fund Advance #605 or UMCOR Home, New Hope (Floods & Disasters) Advance #901670. Contributions may be placed in your church offering plate or sent directly to the Florida Conference, Attn: Disaster Recovery Ministry, 1140 E. McDonald Street, Lakeland, Florida 33801.



New Ad-



United We Stand

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

Albert Schweitzer

The Conference Disaster Administrative Team (CDAT) reviews all grant applications to ensure they meet the criteria established for awarding grant money. Grants are reviewed quarterly. CDAT members are:

Rev. Marta Burke, Lynette Fields, Rev. Geraldine McClellan, Rev. James Rosenberg, Marvin Hammontree and conference staff Rev. Anne Burkholder and Marilyn Swanson. Thank you for your work and your commitment to the process!

Over the last 3 years, Disaster Recovery has worked with more than 40 organizations active in long-term recovery. We are currently funding the following organizations:

Adopt a Hurricane Family - Community Rebuilding Ecumenical Workforce (CREW) - Christians Reaching Out to Society (CROS) DeSoto Disaster Recovery - Florida Regional Interfaith/Interagency Emergency Network in Disasters (FRIEND) - Immokalee Helping Our People in Emergencies (I HOPE) - Inspired Network to Achieve Community Together (INTACT) - Lake and Sumter Emergency and Recovery (LASER) - Paradise Interfaith Network (PIN) - Pine Island Long Term Recovery - Rebuilding Okeechobee After Disaster (ROAD) - Rebuild Polk After Disaster (RPAD) - South Florida Urban Ministries/Fulford UMC - Volusia Interfaiths Networking in Disaster (VIND).



"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another."

Helen Keller

United Methodist Conference on Relief (UMCOR)

2005 Hurricane Long-Term Recovery Summary *(excerpt from UMCOR Report to Donors, June 30, 2007)*

UMCOR funds assisted these annual conferences to provide the following assistance:

FLORIDA

5,400 total and partial rebuilds
Initial relief for 26,027 survivors (Katrina, Wilma)

LOUISIANA

3,301 total and partial rebuilds
Initial relief for 16,973 survivors (Katrina, Rita)

MISSISSIPPI

15,037 total and partial rebuilds
Initial relief for 6,827 survivors

ALABAMA/WEST FLORIDA

161 total and partial rebuilds
Initial relief for 2,571 individuals (Dennis, Katrina)

TEXAS

348 total and partial rebuilds
Initial relief for 4,766 survivors

Katrina Aid Today UMCOR is also managing a \$66 million grant from FEMA, intended to provide case management to 100,000 families affected by Hurricane Katrina. Nine national partners and 15 local agencies are part of the consortium, Katrina Aid Today, led by UMCOR.

**FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Disaster Recovery Ministry



**Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The People of The
United Methodist Church**

1140 E. McDonald Street
Lakeland, Florida 33801
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E-mail: DisasterRecovery@flumc.org

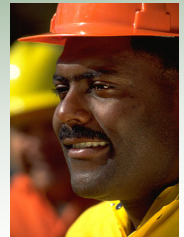
**COMING SOON
WE WILL HAVE A WHOLE
NEW LOOK ON THE WEB!
WWW.FLUMC.ORG**

Mission of Disaster Recovery Ministry

To equip and resource local United Methodist Churches and districts as they assist individuals and their communities to prepare, respond and recover from disaster.

How You Can Become A Volunteer

“A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men”
Proverbs 18:16



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would like more information, please fill out the form below and mail to: The Florida Conference
Attn: Pam Garrison at 1140 E. McDonald St., Lakeland Fl. 33801, or you may e-mail your information to DisasterRecovery@flumc.org.

Volunteer Request / Inquiry For Additional Information

If you are interested in becoming a part of what the Lord is doing in the lives of His people, please fill out this form and mail it to the Florida Conference. Someone will be contacting you shortly. If there are certain hours you would prefer to be contacted, please note them in the “Comments” area.

Which field of volunteering are you interested in?

- Early Response Teams
- Disaster Response Teams
- Volunteer Work Teams
- Spiritual & Emotional Care Teams
- Donations
- Church Preparedness
- General Information
- Prayer Ministry

Do you have: Experience / Training / Gifts
Make additional notes in “Comments” area

- Training / Experience
- Construction, Medical, Counseling
- Experienced a disaster yourself

What church are you affiliated with?

Is your church presently involved with Disaster Recovery and Church Preparedness?

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

