

2018 Disaster Ministry Committee Report

- Revised Synod Disaster Plan – approved by Synod Council in September 2018
- Provided displays and workshops on Disaster Preparedness and Response at Synod Assembly in Chattanooga, TN; at the WELCA Convention in Eufaula, AL.
- Provided a workshop for youth on Disaster Response at ALL TN Youth Gathering in Chattanooga, TN.
- Provided disaster consultation and assistance after Hurricane Michael. Working with Inspiritus in GA in recruiting volunteers for work on GA Coast and in the Albany area. Deployed the Disaster Shower Trailer to Wentworth UMC to aid with housing volunteers on the coast.
- Provided \$2000.00 to St. Patrick's Episcopal / Our Savior Lutheran Church in Albany for immediate disaster relief after Hurricane Michael.
- Provided \$2500 from disaster committee funds be sent to North Carolina synod for hurricane relief.
- Provided disaster response training event at Peace Lutheran Church in Augusta, GA
- We continue to work with R3SM, a long term recovery organization in Hattiesburg, MS in rebuilding homes after tornadoes and floods. With a grant from LDR, we fund a partial salary for the construction supervisor. We have sent teams of volunteers to assist in rebuilding.
- We have provided funding at the Unmet needs table of the long term recovery programs in Gatlinburg and Hattiesburg. The recovery program in Gatlinburg is now officially closed.
- We have offered support to the Fla- Bahama Synod Disaster Ministry committee in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. Some congregations have sent teams and supplies to the Panama City / Mexico Beach areas.
- We sent \$1000.00 to our sister synod in Lacrosse WI in the aftermath of flooding.
- We sent funds to the Caribbean synod for Puerto Rica in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.
- Staff support is now shifting to a shared position between Pastors Morgan Gordy and Stacey Parvin. Pastor Gordy will continue to assist with consultation and training, assessment after a disaster, grant writing and disaster ministry program development. Pastor Parvin will provide assistance to the synod disaster committee, assessment after a disaster, training and workshops as well as volunteer coordination and placement.
- Pastor Morgan Gordy attended the LDR Coordinators Conference in Chicago, IL . The focus was on Disaster Preparedness and Response and Climate System Change. Needless to say, our work is intensifying.
- The Disaster Ministry Committee voted to enfold All Things New Ministries programs and assets into the Synod Disaster Ministry Program. This ministry includes programmatic material for Disaster training camps for groups of both youth and adults to come and learn disaster recovery skills. Hopes are to have some of these events in the future. Many thanks to Marianne Zotti and Hal Shope for their work in disaster ministry and this gift to the synod!
- Continue to explore disaster chaplaincy and best ways to provide training resources.
- Continue to encourage congregations to develop and deploy disaster response mission teams.
- Continue to recruit and training disaster coordinators. We currently have three applicants. Hopes are to have another training this spring.

- Acquired a stocked tool trailer from the former Lutheran Ministries of Alabama. The trailer is currently in Birmingham, AL ready for deployment.
- The Disaster Ministry web page is currently being updated to include Suzi Harvey, Laurie Bentley, Matt Steinhauer and Mary Brunso on the Disaster Ministry Committee.

Submitted on behalf of the committee,

John Boettner, Chair