

Are you prepared if, no **WHEN**, a disaster happens in your community?



God is our
refuge and
strength,
a very
present help
in trouble.

— PSALM 46:1-3

Tornadoes, floods, and snow/ice storms can happen to YOU!

Illinois Great Rivers Conference experiences all of these natural disasters and at times there are multiple incidences within one storm system. In each event, IGRC Early Response Teams (ERT) are present.

ERT's are trained to ***provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster.*** ERT's work to prevent further damage to survivors' homes through tarping, debris removal and cleaning out flooded homes. ERT's are trained to be keenly aware of emotional needs and know the disaster belongs to the local community. ERT's are first and foremost present "to do no harm" and assist families during a deeply traumatic time.

Spontaneous volunteers are no longer allowed into most disaster areas in the early days following an incident. As UMCOR trained and badged volunteers ERT's are allowed into areas as soon as the damaged areas are accessible.

We, as United Methodists, can be among the first to respond through ***EARLY RESPONSE TEAMS (ERT)*** and the last to leave through the work of ***VOLUNTEER IN MISSION TEAMS (VIM)***.

WILL YOU PARTICIPATE IN ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS DISASTER RESPONSE? THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU!



NEW HORIZON & IGRC CONTACT

LORI OWEN
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How may YOU be involved in Disaster Response?

According to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) here are 3 P's for you to consider as we face disasters.

PLAY-ER

1. Sign up for an ERT training to be ready to respond and become UMCOR/IGRC certified. The next storm is coming.
2. Certification is valid for 3 years.
3. Arrange an ERT training at your local church. Contact Christy Blickensderfer, Assistant for Connectional Ministries, for more information at 217-529-2473 or cblickensderfer@igrc.org. Trainers will come to you. Only 12 participants are required to schedule a training.

PRAY-ER

1. Faces you see in the media are real lives; people in desperate need.
2. Pray for those affected by the storm.
3. Pray for ERT teams working in affected areas
4. You don't have to leave home to pray

PAY-ER

1. You may not be physically able to respond, but you can donate to support ERT work and provide financial support for people who are directly affected.
2. Respond BEFORE the next disaster by donating to the IGRC Disaster Response work through Advance #6800.
3. IGRC has found a new niche in the early days following disasters by also providing plastic totes to help save what is salvageable. Donations will help keep these available.

BETTER DAYS AHEAD

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