

#1. Pray

As the pictures and stories keep unfolding from Texas, let us keep all of those in the storm's continuous path in our prayers. Both in Texas and in Louisiana. Remember to hold in prayer the first responders, those connected to the church who are already responding, and those churches in Texas that have been serving as shelters.

#2. Flood Buckets

Share the video below from the Virginia Conference. [Click here for direct YouTube link.](#) St. Luke's UMC (3396 Stoneshore Road, Virginia Beach) is one of the collection sites for the conference. As supplies run low for UMCOR, these buckets will be needed. Please be sure to include only the requested items.

This is a project that families could do together or a church-wide project. Share the video on your church's Facebook page.

#3. **Updated: Send Early Response Team (ERT)**

Texas is seeking ***trained*** and ***credentialed*** Early Response Teams that can respond with cleanup help. This is different from a VIM team. **Please do not self-deploy.** Register your teams. In order to help you must have a ***current ERT certification card.***

Current needs include debris removal of down trees, and roof tarping. Many homes have water damage from damaged windows and roofs. This is going to be a long term event so you have time to prepare and get your teams outfitted and ready.

If you have such an ERT team, please contact Kirk Culpepper, the Conference ERT Coordinator:

R. Kirk Culpepper
Community-St. Mark Charge and Conference ERT Coordinator
Elizabeth River District
Virginia Conference
Phone [757-434-0078](tel:757-434-0078)

Kirk will be putting on a Basic ERT class in the Elizabeth River District September 23rd. If you have expired you can renew through this class.

Once the area is ready for VIM teams, it will be announced.

#4. Collect Funds for UMCOR

Individuals or churches can contribute to UMCOR through Advance special #901440. [You can give online by clicking here.](#) Encourage individuals to include their church name when they make a donation online. 100% of donations to UMCOR goes to relief work. Share this link on your church's Facebook page or other social media to make it easier for friends and community members to give too.

Elizabeth River District Men's Ministry Seeks Flood Bucket Coordinator: With the unprecedented flooding going on in Texas and Louisiana there is a tremendous need for flood buckets. We are in urgent need of someone to coordinate this effort. Our previous coordinator, Bill Gibbs, passed away this summer. Clyde Harrell, Hickory UMC, will provide assistance and guidance in order to train a new coordinator. A full-size pickup would also be an asset in this endeavor. If you can assist contact Clyde right away: Ch.chassoc@gmail.com