



Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Office of the General Assembly
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Dear colleague in ministry,

Thank you for your attention to—and prayers for—our brothers and sisters in Christ in Puerto Rico and the Bahamas as Hurricane Dorian approached the islands over the past week.

We were pleased to learn that Hurricane Dorian only grazed Puerto Rico, which has not yet fully recovered from Hurricane Maria. In the Bahamas, Bryn MacPhail (Pastor of St. Andrews Presbyterian Kirk in Nassau) reported that his community fared very well.

Sadly, it is a very different story for our church at Marsh Harbor, Abaco (Kirk of the Pines, led by Gabe Swing). Dorian made landfall there with record winds in excess of 180 mph, accompanied by a tremendous storm surge. We are still awaiting reports from church leaders and members, but news reports and social media show devastating damage. Providentially, Swing was delivering his daughter to college in Nashville last week and was prevented from returning to Marsh Harbor this weekend as planned.

Dorian has now largely stalled, with its center located about 25 miles northeast of Freeport. Ken Lane is the Pastor of Lucaya, our church in that community. We have not yet received reports from Freeport, but we expect the damage there to be severe.

Because of the storm's original projected path through Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, and ultimately hitting Florida, we took a "wait and see" approach to soliciting emergency relief funds. We were comfortable with this approach in part because of your past generosity that has resulted in a healthy balance in the EPC Emergency Relief Fund.

As the effects of the powerful storm have become clearer today, we are announcing that we are now soliciting donations to our Emergency Relief Fund. Secure online donations can be made at www.epc.org/donate/emergencyrelief.

We are working to quickly disburse the existing balance in the Emergency Relief Fund, which will provide assistance to the needs of our Bahamian brothers and sisters as they're made known to us.

Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers for the Bahamas, as well as for those who will be affected by Dorian in the week ahead. We will be in touch with more updates as this storm progresses.

Jeff