Disaster Update, How to Help

Event: Hurricane Ian- Florida

Event Date: September 28, 2022

What Happened and Where: On Wednesday, September 28, Category 4 Hurricane Ian hit the west coast of Florida, now Tropical Storm Ian continues to produce catastrophic flooding over east-central Florida and is forecast to produce life-threatening flooding, storm surge and gusty winds and tornadoes across portions of Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas over the next 48 hours. Reports from the west coast of Florida include power outages in homes and businesses and on going life-threatening flooding across the center of the State**.** Currently teams are established for search and rescue coordination including Urban Search and Rescue teams, Coast Guard, Department of Defense, Department of the Interior and local Florida rescue teams**. Florida** received a federal disaster declaration on Sep 28, 2022, for 9 counties so far. For more information on this event visit Emergency Info | Florida Disaster. For updates on the Federal Declaration visit disasterassistance.gov

Impact to the UCC: The Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (FLVOAD) conducted an initial coordination call with member groups, pre-landfall, UCC Pastor and Florida Conference Disaster Coordinator Alan Coe is leading the way. Alan is also the Chair of the Florida VOAD. Alan will work with the Florida Conference and Disaster Ministries to conduct assessments of the UCC churches for emergency needs this week and next. The UCC Disaster Minister will monitor and support initially through Solidarity grants for the Florida Conference and their Congregations.

UCC in Early Response: Global H.O.P.E. will support the FL Conference and the Conference Disaster Coordinator as they begin raising awareness of the needs, today we are initiating an appeal for Hurricanes 2022 and will offer solidarity grant support for the emergency needs. Disaster Ministries will also continue to connect emerging needs with resources such as Kits and Clean up Buckets, and we will engage in coordination calls with our partners through their state Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (FLVOAD).

UCC in Long-Term Recovery: Recovery from this hurricane will likely take years. Community centered and locally led Long-Term Recovery Groups were formed over many years in Florida, many will need to be reorganized. We will look to assist these groups and their emotional and spiritual care needs as well as support the longer process of repairing and rebuilding homes. Long-term funding will be necessary as the United Church of Christ is a leader in helping communities organize for recovery, repair, and rebuild. Volunteers will also be needed, and churches should consider organizing teams to help in this process when they are needed and for the long haul, bringing hope and healing to devastated communities. and focus on persons and communities in need of support of Long Term Recovery Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery are actively monitoring the hurricane response.

How to Help: How-you-can-help-Disaster-Survivors-2022
Join the Willing to Respond Network of Churches: Willing to Respond Preparedness Network
Assemble Kits and Clean Up Buckets: CWS Buckets and Kits | Help Communities in Need Around the World (cwskits.org)
Donate Emergency Funds-Designate to Emergency USA: Donate Now - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)
Sign up to Volunteer: https://support.ucc.org/volunteer-opportunity-form
Volunteer Opportunities: UCC Ministry Opportunities

Connect for news and updates:
News - United Church of Christ (ucc.org),
Disaster Ministries - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)
Facebook One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)
Twitter @OGHS_at_UCC


USA Today

