



## **South Carolina PCUSA Presbyteries South Carolina Disaster Assistance Team (SC PDAT)**

Greetings, children of God willing to serve.

We appreciate your interest in possibly assisting the people of Western North Carolina through our volunteer involvement with the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

Congregations wishing to help with teams of five to ten participants will travel to Black Mountain, NC, to help with small to mid-sized projects where helping hands are needed. A team should travel with the proper safety equipment, clothing appropriate for the weather conditions, and hand tools based on the type of assignments made by the church's project coordinator. The community already has enough heavy equipment to assist with the various projects.

Interested teams will be welcomed at the South Carolina Inn at Montreat for housing. The generic overnight rate for housing is \$130, and being a connectional church, they have agreed to reduce the rate by 50% for disaster response teams working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. There is a fabulous kitchen for team members to utilize in the South Carolina Inn to prepare their daily meals, and of course, there are opportunities for fellowship in the Town of Black Mountain.

This opportunity to serve is not restricted to any specific period. A couple of days, a week-long deployment, weekends possible, or during the generic working week will be permitted based on availability at the South Carolina Inn.

Projects may include helping individual residents with debris removal, clearing property, helping with site preparation for the placement of tinny homes, and assisting the congregation with tasks requiring two and three people. Those qualified in the construction industry may be able to make minor structural repairs and projects will be assigned as appropriate and qualifications.

Setting up a team to serve others is simple, and congregations interested in helping should consider the following steps to accomplish caring for others through God's hands of hope in the recovery from Hurricane Helene.

1. Establish a telephone Zoom conversation with Mark McCain, [mmccain2016@gmail.com](mailto:mmccain2016@gmail.com), to discuss the process.
2. Contact the South Carolina Inn, <https://scinnatmontreat.org>, to investigate the periods a team desires to serve in needing housing.

3. The team lead will then contact our point-of-work volunteering coordinator with Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Colleen Hartburger, [colleenmcch@gmail.com](mailto:colleenmcch@gmail.com), to establish a specific task by learning what particular tools, safety equipment, and all the related information to ensure an upbeat delivery.
4. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) will provide the well-known blue tee shirts representing the grace of the ministry of presence with helping hands to serve impacted communities.
5. A team member should be selected as the photographer for the deployment.
6. After the volunteer deployment, quick lessons learned, and notable highlights of your trip should be submitted to permit others to learn of your gracious service to others. In the brief report, please provide the number of hours worked on-site. Please submit your report to Mark McCain, [mmccain2016@gmail.com](mailto:mmccain2016@gmail.com)

As we discern the opportunities of helping those impacted in Western North Carolina, let us reflect upon the oil lamp of caring for others.

*"Prayer is the oil that keeps the lamp of faith burning,  
The fruit of prayer is faith,  
The fruit of faith is love, and the fruit of love is service, and the fruit of service is  
peace and peace is a amazing gift.  
It's not the sit back and do-nothing kind of peace, but an emerging peace,  
one that focuses our hearts and our minds."*

I look forward to speaking about your plan to help others as part of the long-term recovery from Hurricane Helene.

Peace,

*MHMc*

Mark H. McCain  
Presbyterian Church USA  
South Carolina Presbyterian Disaster  
Assistance Team  
(C) 843.812.4044  
(E) [mmccain2016@gmail.com](mailto:mmccain2016@gmail.com)  
(Master E) [PDATSouthCarolina@gmail.com](mailto:PDATSouthCarolina@gmail.com)

***"Providing ministry of presence, coordinate of relief, and actively involved in both short-term and long-term recovery efforts to communities adversely affected by disaster in South Carolina."***

