

Lamplight

A Newsletter of the US Disaster Program



"Be dressed, ready for service and keep your lamps burning." — LUKE 12:35

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A Note from The Team

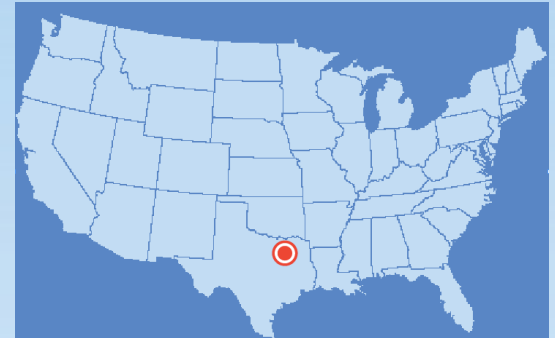
Hi, All!

It seems like the whole church is still buzzing with excitement about General Convention. Several members of the US Disaster Team took part in the festivities in Salt Lake City. We are happy to report that over the two weeks of Convention, we had 28 dioceses officially sign on to the [Asset Map!](#)

On Saturday, June 28th, Episcopal Relief & Development hosted a [reception](#) to thank the Church for 75 years of support. We certainly could not do our work at the US Disaster Program without you! Thank you for sharing your time and talents.

Finally, as July came to a close, the US Disaster Program team bid farewell to our two Episcopal Service Corps interns, Dane Miller and Ethan Lowery. Dane and Ethan have done remarkable work this year on The Episcopal Asset Map. During their year on the project, the Asset Map has grown from two pilot maps to an map of the entire Episcopal Church with eighty-two US dioceses officially signed on. Please join us in wishing them many blessings for their future plans.

With Deep Gratitude,
Katie, Lura and Sara



Join "Ready to Serve":

[Sign up here](#) to offer your services to your vulnerable neighbors after a disaster.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Episcopal Dioceses of Easton, New Jersey and New York

Find volunteer opportunities and registration information for Hurricane Sandy-impacted areas at relief.episcopalny.org.

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Volunteer opportunities include indoor and outdoor repair of flood-damaged homes in the Diocese of Bethlehem, PA. Contact [The Rev. John Major](#) for information on how to sign up.

Episcopal Relief & Development-supported Projects:

Disaster Response:

Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

The Diocese of Oklahoma is responding to 14 tornadoes that touched down on May 6, 2015, through Santa Maria Virgen Episcopal Church, which is a Red Cross-certified Bilingual Emergency Shelter, via food



Episcopal Relief & Development staff gather at General Convention.

Relationship with Church Insurance Agency Corporation

The US Disaster Program is excited to announce a new relationship with Church Insurance Agency Corporation. Over the next couple of months, we will be joining forces to bring you even more preparedness best practices! Be sure to check out the US Disaster Program's upcoming features in [*The Good Steward*](#).

Response Program Update

On May 10, 2015, an F3 tornado struck the town of Van, Texas, destroying approximately 80 homes in the community of 3,000 people. Two deacons from the Diocese of Texas journeyed there to do spiritual care and see what other needs might be unmet. A congregation approximately 15 miles away, St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Lindale, began responding to the needs of their neighbors through an emergency response program. They have been providing temporary housing, assisting with gasoline and housing supplies and helping with the unmet needs in the area. The congregation is partnering with two families who need additional assistance. The church has also been using their existing food pantry ministry to help identify those who may be in need of further assistance in the aftermath of the tornado.

Preparedness in Small Steps: Creating an Evacuation Check-in

assistance, temporary shelter and gift card distribution for those affected.

Episcopal Diocese of Texas

An F3 tornado hit Van, Texas, on May 10, destroying approximately 80 homes. The Diocese is helping with temporary housing, gift cards for gasoline and housing supplies and volunteers to muck out affected homes.

Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Diocese of Texas is responding to May 2015 flooding through their Emotional and Spiritual Care Team, storing salvageable goods from damaged homes and providing financial assistance for uninsured/underinsured persons.

Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

The Diocese of West Texas is responding to the May 2015 flooding through temporary storage and shelter for displaced victims and gift card distribution for basic necessities such as groceries and prescriptions.

Disaster Recovery:

Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas

The Diocese of Arkansas is providing financial, emotional and spiritual aid by identifying and caring for underserved populations affected by the April 2014 tornadoes.

Episcopal Diocese of Colorado

The Diocese of Colorado is helping people recover following flooding that swept the state's Front Range in the fall of 2013 through direct assistance, long-term recovery groups and a "Year of Resilience."

Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut is supporting Ben's Lighthouse, a ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church in Newtown, to promote the long-term mental health of the community's children, youth and families and to nurture a culture of non-violence and caring.

Episcopal Diocese of Easton

The Diocese of Easton is hosting volunteer groups to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy and construct new ones where existing homes cannot be repaired.

Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Diocese of New Jersey is aiding vulnerable individuals and communities by providing direct assistance, partnering with various long term recovery groups and working with parish-based programs following Hurricane Sandy.

System

On July 20th, *The New Yorker* ran an article entitled "[The Really Big One](#)," which reported the potential of a devastating earthquake along the Cascadia subduction zone in the Pacific Northwest. The article stressed that people in the area were underprepared for a large-magnitude quake.

For communities facing large hazards and limited resources, preparedness activities can feel overwhelming. However, there are many small and low-cost activities that you can take to help lessen the impact of disasters on your congregation and community. Improving post-disaster communications can be as simple as creating a post-disaster check-in procedure, but the peace of mind it brings can be immense.

In hurricane-prone Galveston, Texas, Bill Taylor helped implement a church partnership with an inland church to help keep track of the congregation in the event of an evacuation. Parishioners carried a laminated wallet card with information of an inland church. In the event of a disaster, parishioners would call the partner church to check in. In 2008, the check in system was activated during Hurricane Ike, helping to reduce anxiety and quickly identify parishioners who needed help securing additional resources.

Learn more about setting up a church partnership [here](#).

For a wallet card template, click [here](#).

Episcopal Diocese of New York

The Diocese of New York is working with volunteers and young people from Episcopal Service Corps to rebuild homes on Staten Island following Hurricane Sandy.

Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

The Diocese of Oklahoma is working with congregations and long-term recovery groups around the state to meet the needs of vulnerable people following tornados in the spring of 2013.

Resources for Disaster Preparedness and Response:

Visit Episcopal Relief & Development's online [Resource Library](#) for numerous case studies and best practices in disaster response at the diocesan and congregational level.



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