

## Conversations and Goal Setting: Starting a Preparedness Ministry in Your Community of Faith

**You've got this!** Our approach to care for communities begins with where you are. Using these materials, your faith community can discern what unique gifts you have that can be a part of responding to disasters. These gifts include big things like emergency shelters and generators and smaller things like time, attention, communication skills and other ways to extend help and support to your community in times of need.

An important asset is an **abundance-focused** mindset that expands our understanding of our gifts (or assets). Congregational gifts can be described using the **"Five Ps"**:

**People:** Members of your congregation and people connected to your ministries

**Property:** The church building, parking lot, supplies and rectory

**Purse:** Financial assets

**Posture:** Your church community's culture, such as being outreach-oriented or committed to seeking and serving Christ in all people

**Program:** Ministries and activities at your church — everything from Bible studies to homeless outreach ministries

**We can help!** Episcopal Relief & Development uses an asset-based approach that equips Faith Leaders to prepare for and respond to disasters. We also teach faith communities about the basics of disasters and how to become empowered to share their community's gifts to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. While certainly not required, you are encouraged to identify both your Diocesan Disaster Coordinator and your Episcopal Relief & Development Ministry Partner to assist you in leading workshops and raising awareness and enthusiasm for this work.

*The two strongest indicators that predict how a church will respond after a disaster are:*

1. *an awareness of congregational gifts & limitations*
2. *a willingness to try*

***Don't hesitate to help!***

## Goal Setting — the ABCD Approach of Discerning a Faith Community's Gifts & Assets

The first step is to examine the assets your faith community already has. We do this using Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). A helpful worksheet is included in the [Outreach & Creative Community Engagement](#) of this toolkit.

We've also designed a training module that teaches Episcopal Relief & Development's disaster response methodology and some basics of a disaster's life cycle. Our hope is that participants will feel empowered to share their congregational gifts to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in their communities. The training sessions summarize the gifts you have determined you possess as a faith community and how you can deploy them following a disaster.

The four objectives of the sessions are:

1. Identify and share congregational gifts
2. Introduce Episcopal Relief & Development's disaster response methodology
3. Discuss the potential needs of people made vulnerable after a disaster
4. Brainstorm and share potential congregational responses to a disaster

The entire program can be found [here](#), including handouts and references for further study.



*Coconut tree distribution to help with climate resilience in Sri Lanka, supported by the Anglican Diocese of Colombo and Episcopal Relief & Development.*