



- **Contact as many people, congregations and representatives as possible to find out what they need.** Your diocesan clergy and congregational contacts have direct lines to the community. Ask them to talk to the people around them to find out what the situation is and what needs still need to be met. We made sure we spoke in person to someone from every single congregation in the diocese.
- **Map out your route and make sure you give yourself plenty of time.** We traveled west of I-65, which cuts the state in half between East and West. The Bishop and I drove for an entire day, making sure we visited not just those we had identified before as having no one else to help them, but also as many affected communities as we could.
- **Talk to as many people in-person as you can.** If there was no congregation in a certain area (about half of the affected counties) we met with regional clergy. We touched base, face-to-face, with at least one representative from each community to describe the greatest needs according to community members and their own observations.
- **Try to talk with as many different kinds of people as possible.** Not only did I talk to local city, county and state agencies, but I also spoke with as many congregational contacts as possible. I also networked using diocesan connections to meet with other community members.
- **Try to see as much as you can – go to even the most remote areas.** The Bishop and I wanted to link what we had heard from our contacts with what we saw. We even went out to the All Saints' Camp Center in Leitchfield, to talk to the people who work there about what they needed.
- **Use your windshield assessment to ask more specific questions.** With our initial phone calls and emails we learned that most everyone was suffering with impassible roads and no electricity or water. While driving we saw the fallen trees blocking roads, which meant delivery trucks couldn't make it into the towns to help with food supplies.
- **Use your information.** We used the information we collected to prepare proposals so the diocese could help communities. Some programs included:
 1. A food distribution in Hopkinsville –restock a local food pantry and hand out vouchers to those who lost food from the power outage
 2. In Fulton/Hickman County – bill and rent assistance for 16 families who lost income because places of employment were closed
 3. Restore utilities in Madisonville/Hopkins County (reconnect utility boxes or repair broken pipes) for low income families –those without insurance or cover the gap of what insurance didn't cover
 4. In Mayfield/Graves County – replace prescriptions for low-income residents that were lost because of lack of refrigeration.
 5. Through a partnership in Paducah – help families living with HIV/AIDS restock food supplies and pay for fuel or alternate housing, allowing them to conserve their last financial resources and continue to receive medical treatments.More importantly we compiled a big picture of what had happened and sent that back out to our local contacts. This way they understood the breadth of the impact and knew they weren't alone. In a way it gave them the comfort of thinking that “together we can get through it.”



Bishop Ted Gulick (right) met with the Rev. Dr. Bill Watson (left), rector of Grace Church, Hopkinsville. The Bishop delivered a check, funded by Episcopal Relief & Development, to be used for disaster relief services. These funds were distributed among 10 different local partners for projects ranging from food distribution, to replacing prescription medications.

Additional Resources



For more information on responding to winter storms see the following online resources:

- “Ice Storm in Kentucky”
- “How To: Winter Shelters”

Share your own disaster response stories or tips to help a community in need at www.episcopalrelief.org