



Disaster Response Ministries

When a disaster occurs, our immediate impulse is to help in whatever ways we can. The most critically important responses you can make right now to the situation all along the Gulf Coast are:

- ◆ Give money through your local church, with “Hope Shall Bloom” written on memo line.
- ◆ When writing a check is not enough, and you feel a need to DO Something, consider volunteering in Florida to help rebuild homes damaged from last year’s hurricanes. There are currently 43,000 homes still in need of significant repair – many with only a blue tarp for a roof! Individuals and teams are desperately needed before more hurricanes hit the area.
- ◆ Information and forms can be obtained from Jane & Newell Curtis, Disaster Response Ministries Coordinators for the Connecticut Conference.

Does Your Church Have A Disaster Response Plan?

Designate someone from your church to attend a brief workshop at the Annual Meeting, Friday, October 21 from 3:30-4:45 at Kennedy High School in Waterbury. Details are at www.ctucc.org.

As coordinators, we are available to come to your church, meet with your boards, hold a workshop, answer questions - do whatever is needed to help insure that if a disaster strikes you have a plan and know how to implement it effectively.

Jane & Newell Curtis
Coordinators Disaster Response
Ministry Team

860-399-9584 or email njcurtis@comcast.net

Gulf Hurricane Relief – “Hope Shall Bloom”

United Church of Christ leaders announced the goal of raising \$3 million from members and congregations to support long-term hurricane relief, recovery and rehabilitation phases in response to the destruction and human suffering throughout the Gulf Coast region. A 5-10 year response is projected, based on past experience and the magnitude of this catastrophe.

The major role of the church in this disaster, as in all disasters, is long-term recovery. The UCC has trained Disaster Network Coordinators and Church World Service (CWS) staff working with devastated communities to help organize, identify and meet the “un-met” needs – to catch the folks who might otherwise fall through the cracks. The UCC promises to walk with these communities on their long road to restoration.

100% of each gift made to the “Hope Shall Bloom - UCC Hurricane Recovery Fund” goes to support hurricane recovery programming. This is possible because church member’s gifts to Our Church’s Wider Mission Basic Support (OCWM) provide the infrastructure necessary to enable the UCC disaster response.

How you can help:

- ◆ Pray for the people who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina and all disasters.
- ◆ Send gifts payable to your congregation marked for “Hope Shall Bloom-UCC Hurricane Recovery Fund” with the request they are sent to the Connecticut Conference, UCC, 125 Sherman St., Hartford, CT 06105.
- ◆ Add your name to the “Hope Shall Bloom” Covenant of Compassion online at www.ucc.org/disaster/

