

## **Disaster Response Resources for Congregations, Clergy and Disciples Members.**

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Here in Florida we live in the land of hurricanes, but not just hurricanes. Other natural (and not so natural) disasters can impact our congregations such as fires, floods and tornadoes. Fortunately, we are part of a wider family and our congregations and pastors are not alone in dealing with these disasters. This list, while not exhaustive, outlines some of the resources available to congregations and pastors here in the Florida Region.

1. **Contact the Regional Minister when disaster strikes.** Regional Minister, Sandy Messick, can help marshal resources and point you to others who may be able to help. She can be reached at [sandy@fldisciples.org](mailto:sandy@fldisciples.org) or by calling or texting her cell: 206-817-7163.
2. **Contact your insurance provider and begin getting estimates.** It will be helpful to know sooner rather than later what your deductible may be and what coverage is available as well as the cost of repairs.
3. **Emergency Response Grants** are available through the Region. Applications can be found here: <https://fldisciples.org/grants/>. Grants are available up to \$2500/event or \$2500/year (for multiple events)
4. **Clergy Emergency Grants** are also available through the Region. Limited funds are available. Up to \$500/event. Available to clergy with standing in the region who face unusual hardships (doesn't need to be a natural disaster). Contact the Regional Minister.
5. **Week of Compassion** offers several different grants. Contact the Regional Minister or email Caroline Hamilton-Arnold: [caroline@weekofcompassion.org](mailto:caroline@weekofcompassion.org)
  - a. **Solidarity Grants** are offered to Disciples households or congregations who have experienced damage.
  - b. **Community Solidarity Grants** are for churches who are offering ministries in the community that deal with disaster relief like feeding ministries or debris cleanup.
6. **The Pension Fund** offers grants to congregations and pastors with damage to home or congregations. Contact Dee Long: [dlong@pensionfund.org](mailto:dlong@pensionfund.org)
7. **Disciples Church Extension Fund** can offer insurance claim advocacy through their Disaster Response Service. For more information: <https://disciplescef.org/plan/disaster-response/> or contact Jim Michel: [jmichel@disciplescef.org](mailto:jmichel@disciplescef.org).
8. **Regional Work Trips and Disaster Clean Up:** While we do not currently have a standing Disaster Relief Team here in the region, we have many people, led by our Florida Disciples Men, who have knowledge, resources and willingness to help organize work trips to help clean up after disasters. Contact Sandy Messick (see #1 above) to begin that conversation.