

Emergency Preparedness / Disaster Recovery

On 10 – 11 October the Michigan Area Conference of The United Methodist Church held a Training Workshop at the Lake Huron Retreat Center. The Workshop was led by Rev. Robert Miller and Dan O'Malley, MI Area Conference Coordinators for Emergency Preparedness / Disaster Recover (EP/DR); Ms. Catherine G. Earl, Executive Director Disaster Response and U.S. Partner Relations of UMCOR; and Ms. Christi Smith, UMCOR Training Consultant. The Workshop had 11 on-site participants, and 4 off-site remote participants.

The major focus on the Workshop was to get the District Coordinators for EP/DR up to speed on the implementation plans throughout the MI Area Conference, and get the Districts engaged in the process. The plan calls for each District to have not only a District Coordinator, but also a District EP/DR Team, as well as POCs at each Local Church.

One key component of the Conference EP/DR Plan is to get 750 – 1000 Certified Emergency Recovery Team (ERT) members trained within the State of Michigan. The following link provides more details as well as the training dates throughout the end of the year =>
[<http://news.michiganumc.org/2017/10/early-response-training-in-michigan/>].

The first activities to carry out the plan are 1) Recruit individuals to serve on the Crossroads District EP/DR Team; 2) Get individuals to become ERT Trained; and 3) Identify individuals within each and every Local Church to be their Local Church EP/DR Points of Contact (POCs).

Another key component that is carried out at the Local Church level is called Connecting Neighbors [<http://www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2017/april/0445connecting-neighbors-for-disaster-response>]. This is truly a Community Outreach program to support Disaster Response. Each and every Local Church will receive training on how to carry out the Connecting Neighbors portion of the program.

Over the next three (3) to six (6) months we will begin primarily in building up the Crossroads District EP/DR Team; as well as beginning an on-going effort of Data Collection concerning each Local Church and the Communities they are located in and serve.

If you feel called to support this very important ministry, you are encouraged to contact me to discuss how you can become involved.

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