



Crossroads District

Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

5606 N. NAVARRO, SUITE 200-C & D, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904

August 23, 2020

Greetings pastors and friends,

With the impending storms due to hit the Texas/Louisiana coast, I wanted to reach out to you as your Disaster Coordinator for the Crossroads District with a little news to keep in mind. The Conference is here to help and there are many resources available to your community if and when needed.

My wife and I have recently completed the Emergency Readiness Training (ERT) and are working to set the example for our district. It has been said that the Crossroads District has one of the lowest number of trained ERTs out of the Rio Texas Conference and if you are interested or have members that are, please let me know and we can work to set up training for them. ERTs are primarily trained to respond within their own conference and especially within their district; however, we are often called to help in other affected areas as our availability permits.

During the days after a disaster, ERTs provide immediate assistance to persons who might not have their support system (family) nearby to assist. These folks are often elderly or disabled. It is an opportunity for Christian service and reassures them that the church cares about them. It also provides visibility and reassurance for the UMC and speeds response to survivors. In addition to providing a Christian presence, trained ERTs help folks prevent further damage to a family's personal property by helping to tarp roofs, debris removal, and cleaning out flooded homes. We sometimes are asked to help manage donated materials, gather information or other tasks a community might need. We also get to put our "listening" skills to use as often times folks just want to be heard.

During the days to come, if you find your community needing assistance due to the storms scheduled to hit our coastline, please feel free to reach out to me and let me know what your needs are. Primarily, it is my job to make sure you know you are not alone and to coordinate assistance your community might need. I can help assist in getting you flood buckets and hands on deck for those in your community that might need it. We often work with whatever local emergency management programs are in place.

Blessings of grace and peace to you,

Pastor Darin Zumwalt

Shiner First United Methodist Church

P O Box 122

Shiner, Texas 77984

Office: 361-594-3830, Cell: 830-743-2879

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors