

## **Action Plan – Disaster Ministries in the Wisconsin Conference 11.12.07**

*“It is not in the providence of God to victimize creation with disasters; but it is in the providence of those who know God to be merciful to act with compassion toward those who suffer from them.” (Rev. Gerald Bertsch, Wisconsin Conference Disaster Ministries Team Leader)*

- I. Caring for the United Church of Christ “Conference Family:”
  - The Conference Minister, the area Association Minister(s), and/or the Disaster Ministries Team members will immediately identify UCC churches and church members who are victims of a disaster.
  - Communication detailing the scope of the disaster will be shared among all these parties.
  - The Conference Minister, acting on behalf of the Conference will send an appropriate response.
  - The Association Minister in the affected area will call on the affected church leadership and notify neighboring UCC churches and ask them to offer support.
  - An appropriate response may include pastoral visits, sending material aid, being present, and/or mobilizing volunteers to offer relief and recovery assistance.
  
- II. Preparing to participate at the table of longer-term recovery efforts:
  - Recruit at least one UCC related person from the affected area to serve as a member of the Local Long-Term Recovery Committee.
  - The leadership of the Wisconsin Conference Disaster Ministries Team will monitor the scope of the disaster, early recovery efforts, calls for volunteers, offers for volunteer training and communicate the same to the Team members.
  - Identify resources to support the immediate and long term recovery efforts and channel them to the appropriate organizations for effective use.
  - Prepare an effective communications network for notifying all the Wisconsin Conference churches and their leadership that donations, volunteers, and prayers are needed.
  
- III. Develop a pool of Disaster Response Volunteers:
  - Be fully aware of what kinds of volunteers are needed for the kind of disaster it is.
  - Call out volunteers with the needed skill set.
  - Identify a uniquely UCC disaster response capability.
  - Be prepared to respond as “affiliated volunteers.”
  - Offer information for “unaffiliated UCC volunteers” to respond also when they are call up—for instance, to do clean up after a tornado or flood.