

ChristUMC Algonquin

From: Barbara Pufundt <bpufundt@UMCNIC.ORG>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 3:25 PM
To: Barbara Pufundt
Cc: Oscar Carrasco (oscarcarrasco24@gmail.com)
Subject: Tornado Response
Attachments: Personal Dignity Kit.pdf; UMCOR Cleaning Bucket.pdf; UMCOR school kit.pdf

Hi Friends,

Mr. John Sheely is our Elgin District Disaster Coordinator.

We thought it would be important and helpful to forward this important communication to our churches. We are not sure if you have received similar information or not. Below is John's note to Oscar Carrasco:

Thank you for sharing this with your church.

Barbara

Aurora/Elgin Regional Office

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.
Colossians 3:12

Rev. Carrasco,

This morning I participated on a conference call hosted by Christina Vosteen, NIC Disaster Coordinator (aka my boss) and Anne Marie Gerhardt, NIC Director of Communications regarding the NIC and Illinois Great Rivers Conference response to the tornados. Things are still developing and we will probably get more information soon, but I wanted to share some basic information. We had folks on the call from Wilmington/Coal City and Washington in addition to folks from the NIC.

First, people should be advised that these people are already overwhelmed with unsolicited donations and volunteers. The American Red Cross has contacted all the various denominations in Illinois and asked that word be spread that unsolicited donations and volunteers are not wanted at this time. If you go to ready.illinois.gov and click on the red banner about the tornados, it will take you to a good resource page. In the case of Washington, they are saying that they don't want volunteers, but you can email them to register for future service, and they will not accept any more clothes. They are overwhelmed!

The first way we can help is through prayer whose lives have been upturned by these terrible storms. In the short run we were given 4 additional options to help:

- First is the Northern Illinois Food Bank. This is already a busy time of year for them, so they will likely be even busier. I'm sure volunteers will be appreciated as well as monetary donations. Info can be obtained at Solvehungertoday.org.

- The second is the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. They already have distributed 1695 Personal Dignity Kits, 97 Student Kits, and 216 Flood Buckets in Griffith, near Champaign. Their needs, in order of priority, would be money, items for the kits mentioned above, and completed kits. I have attached lists of materials for each type of kit, but note that at this time, the MMDC only wants money for the Personal Dignity Kits.
- The Illinois Great Rivers Conference has a disaster advance fund in place for donations. You can send money to: IGRC Disaster Response Fund Advance #6800 - United Methodist Center P.O. Box 19207 Springfield, IL 62794-9207 or you can donate [online visiting IGRC.org](http://online.visiting.igrc.org).
- You can also give to UMCOR through the Advance Special #901670, Disaster Response, United States and then designate it for "Tornadoes 2013." [Visit umcor.org](http://umcor.org) and [click on donate](#). 100% of those donations go to help. Administrative costs are covered by One Great Hour of Sharing.

The ILGRC is where the majority of the tornados hit (Coal City and Diamond are ILGRC, not NIC). Damage also occurred in Wilmington, Peotone, Frankfurt and Manhattan in the NIC. Local churches may send out appeals. I was told that the Coal City UMC has done that, but I didn't find anything on their website just now (CoalCityum.org). It may be coming soon.

Here's the way the process will work over the next several month, if not longer. Right now, the first responders are at work making sure everyone is safe, shutting off power and gas in impacted areas, etc. Once that happens, local authorities will put out requests for trained early responders (emphasis on trained). The Methodist response will led and coordinated from the ILGRC. They will put out a call for trained Early Responders in their conference. Only when the need is greater than the ILGRC can handle will the contact other conferences for help and support. Rev. Christina Vosteen, the Disaster Relief Coordinator for the NIC will receive that request and pass it on to trained, certified ERTs in the NIC. Early responders will do things like muck out houses and put tarps on damaged roofs.

FYI, there is an Early Responder training session on Jan. 25 at First UMC in Evanston. Information is posted on the UMNIC website. They have room for 30 people and as of this morning, there are 28 spots left. I think it will fill quickly now following the storms.

After the early responders are done, that's when the traditional mission teams will begin to come and help with rebuilding. I expect that will be next summer at the earliest. At some time in the future, local Methodist churches will probably start scheduling mission teams, but that is going to be a huge challenge for them. I imagine what it would be like having hundreds of churches from across the country contact my church wanting to bring a mission team to my community and asking us to facilitate their mission trip. Not only would we have

to figure out scheduling, housing, etc. but we would also have to schedule teams on various projects and make sure that they have the materials they need when they get here. This will be overwhelming to some of these churches.

Yours in Christ,

John Sheely

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Reverend Oscar N. Carrasco
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The fruit of silence is... Prayer...
The fruit of prayer is... Faith...
The fruit of faith is... Love...
The fruit of love is... Service...
The fruit of service is... Peace.

Sister Theresa of Calcutta