



Spiritual and Emotional Care Teams

The Great Plains Disaster Response is a Ministry of Care that has theological, material, mental health, advocacy, and social service components designed to provide for the spiritual, emotional and physical recovery of disaster survivors.

Who . . .

- Clergy (active or retired)
- Stephen Ministers
- Mental health providers who are active in United Methodist Churches
- Other trained individuals in crisis intervention
- Caring, compassionate, sensitive individuals
- All individuals must be 21 years or older

What . . .

- While teams do not provide traditional individual or ongoing counseling, their purpose is:
 - Offer a caring, Christian presence for the church
 - Offer a listening presence
 - Reduce the aloneness survivors experience
 - Connect survivors with long-term disaster recovery systems
 - Providing support to community clergy, congregations, first responders (at times), communities as a whole, and others present

Requirements . . .

- Safe Gatherings Certification (\$35, www.safegatherings.com) Online training and all supporting documents must be submitted within 10 days of the training date.
- Complete an 8 hour UMCOR Basic Training. (\$25).
- Complete Psychological First Aid Training.
- Upon completion of Safe Gatherings and Trainings, individuals will be badged for two years. Recertification is required after two years.
- Agree to abide by the Spiritual and Emotional Care “Point of Consensus” of the National VOAD and Church World Service “Standard of Care for Disaster Spiritual Care Ministries”.
- Individuals interested in being a Team Leader must complete 4 more hours of additional training, have two personal recommendations (pastor and one other, not a family member), and be approved by the Conference Disaster Response Committee.

Activation . . .

- ALL activation of teams will be initiated in consultation with the District Superintendent by the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator.
- Request for teams can be initiated by and or not limited to, local pastors, emergency managers, red cross, incident command commander, and long term recovery committees. These request are to be made directly to the District Superintendent or Conference Disaster Response Coordinator.
- Individuals may be activated along with ERT’s to serve as the team’s listener for a 3 day deployment.