



Disaster Response tips for pastors

As Hurricane Dorian plows an uncertain path toward the southeastern coast of the United States, here are some friendly reminders to pastors in the South Carolina Conference:

Before the storm:

- Begin checking on vulnerable church members who could need assistance if utilities were to be interrupted or evacuations were to be ordered.
- Make sure church property is secured and insured.
- Review your church's disaster response plan.
- Encourage your congregation and community to:
 - [Give generously to UMCOR](#), which directs 100 percent of all donations to areas with the greatest needs.
 - UMCOR has awarded about \$4 million in disaster recovery grants to the South Carolina Conference since 2015.
 - Assemble and donate [cleaning buckets](#) and [hygiene kits](#) through UMCOR.
 - Buckets and kits can be delivered to the South Carolina Conference Center, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, or shipped directly to UMCOR.
 - **Not** donate unsolicited items (water, food, clothing, diapers, etc.).

After the storm:

- Contact your District Superintendent and [District Disaster Response Coordinator](#) to update your status – regardless of whether you, your church or your community suffered any damage from the storm.
- Check with your church trustees to assess church and parsonage property.
- Assess the needs of your church members.
- Assess the needs of your neighborhood and community.
- Open your church to host volunteer teams, if possible.
- Provide food, laundry, showers or other services to volunteers.
- Work with your District Superintendent, United Methodist Early Response Teams and local Emergency Management officials to assess needs in the community that the church can respond to, when appropriate.