



# Disaster Response Tips for Pastors

Reminders to pastors in the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church as they prepare for the approach of a hurricane:

## 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.