

The Connecting Neighbors curriculum consists of an overview of disaster ministry, three modules and supporting handouts.

Begin with a Disaster Ministry Overview - provides foundational information useful for modules 2 and 3.

- Participants will understand how our United Methodist structure enhances the local church's capabilities for disaster readiness and response
- Budget about 30-60 minutes for this overview.
- Target Audience: Everyone.

Module 1: Ready Congregants focuses on preparing individuals and families to be disaster-ready.

- Objectives: Participants will be inspired to take action in order to prepare themselves, their households and others before and immediately following a disaster.
- Time: Budget about two hours for this unit.
- Target Audience: Everyone.

Module 2: Ready Churches emphasizes the importance of protecting church property and the people within the property, before and immediately following a disaster, and of appropriate use of church property in disaster response.

- Objectives: Participants will (1) identify one or more steps to take in order to mitigate against disaster-caused damage to property; (2) identify one or more steps to take in order to prevent harm to people who are present in or on church property when disasters or emergencies occur; and (3) be able to assess the utilization of church property following a disaster within or near the community of the church.
- Time: Budget about two hours for this unit.
- Target Audience: Everyone, especially church leaders including, but not limited to, pastors, trustees, Sunday school superintendent, lay leader, missions coordinator, treasurer, and finance committee members, young adult and youth representatives, and others.

Module 3: Ready Response encourages churches to explore their capacity for various disaster response ministries and to consider ways to engage community partners.

- Objectives: Participants will (1) be able to identify at least one disaster ministry their church might be willing and able to implement before and/or after a community disaster; and (2) initiate a preliminary plan to engage the church and to cooperate with other households of faith and the community in order to be prepared to respond in the event of a disaster.
- Time: Budget about two hours for this unit.
- Target Audience: Everyone interested in disaster-ready congregations and communities, particularly mission and outreach personnel, lay leaders, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, youth ministry leaders, lay servants, and Stephen's Ministers!