

Where Do I Begin?

To get involved, contact your United Methodist Annual Conference **Disaster Response Coordinator** or the **Director of Connectional Ministries**.



Mike DuBose

For more information, contact:

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UMCOR.org



Mike DuBose

"Is thy heart right towards thy neighbor?"

—John Wesley

CONNECTING NEIGHBORS

Preparing the Local Church for Disaster Ministries

UMCOR.org

When disaster strikes, the local church usually provides the first response. The visible presence of the church is an essential and effective ministry that brings God's hope and healing to people in times of crisis.

UMCOR's Connecting Neighbors Leadership Training Program

A church prepared for disaster ministry has taken steps to safeguard the people and property of the church and is prepared to respond to the suffering of their neighbors in a time of crisis. UMCOR's Connecting Neighbors Leadership Training Program is a one-day, local-church disaster readiness program designed to equip volunteer trainers with the information and tools they need to help guide the local church as it prepares to respond to disaster in the community. Those persons willing and able to prepare the local church for this ministry are encouraged to participate in this program.

Why a Church Plan?

The local church is a place where people connect—with God, with each other, and with the community. People naturally turn to the church in times of crisis, seeking meaning, peace, and healing. A church that is prepared can help mitigate the emotional and spiritual impact of disaster, and may be a place of hospitality and sanctuary in a time of critical need. A plan can speed the immediate response and help lessen those feelings of confusion, loneliness, and isolation that are so common after disasters.

Susan Meister



UMCOR



Susan Meister



What Will I Learn?

The **Connecting Neighbors Leadership Training Program** will prepare you for your role in guiding others to:

- Develop a disaster plan that fits with the church's mission
- Connect the church to outside resources and to the community's emergency plans
- Identify types of disasters likely to impact the church community and the needs that may arise
- Assess the church's resources to meet those needs
- Identify the church's role in disaster readiness and response
- Create a plan to manage volunteers
- Assign responsibilities
- Develop a system of communication