

Disaster Ministry Report for 2020 Annual Meeting

Once again, I am thankful for all of the support that has been given to me and our effort to provide assistance to people and places in need during and after a disaster.

This past year has been interesting in the fact that much of the training and groups for disaster recovery have been postponed even before the pandemic. I was hoping to acquire training in many things but that all has been put on hold for now. I did, however, become trained and certified as an EMT which will be able to help me become familiar with the medical response to emergencies. In the next year, I will be working on becoming trained in Critical Incident Stress Management, case management, and grant writing for long term recovery.

One thing that I want to highlight is that I will be promoting more opportunities for us to give to and to volunteer for local and national disasters.

A big thank you goes out to Rev. Ackerman for keeping us in the loop with the PA VOAD updates. This organization is the lifeblood for disaster response in Pennsylvania.

At the national level of the UCC Disaster Ministries, there are various staffing vacancies so a lot of our engagement has been put on hold in the interim time until we find replacements for folks that have left these important positions.

Lastly, as I want to remind us all that we are role models for our community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have to make smart decisions based on actual science and follow the recommendations and guidelines of our governing officials. In our congregational polity, it is easy for us to make our own decisions but keeping each other healthy is a basic responsibility of our churches.

If your church needs any guidance on disaster response, COVID-19 response, volunteer opportunities, or disaster preparedness, and/or would like me to work with your church on any of these items, please reach out to me. Blessings on your ministries in these difficult times.

Peace be with you all.

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