

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

Necessities of life include food, shelter and clothing. However, many people around the world lack these basic necessities—especially during times of a disaster. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering makes those necessities a reality by sharing the goodness of life with those who hurt.

When a catastrophe occurs, your offerings to One Great of Sharing enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to reach out and ease the pain and suffering by providing humanitarian aid of food, shelter, health and peace.

By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you enable UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of designated gifts go to the specific causes.

## **CTC Partnership with Southwest Louisiana**

Due to a vast and ongoing need for volunteers in Lake Charles and other parts of southwest Louisiana, the CTC continues to support the partnership that we established with this area in October 2006.

Please consider joining the efforts of the Louisiana Conference Disaster Response Ministry by organizing a mission team to serve at the Lake Charles Station. For more information, visit [www.laumcstormrelief.com](http://www.laumcstormrelief.com).

## **Website Resources**

[www.ctcumc.org/disaster](http://www.ctcumc.org/disaster)

[www.ctcumc.org/umvim](http://www.ctcumc.org/umvim)

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/emergencies/>

[www.sagerbrown.org](http://www.sagerbrown.org)

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/give/oghs/>

## **CTC Disaster Response Ministry**

### **Contacts:**

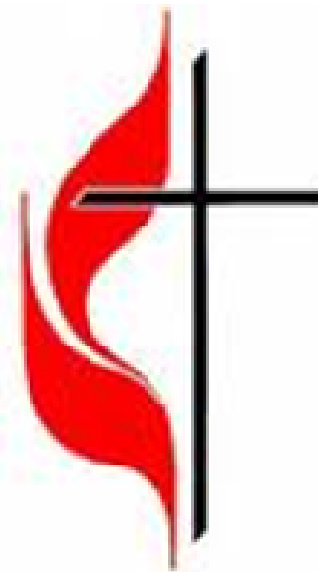
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Visit the CTC disaster response web page to find your district disaster response coordinator

## **Central Texas Conference Of The United Methodist Church - Disaster Response Ministry**



## Opportunities to Serve

**Early Response Teams**—The mission of an Early Response Team (ERT) is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster, under very specific guidelines that enable a team to be productive and caring while causing no further harm or being a burden to the affected



Removing drywall and insulation from a flooded home after Hurricane Ike

community. Early Response Teams respond after emergency personnel to disasters such as fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding to help families with clean-up, prevention of more damage to homes, and clean out of homes. A one day training must be completed to participate in this type of response. Classes are taught by authorized UMCOR trainers from our conference, and team members are given ID badges as evidence of training.



Worshipping with a family after Hurricane Ike

**Spiritual Care Teams**—You can help people facing the unique emotional and spiritual challenges that accompany disaster. Spiritual Care Ministry Teams are faith-based, ongoing teams that provide spiritual and emotional care following disasters. Working closely with our conference disaster response task force, the CTC Spiritual Care Team helps disaster survivors connect with the spiritual, emotions, and basic life resources within themselves and their communities. The Central Texas Conference provides the required training for this specialized ministry. Our Care Team has been a great benefit to coastal evacuees temporarily sheltered in our area churches during and after hurricanes over the last several years.



**UMCOR Sager Brown**—All individuals and churches may respond to disasters through special offerings and supporting UMCOR Sager Brown—the United Methodist Church’s distribution center for supplies to those in need. You can assemble cleaning buckets, bedding kits, birthing kits, layette kits, health kits, to name a few. Our conference also organizes a mission team to serve at the depot each year. For more information on the kits please visit [www.sagerbrown.org](http://www.sagerbrown.org).

**Disaster Response Organized by Your Local Church**—Your church has the opportunity to open its doors in a time of disaster by setting up a shelter, providing meals, serving as a relief supply distribution center, or addressing other community needs. For more information and ideas, please visit [www.ctcumc.org/disaster](http://www.ctcumc.org/disaster). Contact your local Red Cross chapter to become an approved shelter site. The conference also offers a **Connecting Neighbors training** geared toward guiding local churches in preparing for and responding to disasters in their own communities and beyond.



A couple from Orange, Texas wait for work to be finished on their home after Hurricane Ike

**Long Term Recovery Work**—Once Early Response Teams have completed the clean-up phase, long term volunteers may begin serving in a disaster affected area. These teams come in to finish clean-up and begin the rebuilding process. Through the conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) you can be a part of a mission team that helps to rebuild the homes and lives of disaster survivors.