



Shenandoah Presbytery Responds to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma will devastate the lives of many across the South. We want to respond now. Fortunately, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) provides excellence guidance about how best to effectively respond to disaster in this country and abroad. In addition to your donations many members of the PDA National Response Team are on the ground helping with damage assessment, long-term recovery organizing, and volunteer hosting. Here is what you need to know.

- Cash donations are the best way to get the resources needed to survivors in their communities. Donate through the designated PDA fund DR000169-Harvey (see specific info and links below). There will be another account for Irma created soon.
- DO NOT SEND UN-REQUESTED CLOTHES OR SUPPLIES. They become a second disaster taking needed space and volunteer labor to manage.
- Provide requested cleanup buckets and hygiene kits (see instructions in a separate message coming soon).
- Pray for those in need of comfort.
- Work teams will be needed later in the long-term recovery process. It is way too early to go now. Please contact Dave Thalman (dthalman@comcast.net) or visit the PDA website for volunteer information and opportunities. Dave has led many work teams and can provide guidance for trip leaders.
- Go to the PDA website (pda.pcusa.org) to find more information about specific actions and resources. Click on “learn more” at the bottom of the current hurricane graphic.

Our presbytery will follow the lead of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in our response to this and all future disasters. Members of our Disaster Preparedness & Response Team (DRT) are also members of PDA’s National Response Team and the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in Virginia. These connections give us access to a lot of current information from FEMA, state emergency management agencies, and PDA. Please stay tuned.

For the DRT, Doug Sensabaugh and Dave Thalman, Co-Directors