

IN THE LOOP

OUT OF CHAOS HOPE



Updates on PDA response in Florida since Hurricane Irma as of May 2018



Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma was an extremely powerful and catastrophic hurricane, the strongest observed in the Atlantic in terms of maximum sustained winds since Wilma, and the strongest storm on record to exist in the open Atlantic region. Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys on Sunday September 10th, 2017 with winds of 130 mph. The impact of Irma was felt throughout the state of Florida with significant damage in five of the six Florida presbyteries.



Overview:

The impacted presbyteries are Tropical Florida, Peace River, Central Florida, Tampa Bay and St. Augustine;

- PDA has disbursed over \$250,000 in grants

- There are 266 congregations and almost 70,000 members in the five impacted presbyteries

- In addition to PDA, FLAPDAN (The Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network) is at work assisting in the assessment, response and recovery.

WAYS TO HELP:

presbyterianmission.org/give-irma
To give by phone, call 800-872-3283
or by check to
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
memo: "DR000194-irma"

SUMMARY OF PDA RESPONSE TO HURRICANE IRMA

- Awarded three emergency grants to three different Presbyteries to help the communities affected by the hurricane.
- Awarded church damage grants to churches affected by the hurricane. There were churches with significant damage in five of the six Florida Presbyteries.
- Conducted several PDA leadership solidarity visits to meet with Presbytery and Congregational leadership in the impacted area.
- Deployed 5 National Volunteers to work with FEMA to support the development of Long-Term Recovery Groups.
- Deployed 3 National Volunteers to provide Disaster Spiritual Care in Red Cross shelters.

- Provided multiple resilience workshops to disaster responders and faith based community leaders.
- Approved one grant to one of the churches that will be a long-term volunteer host site. The grant will better equip their church for that ministry.
- Approved two grants to support the ministry of two different long-term recovery groups. The community based long-term recovery groups will help to meet the unmet needs of the hurricane survivors.
- Connected volunteer mission teams with mission opportunities in Florida.



- Worked closely with FLAPDAN in the disaster response and recovery to Hurricane Irma. The FLAPDAN network coordinates the disaster response and recovery efforts of the six Florida Presbyteries. PDA has and will continue to support this network to ensure that Presbyteries are coordinating their efforts for the good of the communities they serve.
- Supported Peace River Presbytery in addressing the impact of Hurricane Irma on the farmworker community in Immokalee, FL. This initiative will address the need for hurricane resistant housing.



CONTINUING SUPPORT

- PDA will continue to award grants to support the long-term recovery in Florida. These grants will include but will not be limited to; supporting churches wishing to become long-term volunteer host sites, supporting the work of the long-term recovery organizations and supporting the work of FLAP DAN for a multi year period.
- In coordination with the presbyteries, PDA will provide faith-leader and community leader resilience workshops.
- Through the PDA Call Center, work with the presbyteries to support the long-term recovery by partnering with congregations wishing to be long-term volunteer hosting sites so that interested volunteers will continue to plan mission trips to communities in need of support. Contact for more information pda.callcenter@pcusa.org (866) 732-6121