
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Emotional and Spiritual Care Offerings

A disaster, no matter the magnitude, affects the lives of those involved on many levels. Those who faithfully respond are also impacted in significant ways. Faith community leaders and others see the adverse effects, work tirelessly to address the many needs, and absorb the stories of survivors. Those who respond to disasters feel the physical, emotional and spiritual fatigue that follows.

Through the years PDA has offered resilience support to people who serve others in the aftermath of a disaster within our Presbyterian family and in their communities. The Emotional and Spiritual Care programs are flexible and adaptable and are need-driven. Our programs are designed with the understanding that both learning and respite are necessary. PDA realizes that as the response and recovery evolves the needs evolve, and different programs can be offered at the various phases of preparation, response and recovery.

Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care Training

Although faith community and other leaders are trained to provide quality emotional and spiritual care, the disaster environment presents distinct challenges. PDA offers training in 'How To Offer' appropriate and respectful disaster emotional and spiritual care (ESC). This training can be offered immediately following a disaster.

Programs to Promote Resilience

No one is immune to the stress and fatigue associated with responding to a disaster. PDA has developed programs that will support and encourage those who care for and serve others to maintain and build the resilience necessary to remain faithful in one's call to serve. The programs are designed to include opportunities for participants to enter safe space to find respite, reflection, and rejuvenation as well as to develop tools to immediately incorporate into their personal resilience plan. Abbreviated forms of the programs can be offered within weeks of the disaster, and one-day or retreat-style programs can be offered from several months to several years after a disaster. To explore these programs, contact PDA's Associate for U.S. Disaster Response at pda.help@pcusa.org.