

# PDA's Response to



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



# HURRICANE DORIAN

December 2019



## Overview:

## Hurricane Dorian

Hurricane Dorian made landfall in the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane with winds peaking at 185 mph on September 1, 2019 and stalled over the islands for 24 hours, causing massive damage. It's considered the worst natural disaster that has hit the Bahamas in its history. After, it continued its path of destruction to the coasts of the Southeastern United States and Atlantic Canada,

- Out of the 31 islands that are inhabited in the Bahamas, Abaco and Grand Bahamas were the most affected by Hurricane Dorian.

- More than 13,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed.

- Out of the 4,861 evacuees, more than 500 people are still in shelters.

- According to the Bahamian government, a total of 69 fatalities have been confirmed.

- Ocracoke Island, an island that is within the bounds of New Hope Presbytery, was also affected by Hurricane Dorian.

## WAYS TO HELP:

Give online: [www.bit.ly/DR000194](http://www.bit.ly/DR000194)  
To give by phone, call 800-872-8283  
or by check to  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700  
memo: "DR000194-Dorian"



## SUMMARY OF PDA's RESPONSE TO HURRICANE DORIAN

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) visited Grand Bahamas as part of an Assessment team from ACT Alliance and Church World Service. During the visit we met with several organizations working in the Bahamas and providing relief to the communities. As a result of the visit, PDA has engaged in several projects in partnership with three organizations that are providing relief to families affected by Hurricane Dorian: **Bahamas Methodist Habitat, Our Saviour Lutheran Church and Stillman College.**

- **Bahamas Methodist Habitat (BMH)** is a non-profit outreach ministry dedicated to disaster relief and mitigation in the form of home repair and community development., founded in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

They have hosted 76 evacuees at Camp Symonette on Eleuthera. Assistance was given for basic needs as well as the purchase of school supplies, clothing,

personal and medical items as well as room and board costs at their facility. PDA has provided an initial solidarity grant to help cover some of the expenses related to BMH's work with the evacuees.

- PDA has sent an initial solidarity grant to **Our Saviour Lutheran Church** in Freeport, Bahamas, towards the relief operation for families affected by Hurricane Dorian in the Grand Bahamas. The hurricane brought major storm surge which caused saltwater to enter and flood 2,500 homes in Freeport, Grand Bahamas.

While the structure of homes was not severely damaged, the saltwater did damage the wall sockets or outlet receptacles preventing families from using their appliances.

Through PDA's contribution, we were able to help with the purchase of materials, and installation by licensed electricians.



- **Stillman College** is a liberal arts institution with a historical and formal affiliation with the PCUSA.

Stillman College recruited 2 freshmen choir students from the Bahamas who began their studies in August 2019. Hurricane Dorian destroyed High Rock, their families' hometown and also destroyed the University of the Bahamas in Freeport. Stillman will be providing housing and tuition to seven Bahamian students who were adversely impacted and displaced from studies by the storm.

Through funds from PDA the seven students will receive 3 meals per weekday and 2 meals per weekend for at least 2 semesters.

*As part of our Long-Term Recovery plan for the Bahamas, PDA is partnering with Bahamas Methodist Habitat in the development of volunteer host sites both in Grand Bahamas and Abaco. This will provide opportunities for volunteers to help with the repairing of homes affected by Hurricane Dorian on both Islands.*

## New Hope Presbytery

While the hurricane stalled over the Bahamas there were many anxious days for residents along the east coast of the U.S. For the most part the east coast of the U.S. was spared; however, there were areas along eastern North Carolina that were impacted., such as Ocracoke Island. The Island is within the bounds of New Hope Presbytery. While there are no PC(U.S.A.) congregations on the island, the Presbytery knew there were unmet needs. In partnership with New Hope Presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response committee, a request came to PDA for an initial assistance grant to help address the immediate unmet needs. The grant was awarded and New Hope Presbytery is supporting the response. PDA will continue to work with the presbytery to discern how to best support the recovery on Ocracoke Island.

