Updates on PDA response in Texas since Hurricane Harvey as of May 2018

Hurricane Harvey

Making landfall as a Category 4 hurricane on August 25th, 2017, Harvey inflicted tremendous damage across Aransas County. Wind gusts were observed up to 132 mph near Port Aransas. In Rockport, entire blocks were leveled by the winds. Many locations in the Houston area observed 30 inches of rain, with 60 inches in Nederland. Harvey is the wettest hurricane on record for the United States.

Overview:
The impacted presbyteries are Mission Presbytery and New Covenant Presbytery:
- PDA has disbursed over $500,000 in grants
  - Mission Presbytery consists of 134 congregations and approximately 22,000 members
  - New Covenant Presbytery consists of 88 congregations and approximately 15,000 members

WAYS TO HELP:
presbyterianmission.org/give-harvey
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: "DR000169-Harvey"
SUMMARY OF PDA RESPONSE TO HURRICANE HARVEY

• Awarded four emergency grants to three different Presbyteries and the National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches (PCUSA) to help the communities affected by the hurricane.
• Awarded church damage grants to churches affected by the hurricane.
• Conducted a CPJ/PDA leadership solidarity visit in September of 2017 to meet with Synod, Presbytery and Congregational leadership in the impacted area.
• Approved grants to two Presbyteries to hire a Presbytery Disaster Coordinator.
• Deployed 16 National Volunteers to provide Disaster Spiritual Care in Red Cross shelters.
• Provided multiple resilience workshops to disaster responders and faith based community leaders.
• Approved three grants to three churches in Mission and New Covenant Presbyteries to better equip their church to host volunteers for the long-term recovery.
• Approved one grant to support the mission of a long-term recovery organization working in the Houston area.
• Developed a Volunteer Opportunity document for groups wishing to volunteer in the immediate response.
• Partnered with Austin Seminary to co-facilitate two clergy respite and resilience retreats on the campus of Austin Seminary.
• Hired three additional staff (one full time and two part time) to manage the hurricane response for the hurricane season of 2017 which includes Texas.
• Reached out to disaster response and recovery partners through TX VOAD and National VOAD to coordinate response and recovery activities.
• Deployed multiple National Response teams to Texas for initial support, hosting, long-term recovery, emotional & spiritual care and ministry of presence.

CONTINUING SUPPORT

• PDA will continue to award grants to support the long-term recovery in Texas. 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 the Presbytery Disaster Coordinators 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