

PDA Minute-for-Mission Guide

This guide contains a list of possible talking points that can be included or expanded in a PDA minute-for-mission (MfM). It is recommended that each MfM be tailored to the audience and local disaster. These talking points are of a general nature and are offered as reminders for important points to be considered in many MfMs. Links to other information follow these bullet points.

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the disaster emergency response, recovery and refugee ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- PDA began as Presbyterian World Service and became Presbyterian Disaster Assistance around 1997.
- The 1988 General Assembly mandate read, "...provide a ministry of relief and response to national and international disasters, aid to refugees and displaced persons, refugee resettlement, and efforts toward development."
- PDA is funded solely by offerings to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering (32% to PDA, 32% to Self Development of People and 36% to Presbyterian Hunger Program), and by donations to PDA's designated account funds.
- PDA has domestic and international programs.
- ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) largely conducts PDA's international disaster and refugee relief work through international partner organizations.
- PDA's domestic disaster work is conducted largely by the National Response Team (NRT) and National Volunteers.
- The NRT are volunteers who are trained and deployed to support mid councils at their invitation.
- PDA and the NRT are great examples of our connectional church.
- The initial focus of the NRT is to assess the impact of a disaster on churches and communities and to connect mid councils and congregations to the recovery efforts and to civic and charitable partners active in disasters.
- Many organizations come and go during the course of disaster response and recovery, but it is the local church with support from PDA that remains through the long recovery process.
- Most major denominations have disaster relief agencies and many have developed niches of expertise. PDA's specialties include emotional and spiritual care, long-term recovery organizing, and hosting volunteer work teams.

- PDA has an extensive website where you can find information on the latest responses, suggestions about how to respond (Give, Act, Pray), and many resources including Stories of Hope and videos (pda.pcusa.org).
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is committed to equipping Presbyterians and others to effectively and efficiently serve disaster survivors in Christ's name so that out of the chaos of disaster, they will find Hope.

Here are links and references to other sources of PDA information.

- Recent statistics can be found in "PDA 20xx at a Glance" (NRT General Resources section).
- PDA website: <http://pda.pcusa.org>
 - Go to the **Resources** menu on the top black menu bar where you can find most of the PDA handouts, posters and some videos.
 - Go to **Act** and find information about disaster kits, volunteer opportunities, and the PDA/PW collaboration.
 - Go to **Stay Informed** under **Act** and find resources such as PDA's Facebook page; sign up for the RIN and the Mission Mosaic magazine.
- Vimeo website: <https://vimeo.com/user6857107> has 38 videos on several different PDA ministries.
- Email PDA Information Resource expert, Cameron Stevens (cameron.stevens@pcusa.org), to inquire about other information and materials if what you need is not on the web.

Please send feedback, additional talking points, and resources to Dave Thalman (dthalman@comcast.net).