

## “Synopsis of Response in Human-Caused Disaster” National Response Team

Members of PDA’s National Response Team (NRT) provide a ministry of companionship and presence throughout the various phases of a human-caused disaster from impact to recovery. Below is a brief synopsis of some of what our response teams provide to presbyteries, congregations and clergy.

- **Ministry of Presence** – In the midst of the chaos of disaster, PDA offers an encouraging pastoral presence
- **Assessment of Resilience / Spiritual Discernment** – PDA helps identify places of vulnerability and strength for appropriate response in clergy, congregations and presbyteries
- **Stabilization** – PDA’s NRT members help normalize the experiences of disaster and provide resources in the acute phase of disaster
- **Understanding the Phases of Human-Caused Disaster Response** – NRT members can help leaders understand and locate themselves and their communities in the disaster recovery cycle
- **Emotional and Spiritual Care for Self and Others** – PDA can train and equip caregivers to understand and address symptoms of stress
- **Facilitating Ecumenical and Community Partnership in Response and Recovery** - NRT members help the recovery process by encouraging faith communities to collaborate in serving their communities
- **Liturgical Resources for Worship and Special Services** – If invited, PDA can provide worship planning around significant disaster-related dates and events
- **Advocacy for Spiritual Caregivers** – NRT members are available to provide consultations with Session, Personnel, COM and Presbytery
- **Theological Reframing in the Midst of Disaster Response** – PDA can provide resources to facilitate new theological understandings of theodicy and hope
- **Facilitate Clergy Retreats** – If invited to do so by the Mid Council, PDA can provide customized retreats: liturgical seasons; bible studies; self-care; worship

- **Resilience and Renewal for Responders** – PDA is able to lead workshops to train and equip caregivers to practice and teach good self-care
- **Compassion Fatigue and Resilience** – PDA’s Compassion Fatigue events address long term stress of providing care and teaching skills for resilience in ministry
- **Clergy Sabbatical** – PDA can resource highly affected clergy to regain resilience in ministry