

Making the Connection
Mt Sequoyah Arkansas
February 2007

The following are the thoughts and feelings as expressed in small group sessions.

Break Out Session One

Following presentations by Rev. Gordon Knuckey, Rev Kristin Sachen, and Rev Tom Hazelwood; groups were asked to discuss the information presented. The ✓ indicates that multiple groups had the same comment

I. Based on the information you've heard this morning about the phases of disaster, where do you see yourself fitting into the overall disaster response?

- Training, preparation ✓
- Defining the role of the church to Annual Conference
- Establishing and maintaining close relationships; DRC, VIM
- Varies based on conference set up ✓
- Walk together after a disaster, coordinating, being sensitive to others roles ✓✓
- Not just UM response, all agencies & volunteers, creating a structure that can respond local and national ✓

II. What will you do in your conference to accurately share information about United Methodist disaster funding?

- Fast Facts, internet news about how it's done?
- DVD Be There
- Use personal stories with names
- Lessons in on-line giving ✓
- Educate how funds get to conference ✓✓
- Educate on OGHS ✓
- Use VIM to tell stories of how the funds are used ✓
- COMMUNICATE ✓✓✓
- Share with Bishop/Cabinet
- Include in all disaster training events

III. Transition between phases of disaster is rarely clear-cut. How can we as a partnership expedite a grace filled transition?

- Must have people in place with vision who can accomplish graceful transition
- Help the local church be in ministry
- Have a transition person
- UMCOR/UMVIM go together, work together ✓
- Transition a few committee members to long term recovery committee
- Work with other agencies
- UMCOR on UMVIM committee and UMVIM on UMCOR committee ✓
- Communicate structure, don't wait till disaster strikes
- Roles and relationship needs to be clearly defined within conference structure

- Continuity of on site leadership, reporting of whats been done,
- Have leadership team from UMCOR take charge initially and train locals for taking over
- Be involved in VOAD

IV. What does the collaboration between UMCOR and UMVIM mean for MY role in disaster ministry?

- Understand we are working together
- Disaster resources consultant, communication✓
- Recognize we are not in it by ourselves, we all have specific roles to play, God has a story to tell and we need to step up to the plate and carry out role
- DR doesn't have to coordinate volunteers on top of all other responsibilities
- Educate VIM Task force about response protocol
- COMMUNICATE✓✓
- Need to make a more integrated relationship. A/C will need to do cross-training, may need to reorganize✓
- I must learn to trust my colleagues.
- VIM needs to be part of the conversation around the table so pre-existing resources can be utilized

V. How can we prevent good intentions from harming those we seek to serve?

- Remember for whom we are in ministry. "It's not about me"
- Training-leadership, teach sensitivity in midst of the work, follow up with teams that cause harm✓
- Onsite supervision
- Training of volunteers
- Educate conferences and local churches about what is appropriate response✓✓✓
- Invited, servant hood, discipleship
- Be transparent so that everyone knows what everyone else is doing.
- Get CERT training
- Share the disaster response manuals

Break Out Session Two

After lunch, the new Protocol for UMVIM/UMCOR in disaster response was outlined to the group. Small groups were then asked to discuss the protocol.

I. How can we make this work?

- Top-down buy- in
- Remember our focus-Christ
- Understand ICS✓
- Membership of JDVMT- need prerequisites from UMCOR, experienced responders✓ consultant
- Check list of abilities and experiences
- Know how to host unsolicited volunteers

- Pre-plan housing for relief and long term recovery volunteers
- Uniform expectations in training, paperwork✓
- Team membership: Bishops advice? Prior experience? Experts in volunteer management?✓✓✓
- Consistent communication
- Credentialing?✓
- Educate Bishop/Cabinet
- Need a Database of ERT's✓
- Evaluation tool and debriefing tool
- Flexibility to adapt to each conference

II. What will be needed for training and collaboration?

- Criteria for selection:
- Experience, people skills, processing skills, VIM coordinator, DRC, diversity,
- Certification
- Badges, pictures, shots
- Cut off date for accomplishing this team
- Table-top, networking✓
- Strengthen statement with Bishops✓
- Conferences need separate UMVIM, UMCOR (DRC) positions that are cross trained
- Add to UMVIM team leader training
- ERT standard manual/curriculum✓
- Database of trainers
- Minimum standards of training for ERT's
- Safe sanctuary checks
- Annual meetings, table tops