



FLORIDA PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

In Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PCUSA)



FLAPDAN Coordinator's Report

July 28, 2011

Greetings!

I hope this update finds you well, and prepared. We're two months into hurricane season, and so far... so good. But August and September are the most active months and the National Hurricane Center predictions are calling for a very active season. Make sure your church and family plans are in place and the needs of most vulnerable in your congregations are included in your plan. Many churches and presbyteries have used Peace River Presbytery's Disaster Plan as a model for their own plan. This document has been recently revised, and those changes can be found at www.peacriverpresbytery.org. Click on the Disaster Response "learn more" link at the bottom of the page. Is it time to update your plan?

Our semi-annual FLAPDAN meeting in May was graciously hosted by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. Our main order of business was to finalize the revisions to our Network Agreement. It has now been sent to PDA and Synod for their input and approval. Our next meeting will be held in October via conference call in order to help save on travel costs.

I have been to several trainings and conferences during May and June. I attended Presbyterian Disaster Assistance training with the National Response Team at their Annual Meeting in Montreat. Training included Disaster Preparation for Middle Governing Bodies, Emotional and Spiritual Care and Compassion Fatigue.

I represented Florida VOAD and PDA at the National VOAD conference in Kansas City. My training track addressed VOAD leadership and long-term recovery. My time at the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference included workshops on long-term recovery and our Florida VOAD annual meeting. I have been re-elected as Vice Chair.

I also participated in Tri-County VOAD's (Osceola, Orange and Seminole) "Whole Community Functional Exercise" in Central Florida. It's always great to share with local community, governmental, faith-based and private sector groups what PDA and FLAPDAN do and how we all fit together in the whole scheme of disaster response. And it's also great to network with my colleagues from around the state and make new connections.

I presented on the topic of community preparedness and response at Peace Presbyterian Church in Lakewood Ranch in June, along with representation from Manatee County American Red Cross and Manatee COAD. If churches are interested in learning how they can become part of a local COAD or VOAD, please contact me to schedule a presentation. Other local meetings included the Lee County Long Term Recovery Committee and the American Red Cross.

I will have a FLAPDAN and PDA display at the Presbyterian Women in Central Florida Bible Study Retreat in August. I have been invited to speak at their Annual Gathering in January. I will also be attending an upcoming training on Volunteer and Donations Management in Collier County.

The last bit of news is that I am relocating to Gainesville this weekend. It will be great to be there for many reasons, and I am looking forward to networking more in the upper part of the state. The move will also save some travel expense for state meetings, as I will be more centrally located. The FLAPDAN phone numbers and email will remain the same (see below).

Be Prepared. Be Safe. Go Gators!

In partnership,



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