



## Fall 2022 Report to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference UCC

October 11, 2022



Do you know that the PA Southeast Conference Consistory voted in September that the Conference would become “Willing to Respond” when a Disaster strikes?

What does that mean? I believe it says that the Conference has a desire to become more prepared for disasters, both to protect our churches, our assets, our members, and to extend love to our neighbors in times of crisis. It also means that we have joined an ever-growing list of UCC churches and Conferences who are joining this network. So far these churches in the PSEC have joined the network: Zion Maxatawny, Kutztown; St. Mark’s, Cressona; and St. John’s, Orwigsburg. There might be others that I have not heard about yet. You can learn more at [www.willingtorespond.org](http://www.willingtorespond.org).

The Conference has been “willing to respond” in many ways for a long time. I am grateful for the support that the work of the Disaster Coordinator and team receives. The Conference has stepped up to serve as the financial sponsor for the Eastwick project and will also do the same in our work in response to Hurricane Ida. The Conference now has a disaster fund. I am also grateful that many of our churches and members contribute to UCC appeals and special offerings.

One of the major ways that our churches participate in our work is by assembling CWS Emergency Clean-Up Buckets and other kits. We are appreciative of the churches who serve as drop off points. I am happy to report that in the past week more than 150 buckets and 50 kits have gone to Florida to support the clean up there from Ian. It is important that we continue to put these buckets and kits together to replenish our inventory.

One of the other ways our churches can support our work is with volunteer work teams and/or individual volunteers. We continue to have the services of 2 national UCC Partners of Service: Ms. Eileen SanPedro, an Eastwick resident, who serves as the construction site manager and Sharon Sgriccia, who serves as the Volunteer Manager. Both are currently supporting our work in Eastwick. More volunteers are needed for these one-day rebuild experiences. Shenkel Church and Zwingli Church have supplied some recent volunteers. Contact Sharon at [isaiasrecoveryvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:isaiasrecoveryvolunteers@gmail.com) for available dates and times. Other opportunities exist throughout the United States. More information is available at [www.ucc.org/disaster](http://www.ucc.org/disaster).

Our work in response to Hurricane Ida is in high gear.

1. In cooperation with our colleagues, we have formed a regional Long Term Recovery Committee which covers Philadelphia, Montgomery, Chester, Bucks, and Delaware counties. Jenny Smith serves as the co-chair of the Emotional and Spiritual Care Sub-Committee.
2. The PSEC is also a partner in the Unmet Needs Roundtable that has been formed by PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). The purpose of this group is to be a forum to receive case presentations from the active case managers about unmet needs of survivors, so that we can pool our resources to meet those needs.
3. Pennsylvania has been given a FEMA grant for a disaster case management program. PAVOAD has received a national UCC grant to support the disaster case management software of National VOAD.

Our work is supported by our UCC Disaster Minister, Lesli Remaly, and other staff at Global HOPE at the national church.

If you would like me or someone else from the Team to come to your church for worship or an educational event, please reach out to me. Thank you for your support of disaster ministries in southeast PA.

Shalom,  
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