

To All East Central District Clergy and Laity:

I have just returned from a survey of the damage in the East Central District from the Tornados that ripped through Central Florida early Friday morning. Earlier this morning, Marilyn Beecher, our Church and Community Worker, called together our East Central District Disaster Response Team for a meeting in New Smyrna Beach. Here is our report and how you can instruct your congregation to respond to the needs in our area.

Damage Report

All the Pastors and their families are fine and none of the Churches in the East Central District had damage.

In the East Central District, the tornados went through Hontoon, Lake Beresford and Hawthorne Hills in the DeLand area, touched down in Forest Hills and then hit the Isleboro and Turnbull Estates neighborhoods in New Smyrna Beach.

Current Ways To Help

Work Teams

It is best if the Team Leader and members have had Early Response Team training. Florida Conference IDs and tee-shirts should be worn if possible. Groups need to be self-sufficient bringing your own food, water, tools and supplies.

- New Smyrna Beach
Early Response Teams are needed immediately for tarping, cleanup and chainsaw work. This is being coordinated with the City of New Smyrna Beach. Teams will meet at First UMC, New Smyrna Beach (310 Douglas Street) to be deployed. Meals may be available for teams by the middle of the week.

Work Team Supervisors are needed!

To volunteer, contact Kay Wingard at 386-566-5091 or sue@Jesusatcovenant.org.

- DeLand
The neighborhoods affected are still closed but a few teams from the area churches have been allowed in to begin the cleanup. The local leadership team expects the neighborhoods to be open for volunteers within a couple of days.

To sign up, contact the Church office at First UMC, DeLand at 386-734-5113.

- Hontoon and Forest Hills
These neighborhoods are still closed and we are assessing options.

Donations

Food can be delivered to:

- Halifax Urban Ministry, 215 Bay Street, Daytona Beach Phone: 386-252-0156
- Second Harvest Food Bank, 2008 Brengle Ave, Orlando Phone: 407-295-1066

Supplies can be delivered to:

- First UMC, 310 Douglas St, New Smyrna Beach Phone: 386-428-6252
- Trinity UMC, 306 W. Wisconsin Ave, DeLand Phone: 386-734-4425

Supplies needed at the moment include: furring strips (1x2x6 or 8 feet), roofing nails, garbage bags.

Financial Contributions can be sent to:

United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) or the Florida Conference Storm Center through the Florida Conference Treasurer.

We will keep you informed about the immediate needs for the Feb. 2 tornados and the continuing needs for those impacted in the Christmas Day tornados. Thank you for your prayers, concern and assistance.

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