



OUR CHURCH

OUR FAITH

OUR PEOPLE

OUR WORLD

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Disaster Relief: Overview

Overview News & Stories

BACKGROUND

The [United Methodist Committee on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#) is the not-for-profit humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church. Since 1940 UMCOR's mission-- providing relief in disaster areas, aiding refugees and confronting the challenge of world hunger and poverty-- has helped to heal the hurts of humanity in nearly 100 countries. UMCOR maintains a corps of trained disaster response specialists for quick reinforcement of national efforts and keeps a supply of relief materials in warehouses for dispatch when and where required. It also trains disaster response specialists in their own countries as part of a global ministry by a global church and works in partnership with other international agencies.

WHERE THE UMC STANDS

The ministry of all Christians consists of service for the mission of God in the world. The mission of God is best expressed in the prayer that Jesus taught his first disciples: Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. All Christians, therefore, are to live in active expectancy: faithful in service of God and their neighbor; faithful in waiting for the fulfillment of God's universal love, justice, and peace on earth as in heaven.

Pending this time of fulfillment, the ministry of all Christians is shaped by the teachings of Jesus. The handing on of these teachings is entrusted to leaders who are gifted and called by God to appointed offices in the church: some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12). For these persons to lead the church effectively, they must embody the teachings of Jesus in servant ministries and servant leadership. Through these ministries and leadership, congregations of the church are faithfully engaged in the forming of Christian disciples and vitally involved in the mission of God in the world.

— Excerpt from "Mission as Active Expectancy," [The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2008](#)

WHAT WE'RE DOING IN THE WORLD

The United Methodist Church is uniquely situated to respond to disasters because we have churches (mission stations) in every county and in almost every town and village across the United States. We also have a worldwide Methodist connection with annual conferences, central conferences, and autonomous partner churches on five continents. Most of the time, even before the area bishop or the annual conference officials contact the United Methodist Committee on Relief disaster-response office, the UMCOR network manager is on the phone trying to ascertain the damage and offering to give assistance to affected communities. [\[more\]](#)

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