

**RES 26-02 | DISASTER RESPONSE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH - UPDATED**

SUBJECT: Disaster Response Preparations in the Local Church  
SUBMITTED BY: Disaster Response Task Force  
ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT: No additional funds needed  
SOURCE OF STAFF TIME: None

WHEREAS, California, Hawaii, Guam, and the Mariana Islands are within the boundaries of the California-Pacific Conference, and are subject to a wide variety of natural and human-caused disasters, including wildfires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, and others, and

WHEREAS both Hawaii and California churches have had disasters in the last 3 years that have caused severe damage or the catastrophic loss of church buildings, and

WHEREAS each year it has become a certainty that disasters of some form will happen within the conference boundaries wherein a declaration of a state and/or federal emergency is made on behalf of displaced persons who are members, constituents, or part of the communities served by local United Methodist congregations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that every local congregation shall have in place a disaster response plan (sometimes called a “Disaster Plan of Action”) that sets how the church responds to disasters that may affect its properties, parishioners, and communities, and that such plan shall be included in annual Charge Conference Forms, updated as needed annually and shall share that plan with its District Office and the Disaster Response Task Force,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each local congregation shall designate a member or committee to oversee the implementation of the plan, which shall include at least one member of its Board of Trustees. The member and/or committee shall participate in and coordinate disaster training for church staff, disaster preparedness training for the congregation, and the development of a communications network within the congregation for reporting to the pastor or pastoral care team on the well-being of members,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Conference’s Disaster Response Task Force, as an organization of the Justice & Compassion Essential Ministry Team, shall assist local churches in the creation of such plans, providing training, exemplars, review and feedback to help local churches create and maintain said plans and to implement them during and after disasters.