

How to Form a Congregational Preparedness Plan

Task 4: Inventory of the Assets of the Congregation

The leaves are starting to sprout, tulips are blooming, and that means only one thing: disaster season is upon us. And what's more — Iowa hasn't seen a large disaster in a while, which means this year is at an exceptionally high risk of tornado or flooding.

As we enter into the disaster season, is your congregation equipped to respond? What can you offer to those in need around you, or to those across the state?

One way to answer these questions is to take a few minutes and fill out an asset inventory. The best way to help in times of disaster is to ensure good practices now. Here are some assets to review. (For fuller descriptions, refer to the *Congregational Disaster Preparedness Plan (CDPG)*, available at www.neiasynod.org/disaster-response.)

HUMAN ASSETS

- You need a current printed directory. If your power is out, your printer won't work and your laptop will have limited battery life.
- Use your directory to note if members have disaster-related skills or assets. For example, are they first responders, Stephen Ministers, counselors, background check certified, etc.

PHYSICAL ASSETS

- Keep an updated list of the physical property, including church records and data systems. Take pictures or video

of all assets. Keep this list in a fireproof safe or better yet, at an offsite location. If your church building catches fire or is blown away, this list will be an invaluable resource.

- Use the above list to identify equipment that will benefit a disaster response, e.g. vehicles, generator, kitchen, shower, etc.

FINANCIAL ASSETS

- What accounts, investments, lines of credit and loans do you have? Where are they located? Who can access them?
- Where are the financial records and how are they backed up?
- What steps does the congregation take to ensure that the funds are protected from mismanagement?
- What steps are necessary for the congregation to gather and

distribute disaster-related donations of funds or supplies?

MINISTRY ASSETS

- What ministries do you have going on a regular basis at your congregation?
- Which of these ministries could be modified to benefit a disaster response? For example, a quilting group might have blankets nearby, a home repair ministry would have a team already in place to help rebuild, a food pantry has food and distribution ability already in place, a weekly dinner ministry has the cooking team already in place, etc.

— Pastor Ron Mathews
Disaster Response Network



Welcome Seminary Graduates

Kristen Briner Wipperman will earn a master of divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary in May 2015. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in sociology from Central Missouri State University. She served as an intern at St. Paul, Wellsburg. Wipperman's husband, Gary, is an assistant vice president for information technology. Wipperman is seeking a call.



Joel Becker earned his master of divinity from Luther Seminary at St. Paul, Minn., in 2014. He has a bachelor's degree in communications/mass communication from Wartburg College and served as an intern at St. Timothy, Hudson. His wife, Joy, is a college mathematics professor. They have three children. Becker is seeking a call.

