**DISASTER RESOURCE AND RESPONSE TEAM**

Nationally, UCC Disaster Ministries is part of National VOAD (Volunteers Active in Disaster). In the year since I was appointed Conference Disaster Coordinator, we have established a Disaster Resource and Response team comprised of: Our team is: Rev. Ian Lynch, Rev. Sue Burgess, Rev. Bruce Burnham, Zebulon Green, Rev. Pamela Kittredge, and Rev. Estelle Margarones.. We’ve been extremely busy!

UH-OH. IT’S A DISASTER! (WHAT NOW?!)

Our team wrote the Conference Disaster Plan and the Conference Board approved it. This plan outlines the details of our emergency response plan. Find the plan on our webpage: Disaster Ministries - Maine Conference United Church of Christ (maineucc.org

WE’VE GOT YOUR BACK!

Our team is here for the churches and members of the Conference. We created and shared a video to introduce our team to the wider Conference at Annual Meeting 2022. We shared a second video and a brief presentation at several Association spring meetings in 2023.

PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR YOUR TOOLBOX!

We’ve written and curated content for our newly launched team webpage. We regularly share articles/links through the All Conference Email and Maine Conference UCC Facebook page. Team members have taken continuing education workshops pertinent to disasters and we share our learnings through the Conference.

WE’VE BEEN HELPING OTHERS!

We offered to be of service to our UCC neighbors Canada after Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and PEI were hit by a hurricane in 2022. In 2023, after Vermont experienced terrible floods, we shared their needs for housing and for flood relief donations with our churches.

WORKSHOPS!

At Annual Meeting, we will offer two hands-on workshops where we’ll share preparedness basics and give participants the chance to begin building their church emergency plans.

GET INVOLVED!

Our team members have experience in long term recovery groups, chaplaincy, trauma, mission trips, and more. We welcome new members—clergy and laity from around the state--no experience necessary! Email DisasterMinistry@MaineUCC.org with questions, comments, resources, and/or to join the team!

SPECIAL THANKS!

We thank the Conference Board, Association Moderators, and CM Marisa Laviola for their support. Special thanks to Rev. Doug Dunlap for his tenure on the team. We are especially grateful to Nate Blanchard, Alexis Fuller-Wright, and Anne Hodgeman for their help with the website, ACE, and Facebook.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Estelle Margarones, Conference Disaster Coordinator