

Resolution on DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Submitted by the Department of Mission 2012

WHEREAS God has promised, that if we “satisfy the needs of the afflicted...Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” Isaiah 58: 10, 12, and

WHEREAS God calls us to comfort God’s people. Isaiah 40:1, and

WHEREAS the Disaster Ministries Guidelines of the United Church of Christ state that “Each Conference, drawing upon the gifts of its local congregations, determines how best to serve as denominational and ecumenical partners, and witnesses of hope when disasters occur in their geographic area. A network of Conference Disaster Coordinators assists in developing preparedness measures before crises occur. Coordinators help to organize volunteers for clean-up and rebuilding efforts; as well as participate in response and long term recovery efforts in communities affected by natural disasters.” and

WHEREAS “We look ... to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper us in creative and redemptive work in the world.” Constitution and Bylaws of The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, Preamble. and

WHEREAS in Tropical Storm Irene on August 28, 2011, we saw the great and immediate need for a prepared response in the face of disaster;

25 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ
26 will put into place structures and policies that will enable it to respond quickly and effectively in
27 time of need. To that end :

28 1. The Conference will establish, train, equip and maintain a Vermont Conference Disaster
29 Response Team (VTCDRT) that will report to the Department of Missions Council and oversee
30 Disaster Preparedness

31 2. The VTCDRT, working with National UCC Disaster Ministries and local partners will:

- 32 • Recruit and train local volunteers for the work of disaster response
- 33 • Seek host churches for out-of state disaster response volunteers
- 34 • Assist churches in preparing for disaster, providing training and resources for
 - 35 ○ increasing physical and fiscal resilience for church properties,
 - 36 ○ increasing the capacity of churches to assist in time of disaster,
 - 37 ○ helping churches equip their members to be prepared for disaster.
- 38 • Have in place a plan to identify and respond to immediate and long-term disaster
39 recovery needs.
- 40 • Provide educational resources and training opportunities for effective Disaster
41 Response and Recovery Ministries.
- 42 • Be represented on VTVOAD (Vermont Voluntary Organizations Assisting in
43 Disasters). and

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference, through the VTCDRT, will ask each
45 Association to appoint liaisons to local/regional Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs)
46 and the VTCDRT. and

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference, through the VTCDRT, will ask each
48 Local Church to:

- 49 • Form a Local Church Disaster Response Team (LCDRT) and/or appoint a
50 coordinator and a contact person for the VTCDRT
- 51 • Explore ways to be helpful in times of disaster including becoming a community
52 shelter, seeking volunteers willing to be trained in disaster response, becoming a
53 host church for volunteers
- 54 • Provide resources to help members, friends, and the community to be better
55 equipped before disaster strikes
- 56 • Have a liaison to its local Town Emergency Management Group
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