

Disaster Relief Policy

Policy Statement

This policy establishes guidance for disaster relief efforts conducted by the church on behalf of its members, neighbors, and the community.

Inclusions and Exclusions

All pastors, ministers, employees, and volunteer leaders of the church are governed or influenced by this policy. There are no specifically excluded individuals, groups, or departments to this policy.

Stewardship

The Senior Pastor of the church is responsible for the management of this policy. The Executive Pastor of the church provides practical administration of this policy. The Board of the church is authorized to make changes to the scope and detail of this policy in accordance with the bylaws of the church.

Body

An important role of the church is to provide resources for its members, neighbors, and community during times of disaster. Relief efforts to its members are a privilege of the church family, and offer an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ and provide practical resources to help strengthen the family and minimize loss. Relief efforts to neighbors and the community provide the extra benefit of enhancing the reputation of the church, bring glory to Christ, and provide meaningful resources that can help rebuild and safeguard families.

Disaster relief efforts can be provided in many different forms, and are commensurate with the availability of resources and the number of church members that can devote themselves to the project. The first point of contact when proposing disaster relief efforts should be the Senior Pastor or his designee. In many cases, a team or committee of church leaders will manage disaster relief efforts, but the Senior Pastor should always be consulted before a commitment of resources is made on behalf of the church. This maximizes the opportunity to coordinate efforts in an efficient manner and enables the Senior Pastor to serve as a spokesman for the church.

The nature of a particular disaster may create an opportunity to use the church facility as a distribution point for resources, or in some cases to provide shelter or a gathering point for members of the community. The church generally welcomes the use of facilities or resources in this manner, but coordination of efforts and allocation of resources must be done through the church office by the Senior Pastor or his designee. Members of the church should refrain from making commitments to public and private agencies with respect to use of church property or resources until the opportunity has been presented to church leadership and a decision made as to how to best provide these services.

In the case where church facilities or resources are offered for use by the community, applicable committees and organizations of the church should be notified and a plan made to ensure the safety and security of facilities and resources. It is likely that church organizations and teams such as security, ushers & greeters, deacons, etc. will need to be mobilized to maximize effectiveness, and the Senior Pastor or his designee should coordinate this allocation of resources.

Forms and Instructions

None

Signatures

Senior Pastor

Treasurer

Secretary