

Peace River Presbytery's
2015 HURRICANE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Immediately prior to an event (2 days)

1. Broadcast fax and e-mail to church offices a pastoral letter and the protocol.
2. Presbytery office takes steps to prepare for alternate location if necessary.
3. Presbytery staff and the Hurricane Task Force Moderators (HTF) share proposed shelter location arrangements. (where will they go if unable to stay at home or church).

During

BE SAFE

Immediately following an event

1. Presbytery staff and the Hurricane Task Force Moderators are in touch with each other.
2. Initial calls are made by unaffected members of the Hurricane Task Force leadership team.
3. General Presbyter will make pastoral visits to pastors of affected churches as soon as safe and possible.
4. The 1st or 2nd contact person from each affected church will call the Presbytery office to give initial assessment to the Hurricane Task Force Moderator of their church, staff, and congregation.
5. 48 hours (the 2nd day) after a storm at 3:00 p.m., all pastors in the affected area will meet at one of the following:
 - ▶ **First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton**
 - ▶ **Presbyterian Center, North Port**
 - ▶ **Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples**
 - ▶ **Church of the Palms, Sarasota**
 - ▶ **Cypress Lake Fort Myers**

to check-in with a coordinator from the Hurricane Task Force leadership team, talk about next steps, and pray.

6. 72 hours (3 days) after an event, all members and other concerned folk will meet at the Presbyterian Center (if damaged, then Church of the Palms, Sarasota, or Moorings, Naples) for debriefing, prayer, and beginning recovery work.

Congregational/Pastor Responsibilities of Affected Congregations

1. Key people in the congregation should have a similar plan as Presbytery above.
 - a) Send out information to the congregation.
 - b) Alternate location for operation.
 - c) Where they will be if evacuated – contact information, etc.
2. Have a plan (such as a buddy system by deacons) for your most vulnerable members, i.e. who will contact them to make sure they are okay.
3. 24, 48, and 72 hours after a storm at 5:00 p.m., members who can will meet at the church for prayer, check in, communication, coordination, and need sharing.
4. ASAP, either the pastor or designated contact person will call 1-800-736-4888 to let the Presbytery staff know how you are.
5. Pastor, Business Manager, Trustees of a particular congregation will begin its triage (secure its building ASAP).
6. As soon as possible, hold a church staff meeting.
7. As soon as possible, the Moderator of Session will call a Session meeting.

ESSENTIAL CONTACT NUMBERS

Graham Hart: 941-539-3235 (cell); 941- 924-3418 (home); graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

Bruce Wismer: 941-356-3406 (cell); 941-925-0863 (home); wismerbk@verizon.net

Jim Kirk: 239-571-4649 (cell/home); 239-774-6151 (office); jimkirk12122234@gmail.com