

To: Jill Olinger, Chair of IKC Board of Directors

Date: April 15, 2020

From: Greg Denk, Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team Director

Ref: 2020 DPRMT Annual Report

Dear Jill,

The IKC Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) met seven times in the past 12 months to discuss disaster preparedness and response. Two meetings were held at the conference office while the other five meetings were via Zoom teleconferencing. Our focus was centered on preparedness and long-term recovery. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have become involved with first response working with the IKC staff, Board of Directors, and Insurance Board offering assistance in keeping the churches and pastors informed of best practices through this crisis.

With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team has completed the following tasks:

- 1) Participated in the design of the inquiry form for the IKC COVID-19 Response Survey.
- 2) Delivered all the PPE supplies in the DPRMT storage facility at Ellenberger UCC to Community Health Networks. This included N95 masks, disposable surgical masks, and fiber coveralls.
- 3) Approved the transfer of \$20,000.00 of the DPRMT Preparedness Funds to the IKC General Fund. With the expectation of reduced giving over the several months following the COVID-19 outbreak, these additional funds could help support the staff and ongoing ministries of the IKC.
- 4) Initiated a conference-wide cloth face mask sewing project upon the recommendation of the IKC Board. Each IKC church was encouraged to participate in supplying their homemade masks to health care facilities and personnel in their communities.
- 5) Offered the IKC churches assistance in preparing their Paycheck Protection Project (PPP) Borrower Application Form. This form allows churches to seek SBA loans to cover the payroll for their employees.

As of the date of this writing, there are ten preparedness resources on the IKC Disaster Ministries webpage. The UCC Disaster Ministries in conjunction with the Insurance Board provided one resource, "A Disaster Preparedness Manual for Churches." The DPRMT contributed preparedness information for that manual.

For the past several months, the DPRMT has made resources available to churches to help them develop a Church Emergency/Safety Plan. One resource was a plan developed by a church in the Indianapolis area to be offered as a template for churches to develop their own personalized plan. The goal for the DPRMT this next year is to have an Emergency/Safety Plan in place for the IKC. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has impressed upon us the need for this type of plan in our conference and our churches. The DPRMT is available to assist the churches with their plans.

A table was reserved at the 2019 IKC Annual Gathering that displayed the five facets of the DPRMT with an emphasis on church and individual disaster preparedness before a disaster strikes. Active Shooter Pocket Cards available through the FEMA website were distributed to those in attendance.

Along with preparedness, our long-term recovery work has been focused on promoting work camps for this summer and assembling CWS emergency clean-up buckets for this fall. The first project is a work camp (June 21-26, 2020) in partnership with Christian Appalachian Project to eastern Kentucky. This project is not related to a natural disaster event, but is intended to help rebuild homes in poverty-stricken communities. The second is a work camp project because of a natural disaster. The DPRMT will be

sending volunteers over a two-week period (July 19-Aug. 1, 2020) to the Dayton, OH area to rebuild homes destroyed by tornadoes in the fall of 2019. The third project was presented as a challenge to each association of the IKC to assemble CWS emergency clean-up buckets by mid-October. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, any or all of these three projects may be postponed or cancelled.

As a means to provide identification and assurance to our clients receiving disaster recovery assistance, the entire team have received badges with their picture, name and the IKC DPRMT identification. Each members has also been through the Praesidium background check protocol.

The DPRMT also met with Amanda Sheldon, UCC Disaster Ministries & Refugee Ministry Program Associate in mid-February to discuss the relationship we have with the national setting. Included in that discussion was how the DPRMT could improve our effectiveness in the IKC by using resources available through the national setting.

The ten members of the DPRMT reside throughout Indiana and Kentucky. These team members continue to offer their services to make presentations to local churches, as well as Fall and Spring Association meetings. The IKC Disaster Response Facebook page is active with postings several time a month. This page has been linked to the IKC Facebook page to improve its visibility. The DPRMT periodically provides articles for the IKC Community News promoting disaster response activities available to our churches and volunteers. As of March 31, 2020, our Disaster Preparedness Fund had a balance of \$26,112.74, of which \$20,000.00 was depleted in early April as noted above.

Several members of this team participate in the monthly meetings and conference calls of the Indiana VOAD and Kentucky VOAD organizations. The DPRMT members also continue to be involved in the meetings of the Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) in Indiana and local Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) in Kentucky in the counties where they reside. We continue to encourage disaster training for our team members. A team member presented a case management training workshop to the team. Three members became certified Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. One member also has trained for and received a ham radio general license. Another member has completed Conflict Management Training through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center and was certified through the Indiana State Police in facilitating faith-based communities in how to connect with each other while navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic.

This writer attended the 2019 National VOAD Conference in Nashville, TN in May 6-9, 2019 and the 2020 UCC Disaster Coordinators Annual Conference teleconference on March 16-17, 2020, as well as participated in the bi-monthly UCC Disaster Coordinator conference calls.

We continue to encourage every church in the UCC to provide the DPRMT with at least one person from their church to act as their local church disaster coordinator so we can contact them directly and expeditiously in the event of a disaster in their church or community. Progress is slow, but names are being added to that list. As of this date, 17 churches are represented.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Gregory J. Denk  
IKC Disaster Coordinator  
IKC DPRMT Director