

To: Jill Olinger, Chair of IKC Board of Directors

Date: April 05, 2021

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

Ref: April 2020-March 2021 DPRMT Annual Report

Dear Jill,

The IKC Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) met seven times virtually in the past 12 months to discuss disaster preparedness and response. Due to the pandemic, our goal of offering a one-week work camp in Eastern Kentucky and a two-week work camp in Dayton, Ohio was cancelled. As safe alternatives, the DPRMT promoted a couple of projects. The first project, a cloth facemask initiative, continued in earnest with many of our churches participating. Over 13,900 hand sewn cloth masks were donated as of the end of August. The second project, the assembling of CWS Emergency Clean-up Buckets, was moved to our congregants' homes since the Fall Association in-person gatherings went virtual. A total of 68 buckets were donated and delivered to a CWS depot in October. Also, a \$480.00 donation was directly mailed to CWS by one of the IKC churches in lieu of assembling buckets.

The DPRMT acquired 5,500 washable cloth masks infused with silver and copper from the Department of Health and Human Services. These masks were distributed to homeless shelters, food banks and pantries, Indiana State Police chaplains, the Habitat for Humanity organizations, and health care facilities. In addition, 2,000 disposable paper masks were purchased for the clients at a homeless shelter.

As the pandemic was worsening, we focused on immediate IKC needs. Three documents were prepared in collaboration with the conference staff and board of directors: "Mitigation Plan for re-opening churches – Mitigating the Spread," "Church Employee and Volunteer Safety Plan," and "Re-Start of Dormant Water Systems."

The DPRMT welcomes the opportunity to share its resources and programs. In November, a virtual presentation was provided at the Kentuckiana Association Virtual Fall meeting. In addition, the "Emergency Responder Self-Care Plan" was uploaded to the IKC Disaster Preparedness webpage as an additional resource.

Several members of this team participated 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 Disaster (COAD) in Indiana and local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in Kentucky in the counties where they reside.

We continue to encourage disaster training for our team members through on-line courses such as the FEMA Incident Command System (IS-100c & IS-200c) trainings, and the FEMA National Incident Management System (IS-700.b) training. Likewise, some joined in webinars describing flood insurance, flood coverage, and the flood claims process offered by FEMA Regions IV and V. Others participated in a variety of specialized disaster response webinars, such as how to muck and gut a flooded or tornado damaged home. Finally, several participated in the National VOAD Recovery Tools Workshops designed specifically to assist in the establishment of Long Term Recovery Groups, which has immediate implications due to the flooding events on March 1 in Kentucky.

Due to the Ellenberger UCC facility in Indianapolis being rented to another church affiliation beginning January 2021, we were asked to relocate our disaster response tools and supplies. Those tools and supplies were relocated to Immanuel UCC, Indianapolis in late December.

The Disaster Preparedness Fund had a balance of \$8,278.78 as of March 31, 2021, which reflects a total of \$1,900.00 in donations for the past 12 months.

We continue to encourage every church in the IKC to provide the DPRMT with at least one person from their church to act as their local church disaster coordinator. We can then contact the local coordinator directly and expeditiously in the event of a disaster in his or her church or community. We have added three local coordinators this past year, which brings our total to 20.

Our goals for April 2021-March 2022 are as follows:

- 1) Expand our network of local church disaster coordinators.
- 2) Add members to the DPRMT that would provide local representation to regions of Indiana and Kentucky not currently represented.
- 3) Develop a protocol to “Safely Deploying Volunteers During a Pandemic.”
- 4) Update the IKC Disaster Plan to incorporate: 1) a quick response sub-team, 2) expand the geographic boundaries of recovery work beyond Indiana and Kentucky, and 3) address the unmet needs of underserved communities that are not necessarily due to disaster events.
- 5) Develop work camp opportunities in Eastern Kentucky due to the recent March 2021 flooding.

Respectfully submitted,

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