

To: IKC

Date: March 31, 2024

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

Ref: April 2023-March 2024 DPRMT Annual Report

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) has met virtually and/or in-person numerous times to discuss training, preparedness, and work camp opportunities. Members of the DPRMT continue to be active in local, state, and national disaster resource organizations. The DPRMT provided support to local churches in preparedness and training opportunities for the conference. This past year the team made available an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) template along with the funding option through the FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program, awareness of safe church worship workshops including first aid training after an active shooter incident, safety recommendations for the observance of the upcoming April 8 total solar eclipse, and resources to provide Church World Service kits as a local service project. A major aspect of the DPRMT continues to be the ongoing support in disaster recovery throughout Kentucky and Indiana.

The balance of the Disaster Preparedness Fund was \$5,549.28 as of December 31, 2023. There were two major expenses paid through this fund: 1) \$2,000.00 to Amistad Cristiana Center Church, Ft. Wayne, IN for an emergency electrical repair; 2) \$979.57 transferred to the IKC Kentucky Recovery Fund to finance tornado recovery efforts in western Kentucky.

The balance of the IKC Kentucky Recovery Fund was depleted as of December 31, 2023. The final two major expenses were 1) Mayfield Graves County LTRG in the amount of \$54,000 to cover surveying and demolition costs associated with new home construction; 2) Hopkins County LTRG in the amount of \$50,000 to provide funds for five (5) new home builds at \$10,000 each partnering with Fuller Disaster Center.

Several grants to Kentucky and Indiana communities were awarded through the UCC Disaster Ministries Global H.O.P.E. ministry. For western Kentucky, \$45,000.00 in grants were awarded to communities in response to the December 2021 tornadoes. An additional \$59,072.00 in grants were awarded to eastern Kentucky communities in response to the July 2022 floods. Finally, a \$20,000 grant was awarded to the Sullivan County LTTRC in response to the March 2023 tornado. In February 2024, the IKC DPRMT was awarded \$20,000 to continue the disaster recovery efforts throughout Indiana and Kentucky.

Along with the UCC financial support provided to Kentucky, the DPRMT organized 10 work camps in eastern and western Kentucky from April 2023 through March 2024. A total of 149 volunteers donated 5,890 hours of labor repairing 27 homes. Six additional work camps are currently scheduled through June 2024.

With the March 14, 2024 tornado outbreak in several counties in Indiana and Kentucky, the DPRMT is currently exploring ways the IKC can assist with the recovery efforts. This may come in the form of organizing work camps or assisting with the grant application process for the affected county Long Term Recovery Groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Greg Denk  
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Indiana Kentucky Conference, UCC