

To: IKC

Date: March 31, 2025

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

Ref: April 2024-March 2025 DPRMT Annual Report

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) have been quite active in disaster recovery for the past 12 months. We organized and participated in 5 volunteer outreach events in western Kentucky, 1 in eastern Kentucky, and 2 in central Indiana. The volunteer teams represented 12 churches, some from as far away as Connecticut. A total of 151 volunteers donated 8,652 hours repairing 31 homes. Now that the tornado disaster recovery in western Kentucky and central Indiana have concluded, we are focusing our efforts on eastern Kentucky where flooding in February 2025 has devastated multiple communities. We will be focusing on the three counties of Pike, Perry, and Letcher because arrangements have been made with our housing and long-term recovery partners in those counties. We have 2 volunteer outreach events, previously referred to as work camps, planned for July and have had other churches contact us about volunteering later in the year.

To assist in the disaster recovery work, the IKC-DPRMT received a \$20,000 grant from the national UCC Disaster Ministries Global H.O.P.E. team in 2024. Those funds were used primarily to pay for materials (90%) used in the rebuilding and repair process. The funds from that grant were depleted in November 2024. In February the DPRMT applied for an additional \$20,000 grant from the Global H.O.P.E. team to assist in the 2025 flood recovery in eastern and western Kentucky. We were told in March that they would be sending a check to the IKC for \$20,000 in April 2025. This will be the third \$20,000 grant we have received from the Global H.O.P.E. team since 2022.

In addition, the DPRMT continues to use its own fund to supplement expenses. As of March 31, 2025, the DPRMT Fund had a balance of \$8,652.66. We are most appreciative that donations continue to come in to help us with this important work.

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 and state disaster resource organizations. The DPRMT offers support to local churches in preparedness and training opportunities and had set up a display table at the 2024 IKC Annual Gathering in New Albany, Indiana for better recognition by our churches.

The DPRMT also assisted disaster recovery partners like I.O.C.C. in Marshall County, Kentucky to apply for grants from the UCC Disaster Ministries Global H.O.P.E. team. I.O.C.C. were able to obtain \$35,000 in funds for 2024.

We continue to monitor and update our Disaster Preparedness web page to provide our IKC churches and the wider church with the latest preparedness resources, as well as offer them volunteer outreach opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Greg Denk

Disaster Response Coordinator

Indiana Kentucky Conference, UCC