

Are you ready for this?

Developing Church Disaster Plans

Roundtable Agenda

What is required for a disaster plan?

Rev. John Conway, Minister of Health and Visitation to Central UMC and Graham Road UMC, Arlington District

Why do a church disaster plan? What is required by the Virginia Conference? by the Alexandria/Arlington Districts? What type of disasters should your church be prepared for? What resources in your church can help during disasters in the community?

How can county government help?

Matthew Marquis, Community Engagement Liaison, Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management

David Morrison, Emergency Operations Manager, Arlington Department of Public Safety, Communications, and Emergency Management

Mr. Marquis and Mr. Morrison will discuss how Arlington and Fairfax Counties can assist faith communities to develop disaster plans and coordinate with County emergency response resources and staff. They will describe specific resources available through their respective Counties and will explain the ReadyNOVA webpage, which provides an easy-to-use guide to help faith communities prepare for disasters.

How should a congregation proceed?

Kenn Speicher, Mount Olivet UMC, Mission Coordinator, Arlington District

Mount Olivet's Trustees' Committee recently developed a disaster response plan for the church. How did the planning team develop the disaster response plan? What were the steps taken and priorities selected? Are there suggestions for other churches?

Q&A

Bi-District Congregations Disaster Plan Survey

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Panel Speakers

Rev. John Conway is a commissioned Deacon in the United Methodist Church (UMC), serving in the Arlington District as Minister of Health and Visitation to Graham Road UMC and to Central UMC. He is also one of the District's Chaplains. John comes to ministry in penance after 40 years of law practice. He holds degrees from Tufts University (BA, 1970), Boston University (MBA with honors, 1975), University of Wisconsin (JD with honors, 1978), and Wesley Theological Seminary (M.Div. with honors, 2015). John is married to Marsha Gransee Conway and is blessed with three sons, two daughters and two wonderful grandchildren.

Matthew Marquis is the Community Engagement Liaison with the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management. His focus is on building resilience in the community outside of the local government. He works with volunteer organizations, houses of worship, community-based organizations, homeowners associations, businesses, and other organizations. Matthew graduated from Strayer University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a focus on homeland security, terrorism, and emergency management.

David Morrison is Emergency Operations Manager for Arlington County's Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management. David oversees department programming for emergency planning, training and exercises, outreach, and Emergency Operations Center readiness. He previously served as Arlington County's senior emergency planner, responsible for emergency management planning activities, including intergovernmental responsibilities in Northern Virginia and with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (funded through FEMA's Urban Area Security Initiative). David is an active Arlington resident, serving as a Cub Scout cubmaster, Masonic Lodge member, youth softball and baseball coach, and civic associations and PTA volunteer.

Kenn Speicher is a member of Mount Olivet UMC and mission coordinator for the Arlington District. He serves on the District Board of Missions and the Virginia Conference's Immigration Outreach Committee and Board of Church and Society. Kenn is a cofounder of NOVA Friends of Refugees, a grassroots interfaith network dedicated to assisting, and advocating for refugees. He helped launch the One Journey Festival, the national celebration of refugee resilience and accomplishments. Kenn continues to assist earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti. Kenn has been a career senior marketing strategist and writer with advertising and design firms.