Where Do I Begin?

To get involved, contact your United Methodist Annual Conference **Disaster Response Coordinator** or the **Director of Connectional Ministries**.

"I can't thank you enough for coming to West Ohio Conference… to lead us in the Spiritual and Emotional Care Training. It was truly one of the best trainings I have ever attended provided by the church. I know the new Spiritual Care Team will bless and care for many persons in need in the future."

—Rev. Marla Elifritz Brown, superintendent, Maumee Watershed District, Maumee, Ohio

For more information, contact:

Luz Knight
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
Office of Emergency Services USA
100 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 315
Washington, DC 20002

Tel: 202-548-4002

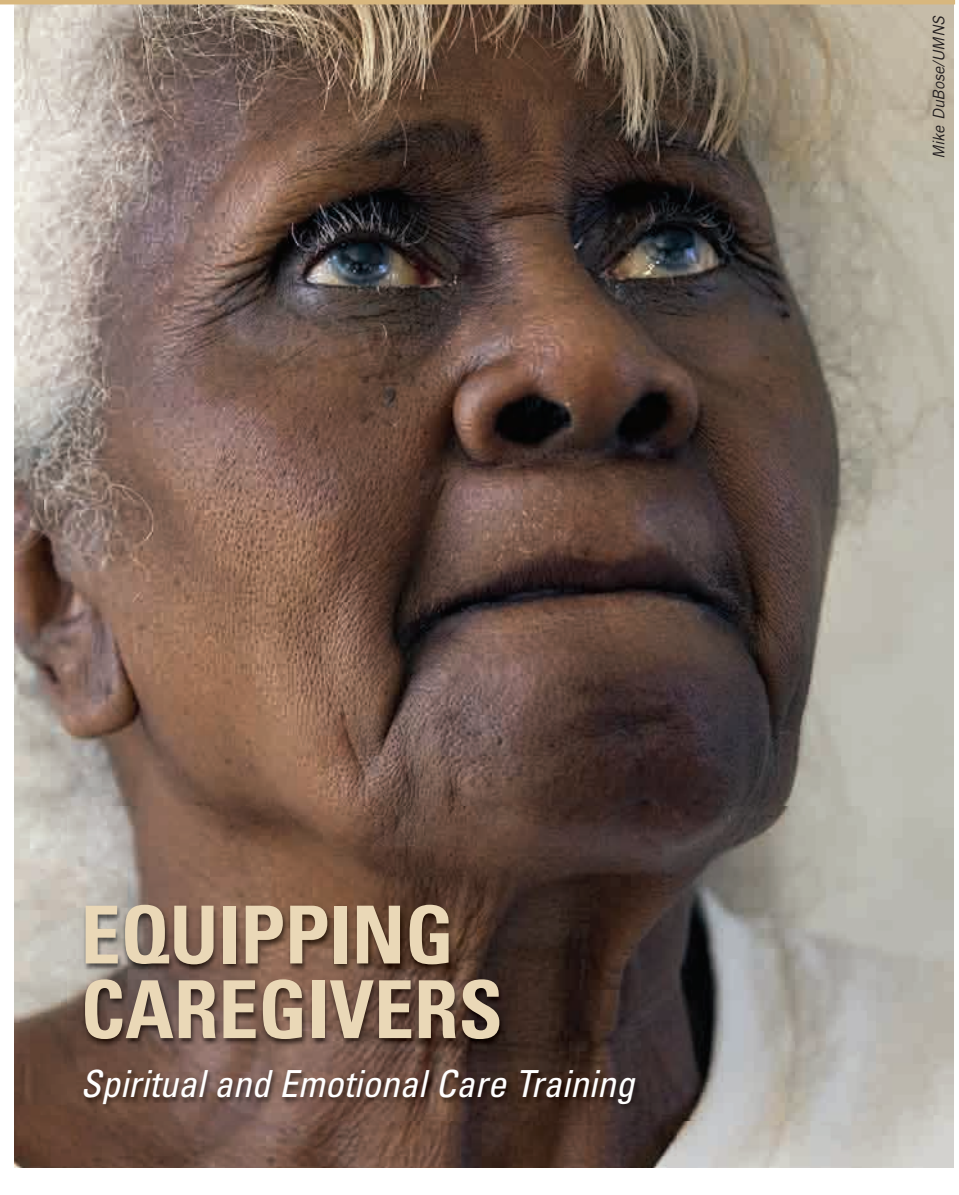
Email: LKnight@umcor.org

www.USemergencies.org

UMCOR
United Methodist Committee On Relief

UMCOR.org

UNITED METHODISTS IN DISASTER MINISTRY



Mike DuBose/UMNS

EQUIPPING CAREGIVERS

Spiritual and Emotional Care Training

UMCOR
United Methodist Committee On Relief

UMCOR.org

"Every individual has a unique spiritual life, even if we do not acknowledge it. Our spiritual lives are intricately woven in our experience. Spiritual and emotional care training through UMCOR helps individuals, congregations, and communities navigate the winding path to new wholeness, while respecting the uniqueness of each person's journey. Every aspect of UMCOR's ministry is undergirded by the spiritual aspect of who we are."

—Rev. Tom Hazelwood, assistant general secretary, UMCOR

A Church Prepared

When disaster strikes, the local church usually provides the first response. This basic understanding that disaster response is local helps form a foundation for UMCOR's national training and response. UMCOR equips United Methodists to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters so that they can be the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world.

Disasters Often Leave Survivors in Spiritual Crisis

Survivors may experience profound uncertainty, an inability to cope, a crisis of faith, or a loss of hope. For many, emotional and spiritual healing are as necessary as physical rebuilding.

The Church Responds

After a disaster, the church reaches out to people within the community to extend a listening ear, a word of comfort, and a caring presence. Trained spiritual and emotional caregivers are better equipped to offer much-needed support and encouragement to survivors.

UMCOR Offers Training

UMCOR may be called upon to assist with training, leadership, and coordination within The United Methodist Church and in cooperation with other faith-based and secular responders. Experienced, skilled, and compassionate UMCOR trainers highlight spiritual care gifts found among members within local churches. UMCOR's training is consistent with guidelines* for faith-based organizations providing spiritual care following disasters.

* National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD) points of consensus for Disaster Spiritual Care: www.nvoad.org

Susan Meister

Boyce Bowden/UMNS

Steven M. Cumming

Care Ministry Team Training

Care Teams are trained faith-based groups that work with their annual conference disaster committee to help survivors connect with emotional, spiritual, and basic life resources.

- *Basic Care Team Training (7 hours)*
  Provides response training on spiritual and emotional care needs of affected individuals, communities, or congregations, and strategies for responders' self-care.
- *Advanced Care Team Leader Training (4 hours)*
  Provides necessary leadership tools and skills during and after deployment.
- *Advanced Congregational Care Team Training (3 hours)*
  Provides practical ideas and a packaged program to use within congregations that have experienced disaster within their communities.

Other Spiritual and Emotional Care Training

- *"The Ministry With Caring" Workshop (6 hours)*
  This workshop participants recognize signs of stress and burnout after a disaster.
- *"Calming After the storm" Workshop (4 hours)*
  This workshop practical information and ideas to help people facing emotional and spiritual challenges after a disaster.