

# First Pres Church of Kingwood

Lake Houston Responds  
Disaster Response

# Houston Responds (HR) Background

Their stated **Mission** is to: Unite, empower and mobilize churches across Greater Houston to expedite long-term recovery and respond to future disasters.

Organization formed after Harvey to provide better response capabilities.

Many churches responded to needs in their areas, but there was a steep learning curve for most churches and some redundant efforts.

Better preparation and coordination between churches would have resulted in more efficiencies and ultimately more people being helped in meaningful ways more quickly.

Detailed info @ <https://www.houstonresponds.org>

# First Pres Participation

Discussions with HR since Harvey led by Doc, Roland and Sam Trobee.

Bill Ford recently named the Disaster Response Coordinator (DRC) for First Pres.

Information gathered from many people on how our church responded to Harvey, Imelda and other Disasters.

Several areas identified where we could organize teams in advance to be able to more effectively respond to future disasters; primarily serving our congregation.

Potential to serve the community through use of Fellowship Hall for supplies etc.

Team Leads and Co-Leads identified for most of the Teams.

# First Pres Teams

<b>Team</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Co-Lead</b>
Staff Liaison	Doc Smith	Roland Zavala
Communication Coordination	Sherry Arrick	Lisa Cummins
Volunteer / Project Coordination	Phil Allison	Kristen Wallace
Pre-event Assistance	Craig Freeman	
Post Disaster Physical Assistance	Coy Campbell	Sam Trobee
Laundry	Craig Freeman	Larry Offenbacher
Supplies / Donation Coordination	Richard Briggs	Clark McCullough
Meals at Church	Ginny Crook	Susie Swaner
Family Photo / Document / Book Recovery	Carol McCullough	Dot Chapman

# First Pres Team Structure

Teams intentionally have a Team Lead and a Co-Lead. In this way, if the Team Lead is not available, the Co-Lead will serve as the lead.

We talked about areas where our church could serve our congregation and our community. First priority would be our own members but as capacity allows, we will serve others in the broader community.

Areas our church could serve the community is likely to be coordination of donations and supplies in the Fellowship Hall.

# Description of Team Roles

**Staff Liaison** Team serves as interface between our Disaster Response Teams and church staff.

**Communication Coordination Team** would coordinate collection of information from Sent Groups (SG) and contact those not in SGs. They would identify both those in need and those able to help. This information would be passed to the other teams and church staff as appropriate.

**Volunteer / Project Coordination Team** would triage and prioritize both those needing assistance and volunteers who are not already part of Teams.

# Description of Team Roles cont.

**Pre-event Assistance Team** would assist those in the congregation that can't make disaster preparations by themselves before an event (e.g. taking down hanging plants or moving patio furniture before expected high winds).

**Post Disaster Physical Assistance Team** would look different depending on what Disaster had occurred. After a flood event, it would primarily be Muck & Gut, but for a wind event it might be cutting trees and clearing brush or tarping roofs.

**Laundry Team** would provide assistance by doing laundry if needed. It could involve people dropping off their wet clothes while volunteers took them to their homes to wash and fold and return to the church. To the extent people want it picked up and/or dropped off, this team would decide if that was practical.

# Description of Team Roles cont.

**Supplies / Donation Coordination Team** would serve in a coordination role. First they would oversee the process for how Teams or people needing supplies would get them from the church. Second, they would coordinate for pick up any donated or church purchased material that would likely be staged in the Fellowship Hall. This might include items such as cleaning supplies and tools but could include things like the SAS shoes that were provided during Harvey.

**Meals at Church Team** would coordinate meals if we as a church decide to provide them - either food for volunteers or meals for those impacted by the event.

**Family Photo / Document / Book Recovery Team** would help folks with damaged photos, books or documents (Plastic bag damaged items; provide freezer space for storage; assist with possible restoration.

# Next Steps

Team Leads and Co-Leads will engage in team recruitment. We are sure that there are many who helped or were helped during the Harvey recovery effort that are willing and able to serve.

The church has a Disaster Relief budget, and funds are available. Teams should coordinate with Doc and Roland for funds to procure supplies either in advance or following an actual disasters.

It may be practical for some teams to mobilize when a disaster happens in our region, but not our neighborhood. Team Leads can reach out to Bill or Bill may reach out to Team Leads when that is a possible way to serve.

Survey members to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to serve.