

Brief Course Descriptions

2018 NEJ Mission Academy

Foundations of Disaster Response

Instructor: Greg Ellis

Prerequisites: None

Class Blocks: 1

Why engage in disaster ministry? What are the phases of disaster? Who are the players? What are the functions and opportunities for volunteers? Where do the resources come from? What are our mission and values? We will address these questions and more! This session is the foundational training that grounds all of our efforts in disaster ministry. If you have not attended this in the past few years, please put this on your schedule!

Spanish Language Track

ERT Basic (en Español / in Spanish)

Instructor: Luis Morales, UMCOR Consultant

Prerequisites: None

Class Blocks: 1-3

Esta clase se ofrecera en español. Los manuales se proporcionaran en español.

This class will be offered in Spanish. Manuals will be provided in Spanish. Become an Early Response Team member! Be part of a team that offers a caring Christian presence as you participate in safely cleaning-up and securing disaster-damaged homes and property. This workshop covers the guidelines that allow ERTs to be productive and caring while causing no further harm or being a burden to the affected community. Other topics include the who, what, when, where, and how of doing ministry, as well as hands-on experience in the specific tasks that early responders are expected to accomplish. Participants must demonstrate competency and pass a background check prior to certification.

ERT 200: Team Leader (en Español / in Spanish)

Instructor: Luis Morales, UMCOR Consultant

Prerequisites: ERT Basic

Class Blocks: 4-5

Esta clase se ofrecera en español. Team Leadership, is designed to be for both leaders and assistant leaders. This class will explore more of what those functions involve as well as what all functions should be doing.

ERT Train-the-Trainer Track

ERT Train-the-Trainer

Instructors: Angela Overstreet, Tom Vencuss - UMCOR Consultants

Prerequisites: Permission of your Conference Disaster Response Coordinator and a current ERT badge

Class Blocks: 1-9

Become an UMCOR-authorized ERT Trainer! Those who successfully complete this course will be able to train ERT Basic within their Annual conference. Those who attend should be willing and able to demonstrate and articulate ERT best practices. Pre-requisites: Recommendation from your conference disaster response coordinator and current ERT badge.

Other Train-the-Trainer Programs

UMVIM Team Leader Train-the-Trainer

Instructor: Tom Lank

Prerequisites: Permission of your Conference UMVIM Coordinator

Class Blocks: 2-5

This class is designed to help those who train UMVIM Team Leaders in their Annual Conference learn best practices from one another and become familiar with the new Team Leader Toolkit. Participants will take turns teaching pieces of the Training and the class will offer feedback and ideas. Each participant will receive the Toolkit in advance and should be familiar with it before the Academy.

Training others in the Ministry of Care

Instructor: Wendy Vencuss

Prerequisites: None

Class Blocks: 6-9

This training prepares participants for their vital role as emotional and spiritual caregivers, working as a team on behalf of their Annual conference, to alleviate suffering of individuals, communities and congregations following disasters. Topics include understanding emotional, spiritual and physical reactions to stressors associated with disasters, ways to respect diversity and boundaries when caregiving, strategies for self-care, and how the Ministry of Care fits into the overall UM disaster response structure. The training will use the newly-developed curriculum and resources produced by UMCOR that leaders can take and use on their own.

Chainsaw Safety Track

Chainsaw Safety

Instructor: Kenneth Glass, Mid-Atlantic STIHL, Product Applications Specialist

Prerequisites: None

Class Blocks: 2-3, repeated 4-5

This class takes place both in the classroom and with outdoor hands-on training. You can bring your own chainsaw and personal protective equipment or borrow them from the instructor. There is no extra cost for this training. This class is NOT sponsored by UMCOR, but may be helpful for those who engage in debris removal using chainsaws. The class will be offered twice on Thursday, once in blocks 2-3 and again in blocks 4-5.

Disaster Preparedness Track

Connecting Neighbors

Instructor: Barbara Burnside, Karin Tunnell

Prerequisites: None

Class Blocks: 2-5

Learn about the context of disaster ministry and how this curriculum can be useful to inspire congregations and communities to be better able to prepare for disaster, and to respond to their neighbors in helpful, cooperative and caring ways on behalf of the church and in the spirit of Jesus Christ. This training includes 3 modules - "Ready Congregants" "Ready Churches" and "Ready Response" to explore personal, congregational, and community readiness for disasters.

Church Safety Awareness and Resources

Instructor: Special Agent Steve Shepherd, FBI - Police Training and FBI National Academy Coordinator

Prerequisites: None

Class Blocks: 6-7

The presentation will provide a historical overview and understanding of active shooter events, pre-event indicators often displayed leading up to these events, and the trajectory to violence by offenders. We will also examine the church dynamic; the identified threats to churches and considerations on understanding the new church safety concept.

Volunteer Hosting & Coordination in Recovery

Instructors: Tom Lank and Ben Botti

Prerequisites: None

Class Blocks: 8-9

Learn to effectively coordinate and support volunteers who are willing to come to your community after a disaster to repair and rebuild.

ERT 200 (in English)

ERT 200: Cleaning Out Flooded Homes

Instructor: Art Mellor

Prerequisites: ERT Basic

Class Blocks: 6-7

Cleaning Out Flooded Homes, more commonly referred to as "mucking out", will talk about current best practices and safety procedures for cleaning out, stabilizing and sanitizing water damaged homes.

ERT 200: On-Site Management

Instructor: TBD

Prerequisites: ERT Basic

Class Blocks: 8-9

On Site Management (OSM) is a class designed to help communities receive ERTs by knowing what should be in place before the invitation is issued. Discussed is what type of

assessments, forms, or other arrangements can be made to speed up the invitation of ERTs to a disaster area.

Saturday Morning Electives

Justice for Our Neighbors

Instructor: Rob Rutland-Brown, Executive Director of National Justice for Our Neighbors

Prerequisites: None

Class Block: 10

National JFON is a United Methodist ministry supported by UMCOR. It supports a hospitality ministry that welcomes immigrants by providing free or low-cost, expert immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. We also engage in advocacy for immigrant justice, and offer education to communities of faith and to the public. Come learn more about this ministry and how you and your congregation can support it.

Puerto Rico: What to Know Before You Go

Instructors: Tom Lank, Tom Vencuss

Prerequisites: None

Class Block: 10

UMCOR has been partnering with the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria landed on September 20, 2017. Come hear an in-depth presentation of how volunteers can become involved, what they can expect once they arrive, and learn more about the context of Puerto Rico's history, politics, and economy.

UMCOR's Relief Supply Network

Instructor: Rob Visscher, Executive Director of Mission Central

Prerequisites: None

Class Block: 10

UMCOR collaborates with a network of United Methodist Relief-Supply Warehouses across the United States. Church donators can send or drop off kits and supplies at the depot nearest to them, assured that their donations will be received and distributed by UMCOR whenever the need arises. Come hear about the network, the work of Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA, and learn how your church or community can host a hub or drop-off site.

Abundant Health Ministry

Instructor: Wendy Vencuss

Prerequisites: None

Class Block: 10

If we can Imagine No Malaria, then we can imagine Abundant Health for all people! The Abundant Health Initiative of the United Methodist Church has a goal of improving health and wholeness for all people through church and community engagement. Specifically it focuses on maternal and children's health, health education, and community development. Come learn more about this vital ministry.