



*The United Methodist Church
The Philadelphia Area Episcopal Office
(Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences)
Bishop Peggy A. Johnson*



29 August 2017

Dear Pen-Del Family,

I know that many of you have watched the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, particularly in Houston, Texas and Louisiana. This is a disaster that will take years from which to recover.

I know have been fervently praying for our sisters and brothers in those areas of catastrophe, but there is more that you can do, that we can do together!

At this time [UMCOR \[United Methodist Committee on Relief\]](#) has asked for financial resources, cleaning buckets and hygiene kits. [Please note that NO OTHER SUPPLIES CAN BE ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME—NO CLOTHING, NO FURNITURE, ETC.]. There are many ways in which you can assist with this:

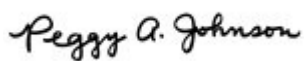
- Each church in our Annual Conference can take a special offering. Checks can be made to your church with the notation US Disaster Advance # 901670 and sent to our Conference office, which will in turn, forward the funds to UMCOR. This will ensure that your church will also receive credit for these donations. Or you can [donate online at UMCOR](#).
- This Labor Day weekend we can make a statement as United Methodists across our Conference --your church can ask a local grocery or market to allow you to collect [supplies for cleaning buckets](#) and [hygiene kits](#). It is a win-win for your church in making its presence known in the community, grocery stores and markets increase their sales AND WE COLLECT DESPERATELY NEEDED SUPPLIES FOR THE DISASTER. Attached you will find:
- [A template for a letter](#) which you can present to the manager of the grocery store [fill in your church's information in appropriate places]. Go today to get your local market involved! Work with your grocery on the appropriate day and time [for instance 10-2]. Begin getting church members to take a shift of one or two hours to do this; if you have church tee shirts—wear them!

- [Supply lists](#) which you can hand out to shoppers as they enter the store [be sure and have some shopping carts ready to receive the items which folks will purchase]. You will be AMAZED at what just four hours in front of a grocery store can help collect. People WANT to help and you are giving them the vehicle by which they can make a difference! You also need to be prepared to truck these supplies back to your church.
- We are working with Christiana HUB and Mission Central to coordinate getting these supplies to the stricken areas and will work with you.
- You can accept checks made to your church with the notation US Disaster Advance # 901670 and sent to our Conference office, which will in turn, forward the funds to UMCOR. This will ensure that your church will also receive credit for these donations.
- [A series of posters which you can adapt for your church in both WORD and PDF form](#)

Your church members can go to www.umcor.org to [learn how to put the kits together](#)—this is a great post-worship activity!

Then contact either Rev. Rich Walton, your conference Disaster Response Coordinator [410-251-5593 and pastorrichwalton@gmail.com], or Rev. Karin Tunnéll, your conference VIM Coordinator [302-668-6685 and pastor@stpaulsodessa.org] to let them know how many kits and supplies you have. They are working on logistics and cooperative efforts for us to assist in this disaster.

Thank you for your servant hearts,



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson