

Colleagues in Ministry:

Please see the attached information on Disaster Response training offered by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at Stony Point on February 16-18, 2012.

One of the things we discovered, when The Presbytery of Donegal was hit by Hurricane Irene in August and devastating tropical storm Lee in September, is that we do not have an effective disaster response network for local disasters. Many of us were embarrassed to turn on our local news and see other denominational groups mobilized, but not Presbyterians. Although individuals and individual congregations responded with generosity, for which I am grateful. But we need a team.

We are also lacking an effective way to coordinate and launch disaster response teams to assist in efforts beyond the presbytery.

We would like to launch a 4-6 person team. And send as many of them as possible to the PDA training. Thanks to a grant from the Synod of the Trinity, we can pay the training and travel expenses for the training. Please fill out the form below and return it to the office as soon as you can, but no later than January 15, 2012. Do not sign up individually for the PDA training; we will coordinate that through the office.

Please be in touch with thoughts, ideas, or questions!

Grace and Peace,

Erin Cox-Holmes, Presbytery Executive



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

**YES! I BELIEVE I AM CALLED TO SERVE ON THE  
PRESBYTERY'S DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe briefly the skills and gifts you would bring to the Donegal Disaster Response Team:**



# **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

## **Synod of the Northeast Presbytery Disaster Response Training**

**February 16-18, 2012**

**Stony Point Center**

17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, New York 10980

**PDA is offering a training program to our synod and presbyteries to help us and our congregations prepare for disasters and become knowledgeable leaders during both the short and long-term recovery periods after disasters.** PDA focuses on spiritual as well as practical preparation, and helps church leaders provide spiritual care for their congregations following disasters.

Rev. John Robinson, National Response Associate and Manager of the PDA National Response Team, will lead the training program. John works with middle governing bodies in responding to disasters. He is responsible for decision making around where PDA responds and at what financial level. John is also active in various areas of providing spiritual care to disaster survivors and others affected by trauma, and he provides linkage for PDA to government agencies and other important groups in Washington, D.C.

The training is designed to prepare and energize **presbytery teams of 4-6** persons each from all the presbyteries in the region. The **cost of \$190** per person covers room and board at Stony Point for 2 nights, double occupancy, and 7 meals.

Each presbytery team will return home more prepared for disasters and with a list of next steps and questions to answer, along with an action sheet of who will be asked to take on which roles with their disaster task forces. They will also go home with a PowerPoint on congregational preparation and encouragement for congregations to promote family preparedness.

The Registrar for the training program is Ms. Sara Burke of The Presbytery of Elizabeth. Please contact her to indicate your interest and to receive a registration form for your **Presbytery team** at [saraburke@elizabethpresbytery.org](mailto:saraburke@elizabethpresbytery.org) or by calling 908-755-3776, ext. 6.

Synod of the Northeast  
Presbytery Disaster Response Training  
Stony Point Center, 17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, New York 10980

**Day 1, Thursday, February 16, 2012**

12:00 Noon    **Lunch**  
1:00 p.m.     **Registration**  
1:30 p.m.     **Introductions**  
2:00 p.m.     **Discovering One Another's Gifts –**  
3:00 p.m.     **Kinds of Disasters**  
3:30 p.m.     **The Disaster Cycle**  
4:30 p.m.     **Table Top Exercise - The Disaster Cycle**  
5:00 p.m.     **Plenary: Debrief Table Top exercise**  
5:30 p.m.     **Dinner**  
6:30 p.m.     **Questions and Answers**  
7:00 p.m.     **Disaster Response**  
8:00 p.m.     **Vesper Prayer**

**DAY 2, Friday, February 17, 2012**

8:00 a.m.     **Breakfast**  
8:30 a.m.     **A Variety of Responses**  
9:30 a.m.     **Basic Role of PDA in Disaster Response**  
10:15 a.m.    **Break**  
10:30 a.m.    **Long Term Recovery Funding & Spiritual Care for Caregivers**  
11:30 a.m.    **Developing Disaster Response Core Values**  
12:00 Noon    **Lunch**  
1:00 p.m.     **Spiritual Care in Disaster -**  
2:30 p.m.     **Presbytery Preparation:**  
3:15 p.m.     **Presbytery Break Out #1**  
3:30 p.m.     **Break**  
3:45 p.m.     **Presbytery Quick Start Folders**  
4:30 p.m.     **Church Fires**  
5:15 p.m.     **Presbytery Break Out #2**  
5:30 p.m.     **Dinner**  
6:30 p.m.     **Long Term Recovery**  
7:30 p.m.     **Public Violence**  
8:00 p.m.     **Devotions/ Evening Prayer**

**Day 3, Saturday, February 18, 2012**

7:30 a.m.     **Breakfast**  
8:30 a.m.     **Pandemic Flu**  
9:15 a.m.     **Presbytery Break Out #3**  
10:00 a.m.    **Reports from Working Groups on Presbytery Plans**  
10:30 a.m.    **Next Steps: Synod Planning Exercise**  
11:30 a.m.    **Closing Worship**  
12:00 Noon    **Lunch**