

**Peace River Presbytery's**  
**2020 HURRICANE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE PROTOCOL**

**Immediately prior to an event (2 days)**

1. Broadcast e-mail to church offices with a pastoral letter and the protocol.
2. Presbytery office is already closed due to COVID-19, so would continue work at home, if possible.
3. Presbytery Staff and the Hurricane Task Force Members(HTF) share where they will go if they need to evacuate.

**During**

**BE SAFE**

**Immediately following an event**

1. Presbytery Staff and the Hurricane Task Force Members are in touch with each other via cell phone, as soon as possible.
2. Initial calls are made by unaffected members of the Hurricane Task Force leadership team.
3. General Presbyter will make pastoral calls to pastors of affected churches as soon as possible.
4. The 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> contact person from each affected church will call the General Presbyter to give initial assessment of their church, staff, and congregation.
5. 48 hours (the 2<sup>nd</sup> day) after a storm at 11:00 am, the General Presbytery will open a Zoom conversation for all pastors who are able to access the internet to assess damage, talk about next steps, and pray.
6. 48 hours (the 2<sup>nd</sup> day) after a storm at 2:00 p.m., all pastors in the affected area will meet at one of the following:
  - ▶ **Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton**      ▶ **Church of the Palms, Sarasota**
  - ▶ **Presbyterian Center, North Port**              ▶ **Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers**
  - ▶ **Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples**

to check-in with a coordinator from the Hurricane Task Force leadership team, talk about next steps, and pray.

7. 72 hours (3 days) after an event, information will be shared regarding commuter volunteer availability with help from FLAPDAN and PDA.

**Congregational/Pastor Responsibilities of Affected Congregations**

1. Key people in the congregation should have a similar plan as Presbytery above.
  - a) Send out information to the congregation.
  - b) Alternate location for operation.
  - c) Where they will be if evacuated – contact information, etc.
2. Have a plan (such as a buddy system by deacons) for your most vulnerable members, i.e. who will contact them to make sure they are okay.
3. 24, 48, and 72 hours after a storm at 5:00 p.m., members who can will meet at the church for prayer, check in, communication, coordination, and need sharing.
4. ASAP, either the pastor or designated contact person will call 417-489-0024 to let the General Presbyter know how you are.
5. Pastor, Business Manager, Trustees of a particular congregation will begin its triage (secure its building ASAP).
6. As soon as possible, hold a church staff meeting.
7. As soon as possible, the Moderator of Session will call a Session meeting.