

Nebraska Flood Recovery

Josh Baird
Disciples Home Missions

Rev. Chris Morton
Regional Minister

- Coordinates Disaster Recovery for Disciples –
 - ✓ Partnership between WoC, DHM, Regions, Local Churches
 - ✓ WoC is initial point-of-contact with Regions where disaster occurs – looks different in each Region, and scale of disaster –
 - Solidarity Grants for early relief work
 - More significant magnitude (2 years or longer) brings DHM/Josh in to move from Relief to Recovery
 - ✓ DHM works on Long-Term Recovery, still in partnership with WoC
 - What is Recovery?
 - Work with churches and other not-for-profits to understand the kind of changes that will take place, what resources are available in that local community, and what kinds of skills are needed in the Recovery Effort
 - Help establish Long Term Recovery Group (including Case Management, Construction Management, Volunteer Coordination)
 - Coordinate volunteers who can stay for a week or longer
 - ✓ Caroline and Josh stay in touch with larger national partners (e.g., UMCOR, LWR, CWS) to help monitor needs that might be emerging
- Chris provided a Nebraska Update on each community, including Burwell/Kamp Kaleo
- Long-Term Recovery in Nebraska (6-12 Months following the flood/disaster --- sometimes longer than 12 months) – *Flood Occurred mid- to late-March*
 - ✓ Significantly impacted county sets up a Long-Term Recovery Group – but that varies, depending upon situation – a LT Recovery Group might cover 2-3 counties
 - Brownville, Peru, and Nebraska City as one?
 - Bellevue and Plattsmouth as one?
 - Omaha and Ashland as one?
 - Bellevue, Plattsmouth, Omaha, and Ashland as one?
 - How relate with/to Iowa border towns
 - ✓ Tools, Equipment, ETC comes from where?
 - DHM has tool trailers around the country that we might be able to get to come to our area
 - Construction supervision is provided by another partner – and they have tools, and often do not want people to bring their own tools to avoid confusion, and keep up on maintaining the tools
- FEMA has Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) to support LT Recovery Groups and connecting organizations with efforts
 - ✓ First Contact Regions
 - ✓ Second Contact are VALs
 - They stay up-to-date on local needs, efforts, etc – specific households with specific data on need
 - Identify gaps where there are needs, etc – focus on where there is greatest need, with the infrastructure needed to support recovery efforts -- -but need that infrastructure too

- Nebraska Next Steps
 - ✓ Most folks jump from Relief to Recovery
 - ✓ We want to do an **Assessment Stage** in between Relief and Recovery
 - Including our partners so that we can see what else is going on already and don't duplicate efforts – are there Recovery Groups who are already hosting meetings
 - Someone who is willing to sit through long meetings that seem to be going nowhere --- but that communication is important because that's where the gaps are identified (e.g., \$ for a photocopier machine while plenty of \$ for screws and nails and supplies)
 - Becomes a place to learn how many volunteers to recruit, and for what skill sets
 - Josh would come to go around to see what he can learn, and connect with folks in the area to hear what's going on --- he would be able to hear in a way to help us figure out how to target resources
- Regional Consultation (with Iowa? Border Towns?)
 - ✓ Host a Regional Conversation on Flood Recovery
 - Invite pastors and members from each of the affected communities along the Missouri River (Ashland to Falls City)
 - Pre-Work that Josh needs to do to connect with partners about what they are already doing
 - Pre-Work that Chris needs to do with each of the churches in affected areas
 - ✓ Possible Dates: August would be 5 Months from Flood
 - Chris not available Aug 9th/10th (Men's Recharge) and Aug 15th – 20th
 - Josh not available from Aug 1 – 5, and Aug 18th
 - Aug 13th or 14th
 - Aug 21st – 30th
 - Probably host Conversation in Bellevue or Louisville, or Omaha
 - ✓ Location of LT Recovery Groups: Faith CC and FCC in Omaha have expressed a willingness
 - Most volunteer groups are about 10-14 people
 - Smallest groups 2-4; largest 20-24
 - Group size limits set by smallest capacity of a) housing and b) construction supervision