



1. Does your congregation have a formal Disaster Plan?
2. Does your congregation have current contact information for all members?
3. Does your congregation have a plan to contact members in the event of a natural disaster?
4. Does your congregation have an off-site electronic backup system for your congregation records?
5. Does your congregation have a plan to deliver core services such as worship and education to all members if you cannot assemble?

Do any of these questions sound familiar? Are you able to answer yes to any of the above? If not, you are not alone. Many congregations and schools are asking themselves these and similar questions in light of recent American history showing us communities and congregations being impacted by a wide variety of disasters. To tackle these issues, the Michigan District formed a District Disaster Response Team. Members of the team included Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram, Bruce Braun, Joe Anheuser, Brent Courson, Rev. Larry Courson, Heidi Fowler-Henzi, Robert Schafer, Mark Schroeder and Susan Wintermeyer-Pingel.

After months of meetings and research, the team is happy to announce the completion of a Pandemic Flu Response Checklist found on the District website [www.michigandistrict.org/disaster-](http://www.michigandistrict.org/disaster-)

response. The document and additional resources have been compiled to help congregations and schools begin the process of becoming prepared for a flu pandemic thus lessening the impact on our community of churches and schools. Also coming soon to the website will be a list of congregations who offer podcasts, live streaming of worship, online sermons and other electronic means of communication for worship.

The Disaster Response Team hopes that this checklist will be helpful and also encourages the congregations of the Michigan District to utilize the guidance provided to facilitate these preparations. If you have any further questions regarding District Disaster Response, please contact our District Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram, 888.225.2111 or [rick.wolfram@michigandistrict.org](mailto:rick.wolfram@michigandistrict.org).

# DISASTER RESPONSE