

**Where Do I Begin?**

To get involved, contact your United Methodist Annual Conference **Disaster Response Coordinator** or the **Volunteer in Mission Coordinator**.

**NEXT ERT TRAINING**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact to register: \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information, contact:**

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)  
Office of Emergency Services USA  
100 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 315  
Washington, DC 20002  
Tel: 202-548-4002

**Email:** DomesticDisaster@umcor.org

**Website:** www.USemergencies.org (click on "Training Programs")

**www.umcor.org**



**EARLY RESPONSE  
TEAM TRAINING**

*A collaborative effort of the United Methodist Committee on Relief and United Methodist Volunteers In Mission*



Providing a caring  
Christian presence in the  
aftermath of disaster



“In the hours and days after disaster, those who survive are looking for anything to give them hope. ERTs can provide the kind of immediate response that restores hope, builds faith, and encourages those who are looking to their neighbor for support.”

—Rev. Tom Hazelwood, assistant general secretary, UMCOR

## A Church Prepared

When disaster strikes, the local church usually provides the first response. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—helps form a foundation for UMCOR’s national training and response. UMCOR equips United Methodists to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, supporting conference and church ministries on disaster response so that they can be the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world.

## ERT Mission

Early Response Teams (ERTs) fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to clean out flood-damaged homes, remove debris, place tarps on homes, and otherwise help to prevent further damage, while providing a caring Christian presence.

ERTs are not a first-response group of emergency workers, nor are they recovery, rebuild, or repair teams. Under very specific guidelines, ERTs assist survivors, without causing further harm or being a burden to the affected community. ERTs require an invitation to travel to another district, conference, or jurisdiction. Participating ERTs are encouraged to wear bright green t-shirts as a means of recognition.

UMCOR works in collaboration with United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM).

## ERT Training Opportunities

All ERT members are trained by authorized UMCOR trainers, and are given identification badges as evidence of successful completion of the basic class.



- **Basic ERT Member Training (8 hours)**  
Participants learn the basics of disaster response, including how to stabilize and secure homes safely, and how to work effectively with survivors and others on the response team. This standardized class is required for the basic ERT UMCOR identification badge.
- **ERT Train-the-Trainer Class (12 hours)**  
For those who have been through the basic class and served on an ERT, their conference may recommend them to become ERT class trainers. This ERT Train-the-Trainer class covers the materials as well as teaching and facilitating techniques. The class includes an opportunity for participants to teach sections of the material and be evaluated by their classmates prior to teaching a full class and being evaluated by UMCOR personnel.
- **ERT Recertification Class (4 hours)**  
For team members whose UMCOR badges are expiring, a recertification class is offered by the authorized trainers in the conference. This class reviews the concepts and guidelines of the basic class and provides updates on disaster response guidelines as a whole. New photos and new background checks are required, along with this class, in order to be recertified.
- **Additional Disaster Readiness and Response Training**  
UMCOR offers many training topics. Check online for UMCOR’s current training menu.