

***2016 Annual Report of the Disaster Ministries
Submitted by Renee Pfenning, Conference Disaster Coordinator***

Disaster Ministries in the Minnesota Conference is part of the National UCC Disaster Ministries program. The mission is to work with congregations in the conference to prepare for disaster events that that may impact the congregation, the members and the buildings. The Conference Disaster Ministries was present with a display at the 2016 Annual Meeting and was able to discuss preparation and response planning with several congregations and share worksheets, guidelines and other useful tools to assist congregations with their advance preparation. Those are all available on the Conference website under Resources.

The other goal of Disaster Ministries is to form a team of people willing to respond to disaster events in other parts of the country. The National Disaster Ministries Office tracks all events and coordinates requests for volunteers at locations needing volunteers for short- and long-term recovery.

This year members of the Disaster Ministries team attended one clergy clusters to present the program and share resources with the clergy who were present. Planning was initiated for one congregation and presentations made to clergy at two other congregations. The Conference Disaster Coordinator also attended the National VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disasters) conference and participated in periodic conference calls for Disaster Coordinators.

The team chair and one other UCC member participated in a clean-up day organized by MN VOAD following the flooding in Southern Minnesota.

The Disaster Ministries Team: Renee Pfenning (Cherokee Park United Church), Cindy Lemke (Staples First Congregational Church)

