

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

The Conference Disaster Ministries kicked off at the 2015 Annual Meeting with a brief shout out about the work and a display booth. 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. Disaster Ministries has prepared some 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 two clergy clusters to present the program and share resources with the clergy who were present. The Conference Disaster Coordinator also attended a conference for all Conference Disaster Coordinators and participates in periodic conference calls for Disaster Coordinators.

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