



EARLY AUGUST SPECIAL EDITION

JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERY ISSUES MEMO REGARDING FLOODS, NEEDS

The memo a few paragraphs below, from Ken Meunier, transition associate executive presbyter in the John Knox Presbytery, was issued today, Aug. 22, and addresses the flooding that continues to affect the churches within the John Knox Presbytery. It identifies immediate needs and contact individuals within the presbytery. The presbytery office is currently without Internet service. The synod sent the memo to all churches within the John Knox Presbytery and is now publishing the memo for all recipients of Keeping in Touch, the synod's e-newsletter.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is currently working with the John Knox, Twin Cities Area and North Central Iowa presbyteries as a result of the floods. Additional information about the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in reference to the flooding will be issued as it becomes available.

Please know that gifts to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance can be made by credit card by calling PresbyTel at (800) 872-3283 or online at www.pcusa.org/pda/donate.htm. Checks payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can also be mailed directly to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Central Receiving Service
100 Witherspoon St.
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Several newspaper Web sites have updated information on the flooding. A partial list includes www.postbulletin.com, www.madison.com/wsj, www.lacrossetribune.com, www.winonadailynews.com, www.startribune.com, and www.twincities.com.

The memo from the John Knox Presbytery follows:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you one and all for your outpouring of love and concern for our dear friends and neighbors who have been suffering with many kinds of loss as a result of the recent floods across John Knox Presbytery. Your phone calls and offering of assistance have been greatly appreciated.

We are still in the middle of trying to reach some of our communities to determine the needs and assess ways we may be able to help. With another round of storms last evening complicating our efforts we have decided to communicate to you a partial list of needs and contacts. We are hoping John Knox Presbytery's phone and internet lines will be restored soon to enable us to give you updates of those needs on a more regular basis. The Presbytery Center is able to receive calls but outgoing calls are

difficult. We hope to have internet service restored in the next couple days. I extend a special thank you to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for helping us with this communication.

The major areas hit by this most recent disaster include the Southeast Minnesota area – affecting the Rushford, Lewiston, Utica, Winona and Chatfield churches (along with the communities of La Crescent, Hokah and Houston); the Richland Center Wisconsin area (including the communities of Viola, Readstown, rural Viroqua, Chaseburg and Desoto where there are not any Presbyterian Churches); and the Soldiers Grove and Gays Mills communities which don't have Presbyterian churches but are communities many of you pass through to get to the Presbytery Center.

Here are the needs we are aware of at the present time:

Chatfield, Lewiston and Utica churches will need work crews to help remove carpet and clean prior to Sunday's Worship. Each of these churches had flooding in their basements. The hope is to have the insurance adjusters inspect the sights today so work can begin on Thursday or Friday. Contact Cindy Timm 507-523-3637.

Utica is seeking child-care for the community to allow adults to work on helping each other clear out basements and begin repairs. Coordinate with Doug Rosendahl 608-687-5433 or Cindy Timm 507-523-3637 who are coordinating this effort.

Immediate items needed include:

Cleaning kits (broom, mop, bucket, bleach, sponges, rubber gloves)

Work gloves

Hand Sanitizer

Alcohol Free Wipes

Rubber Barn Boots (especially women's sizes)

Summer women's clothing (sizes 3x – 5x)

Socks

Underwear – all sizes – both genders

Hygiene products

Feminine products

Items can be delivered to the following locations:

Dubuque – Westminster Presbyterian Church – 2155 University Avenue,

563-583-1729 (8am to 5pm or call for other arrangements)

La Crosse – First Presbyterian Church – 233 West Avenue South,

608-784-4248 (8am to 2pm or call for other arrangements)

Madison - Westminster Presbyterian Church – 4100 Nakoma Road,
608-238-3121 (8:30am to 4:30 Mon-Thurs or 8:30am to Noon on
Friday)

Portage - Portage Presbyterian Church – 120 West Pleasant Street,
608-742-6006 (8am to 1pm or call for other arrangements)

Postville – Community Presbyterian Church – 106 South Reynolds Street,
563-864-3736 (9am to Noon or call for other arrangements)

Winona – Grace Presbyterian Church – 222 East Broadway,
507-452-4608

We know we will need work crews in the Rushford and Gays Mills/Soldiers Grove communities but they are not ready for outside crews at this point. We are currently checking on providing meals for the various shelters that have been established for residents of the communities listed above.

I will be meeting this evening with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Representative, Jim Anderson, this evening to further assess the situation and to begin coordinating work team efforts. This meeting will also help us know whether there will be a PDA fund for churches or individuals to contribute to. Until then, funds can be sent to your church and they will be given further information in the next couple days.

This communication is going to the church's email address so please help us spread the word by forwarding to pastors and church leaders across the Presbytery.

If you have questions please feel free to contact us at 1-800-424-7935 or 1-608-647-8828.

Blessings,

Ken Meunier

John Knox Presbytery

Transition Associate

Executive Presbyter