

Bishop Ough calls for the Dakotas Conference to reach out to flood and tornado victims

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult." (Psalm 46:1-3)

I greet you in the name and spirit of the Risen Christ. Our brothers and sisters in Wessington Springs, Canton, and other storm-damaged areas in southeast South Dakota are suffering the devastation of flooding and tornadoes. The securities of food and shelter have become a challenge for many.

The Dakotas Conference has requested an emergency grant of \$10,000 through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). These funds will provide a start to the recovery efforts that are needed.

Some of the churches and members of Dakotas Conference have collected funds and asked about where to direct cash gifts. Please send your gift to the Dakotas Conference Office so the efforts of your local church can be recorded. The Dakotas Conference Disaster Relief Committee will determine the best use of these funds.

Another a way you can give is by volunteering. There is a need for specialized trained volunteers for the Canton and Union County areas. We will also need case managers in both Wessington Springs and Canton areas. Contact Kathy Chesney (chez@gwtc.net) by e-mail or phone 605-280-7127 if you would like to attend this training.

Psalm 46:1-3 reminds us that we can be a powerful witness, that the work of Christ redeems, heals and renews people and communities. Extend your generosity to those in need and lift up the victims in Wessington Springs, Canton, and southeast South Dakota in prayer.

In Christ's Love,
Bruce R. Ough

