

Dear House of Worship Leaders and Congregants,

State officials and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency take emergency preparedness very seriously. Every day we work to protect our state and its citizens from disasters, but we can't do it alone. That's why we're asking you – our faith based community – to help us educate and engage those around you in the community and other houses of worship. The materials supplied in this plan will help inform you and your congregants about the relevance of emergency preparedness and empower you and your community to take the necessary steps to protect yourself should an unexpected disaster occur.

Iowa is subject to numerous disasters every year, so the “Preparedness” message is relevant to our state's economy, your house of worship, the future of your congregants and the communities you serve. Together, through awareness, education, and action we can minimize vulnerabilities and ensure the protection of our houses of worship and our congregants.

It is our intent that this document will assist you with the development of your facility emergency operations plan. For additional assistance, you can log onto the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/programs/IDHRC.html>

Sincerely,

Rev. Greg Smith, Ph.D. (Honorably Retired)
Spiritual and Emotional Care Chair, Iowa Disaster Human Resources Council (IDHRC)
National Response Team, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

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