



### Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care Trainings

OCC is creating a statewide Disaster Spiritual Care Program. As part of those efforts we offer a variety of trainings on an ongoing basis. For more information go to [www.okchurches.org](http://www.okchurches.org) and find our “Events and Trainings” page.

## Current Response Efforts...



- ❖ Thanks to grants from our faith community partners, OCC has been actively involved in responding to the 2015 spring storms across our state.
- ❖ OCC's Spiritual Care Team serves alongside our partner agencies in preparedness through long term recovery. From Red Cross Service Centers to Multi-Agency Resource Centers, OCC is providing a compassionate listening presence and care.



## Oklahoma Conference of Churches

### Disaster Emotional & Spiritual Care Ministries



Cards imbedded with wildflower seeds share the message of meaning, purpose, and hope.



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The Oklahoma Conference of Churches Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care ministry prepares, trains, and deploys faith communities and leaders to provide healing and hope following disasters.



# Meaning, Purpose, Hope

## FOR OUR COMMUNITY, FOR OUR FUTURE

Oklahoma has experienced 31 presidentially declared disasters in the past 10 years. Through generous grants from our faith-based partners, OCC's Spiritual Care Team continues to actively respond to those affected by natural and human-caused disasters across Oklahoma. Our staff and team of credentialed spiritual care providers offer:

- Direct support, resources and spiritual care referrals to disaster survivors, volunteers, and staff
- Spiritual care support at disaster preparedness events and community prayer services
- Printed material regarding the spiritual and emotional impact of disasters
- Experienced and professional consultation with local faith-based leaders
- Training for local clergy and others interested in providing spiritual and emotional care
- Coordination with trusted partner organization who have additional emotional and spiritual care resources
- Sponsorship of collaborative events with mental health and other spiritual care organizations
- Ongoing spiritual care support in local area long term recovery committees

As of November 2015, OCC has credentialed more than 100 local clergy representing 28 Christian denominations and Interfaith partners (plus several non-denominational congregations) as "Local Spiritual Care Responders." Our team works in settings that provide emotional and spiritual support to disaster-affected individuals and families, workers, and volunteers who so faithfully continue to serve.



### The Pathway Forward

"The Pathway Forward" series offers practical suggestions and resources for disaster survivors, disaster workers, clergy, and congregations. Many thousands of copies of these resources have been downloaded or printed and distributed across Oklahoma.



**CART Meals** bring together volunteers, disaster-affected families, case managers, disaster recovery staff, and individual communities of faith for a casual, fun meal. Local communities of faith volunteer their facilities and provide the meals. More than 1,500 persons have attended the meals to date.

### A Statewide and National Conversation

Oklahoma Conference of Churches is actively involved in shaping the national conversation about disaster spiritual care. OCC's Director of Emotional and Spiritual Care, the Rev. Mary Hughes Gaudreau, serves on the executive committee of the National VOAD Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee. She is often called upon to offer consultation and presentations with state and national partners.

### National Spiritual Care Guidelines

OCC is modeling for the nation how VOAD's Spiritual Care Points of Consensus and guidelines can be implemented in a successful ecumenical/interfaith organization.

### Local Service, National Impact

On August 10-12, 2015, OCC, along with The Salvation Army Central Territory sponsored a working summit in Chicago to explore and create strategic application, implementation, and operationalization of the National VOAD Disaster Spiritual Care Guidelines.



Disasters bring to the surface our deepest questions about meaning, hope, and our very existence – questions that are, by definition, spiritual in nature. Through our ongoing work, OCC stands ready to reassure, encourage, and help in very practical ways.