

BISHOP'S UPDATE REGARDING HURRICANE HARVEY ASSISTANCE FOR TEXAS

Monday, August 28 – In an effort to update the Connection as to the needs of Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey – and also in an effort to share with the Texans who are *not* directly affected some ways we can be of assistance – the following information is given:

1. While we are not able, because of flooded streets, to update you generally about conditions of houses of worship, we know that many persons' homes have been inundated with water, some church buildings are under water, and many persons have evacuated the area seeking refuge in other cities and towns.
2. Persons seeking to give direct online contributions to churches that will deal with victims' needs *in the Houston* area can give to both the Metropolitan CME Church (Rev. Allen Page III, pastor) and the Miles Chapel CME Church (Rev. Valencia Edner, pastor). Both are in the city of Houston.
 - a. To give to Metropolitan Church, go to www.metropolitancme.org. The contribution button is located at the bottom of the page. You can designate the contribution for Hurricane Harvey Relief. Persons not on line can send a check to Metropolitan CME Church, 8955 South Freeway, Houston, Texas 77051 (713-748-5947).
 - b. To give to Miles Chapel CME Church, go to www.mileschapelcme.org. Press "Online Giving" and it will send you to "Easyithe." Click on that link. Choose "Quick Give." The donation should go under benevolence (all donations as of August 28 until further notice will go to Hurricane Harvey relief). Persons not on line can send a check to Miles Chapel CME Church, 4315 Lyons Ave., Houston, Texas 77020 (713-672-0619).
3. Assistance is also seriously needed in refuge sites set up across the State of Texas. Tonight's information being released in this statement is only about relief stations in the Dallas area, as well as about how to support relief stations through giving to Christian Chapel Temple of Faith CME Church, Dallas, Texas.
 - a. The Dallas Convention Center prepared to house evacuees affected by Hurricane Harvey. Rev. Shazetta Thompson-Hill is the contact person for the Eighth Episcopal District for evacuee information (731-225-6846). Persons who know of other information regarding centers for evacuees across the State for victims fleeing Hurricane Harvey effects should call Rev. Thompson-Hill and inform her about what you know so that we all can be better informed. Thank you for calling her and sharing what you know.
 - b. Many evacuees who have come to refuge centers have come with almost nothing. Food, and ordinary things like toothpaste and other personal items are also essential for them and they need our donations to help them make it through this time.
 - c. To give for expenses of victims who have evacuated, it is suggested that you give online through Christian Chapel CME Church (Rev. Dr. Vanessee Burns, pastor). To give online, you must download the *Givelify App*. Give to "*Christian Chapel Temple of Faith*." Select "*Relief*" as the giving category. Put "*CME*" in the memo field. All of the funds given in this way will go to Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. You can also mail gifts to Christian Chapel Temple of Faith, earmarked for Hurricane Harvey, and send to 14120 Noel Road, Dallas, Texas 75254 (972-239-1120).
 - d. Those CMEs in Texas may also give non-perishable food items by bringing them to Christian Chapel Temple of Faith.

Through this crisis we want to be as helpful as we can ... so that needs can be met. Thank you for your concerns and calls.

Sincerely,
Bishop Lawrence Reddick