

PRESBYTERY DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

(Presbytery of New Harmony approved 10-8-19)

Purpose: The purpose of the **Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission** (PDAC) is to direct and oversee the preparation for and response to a disaster on behalf of the Presbytery of New Harmony (NHP) in order to focus, align and coordinate resources toward areas of need.

Accountability: The PDAC shall be accountable to the NHP through the Guiding Council.

Authority: The PDAC may act in times of disaster on behalf of and with the full authority of NHP between meetings of NHP, in any and all matters, except those responsibilities given to the Constitutional committees (Committee on Ministry, Committee of Preparation for Ministry, Committee on Representation and Nominations, and Permanent Judicial Commission) and any other special NHP commissions.

Membership: The PDAC shall consist of seven (7) members:

- NHP's Moderator and Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk (2).
- Five (5) at-large members nominated by the Guiding Council and elected by NHP who have experience/knowledge in the area of disaster preparedness, relief and assistance, emergency management, construction and/or emergency medical response.

The commission shall select one of its own to moderate the PDAC and to clerk, who will record and distribute minutes. In the absence of the selected moderator, the NHP Moderator will moderate.

Overall composition shall strive to conform to principles of inclusiveness, representation and participation for race and gender, as well as the following principles:

- No more than one member shall be a member of or serving a particular congregation.
- No two people shall be in the same immediate family.

Quorum: A quorum of the PDAC shall consist of majority of its membership and shall be required for business to be conducted and action taken.

Meetings: As needed, but at least annually for organizing, preparedness work and coordination.

Responsibilities:

1. Assist congregations of NHP and their members with disaster preparedness and, in times of disaster, including by not limited to authorizing grants and disbursements of appropriate funds;
2. Coordinate all communication between the NHP congregations, NHP, Synod and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), as well as any other appropriate agencies;
3. Assign a member of the commission to represent NHP on the SC VOAD (South Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster);
4. Assess the damage and evaluate the needs NHP congregations and their members;
5. Acquire and coordinate, as appropriate, resources from the Synod and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as well as any other appropriate agencies;
6. Work in partnership with local and denominational agencies when appropriate;
7. Communicate with the Guiding Council and NHP all work and action taken, providing an annual written report to both; and
8. Communicate to the Guiding Council when a member of the PDAC needs to be replaced.