



### ***Our Mission:***

*To identify and strengthen leaders so that every congregation makes new and mature disciples for Jesus Christ.*

## Hurricane Irma

As we all prepare for the upcoming storm, the Presbytery staff would like to make you aware of our plans, and remind you of some useful resources.

First, please be aware that the Presbytery office will close on Thursday at 4pm, and will reopen at a later date. Staff will still be available at the contact info listed below, but watch the website ([www.presbyteryoftampabay.com](http://www.presbyteryoftampabay.com)) and your email for news and information.

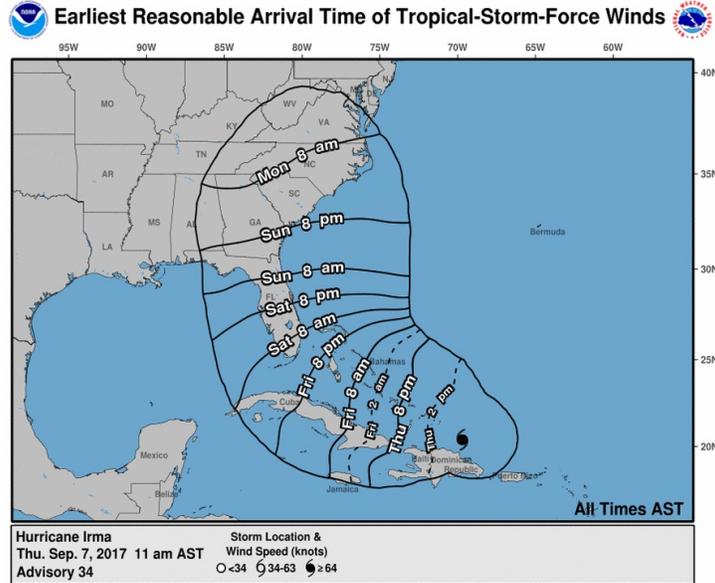
Second, as a reminder, the West Regional Commission meeting originally scheduled for tonight has been canceled.

Third, reports of church damage from the hurricane should go to:  
Chuck Berkins  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
813 240 0239  
[ccberkins@gmail.com](mailto:ccberkins@gmail.com)

A few of quick reminders:

- You can find sandbag locations for Hillsborough County [at this link](#), but it's illegal to fill up sandbags at the beach.
- [Know your evacuation zone](#).
- Don't forget to check on the vulnerable people in your congregation and community to see if they need help.
- Please find important information from FLAPDAN regarding hurricane preparation below.

To help you with decisions about church services, refer to the timeline of expected arrival of Tropical Storm force winds from the [National Hurricane Center](#) below. Winds may start as early as Saturday night in our area:



Finally, if you have questions, need to report a problem, or need other support from the Presbytery Staff, please feel free to contact us:

Patrice Hatley, Coach and Coordinator

- (863) 206 1004 (cell)
- [patrice@ppty.com](mailto:patrice@ppty.com)

David Baker, Stated Clerk and Director of Communications

- (804) 513 9057 (cell)
- [statedclerk@ppty.com](mailto:statedclerk@ppty.com)

In Christ,

Rev. Dave Baker  
Stated Clerk and Director of Communciations  
Presbytery of Tampa Bay

Irma is currently a **Category 5** hurricane.

**Florida will be affected!**

Tracking information and models:  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>  
<http://www.spaghettimodels.com/>

Remember! The effects of the storm are not limited to the map's projected cone. The cone only shows the probability of where the center of the storm could track.

## **What to do now:**

- Activate your preparedness plans now.
- If you don't have a church or family disaster plan, make one, and get your supplies:
  - <http://www.floridadisaster.org/getaplan/>
  - <https://www.ready.gov/>
  - Churches - see attached for a basic church disaster plan template.
- Know your flood zone and storm surge map. Find it here:  
<https://msc.fema.gov/portal>
- Know your evacuation route. Find it here:  
<http://www.floridadisaster.org/publicmapping/>
- Stay tuned to your LOCAL news for weather updates and instructions specific to YOUR location.
- Offer assistance to those in your congregation or community that may need some extra help with storm shutters or transportation needs.

## **How you can help if you are not in Irma's path:**

- Provide temporary shelter
  - We are looking for churches or church members that may be willing to temporarily house other church families who need to evacuate from the storm's path. Many families just need a place to escape the storm and would need shelter only for a couple of nights. Others may need temporary shelter for a few days post-storm, if their home is damaged, until they can find another place to stay longer term.
- Assemble a response team
  - Teams will be needed to help clear debris, muck out flooded homes and tarp roofs. If you have a team that can help for a day or more, please complete and return the attached form. Teams will need to be self-sufficient and provide their own transportation and tools.
- Please complete the attached "We Can Help" form and return asap it to  
[fla.pdan@pcusa.org](mailto:fla.pdan@pcusa.org)

## **What to do after the storm passes:**

- Take all precautions to be safe. Do not drive through flooded streets. Remember that live power lines can be down and not readily visible. Don't risk it.
- Contact your presbytery office and let them know of any damage to church property - or if all is okay. Follow your presbytery's protocol.
- Check on those in your congregation or community that may need some extra help.
- If your church has power and is near a damaged area without power, consider opening your church as a respite center - a place for people to cool off in the air conditioning, have a cold drink, charge their cell phones, etc.

**The Florida PDA Network and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance stand ready to assist. Our prayers are with all those in the path of Irma.**

## **Hurricane Harvey**

Our hearts go out to those who have suffered such great devastation and loss as a result of Hurricane Harvey. To assist with Harvey recovery, please consider donating cash to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. It is too early to send volunteers, and there will be plenty of opportunity to do so over the next several months and years. Please do not collect items to send. Cash is best as it can be used quickly for exactly what is needed and contributes to rebuilding the local economy. You can donate to PDA at

<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/tropical-storm-harvey/>

### **Attachments:**

- [Disaster Plan Template](#)
- [Offer to Help Form](#)

Kathy Broyard

Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist

**Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN)**

Phone: 941-483-0675

Email: [fla.pdan@pcusa.org](mailto:fla.pdan@pcusa.org)

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Presbytery of Tampa Bay | 813 868 4800 | [presbyteryoftampabay.com](http://presbyteryoftampabay.com)