

Hurricane Harvey Flood Relief Plan September 2017

Vision

We will express Christ's love through service and care that cultivates meaningful relationships and supports long-term recovery.

Strategy

As a community, we are committed to giving thoughtful aid to Harvey victims. The immediate needs of demolition, moving and housing are ongoing. As we look to the near and distant future, we have developed a strategy that will maintain appropriate volunteer opportunities, mixed with partnering with existing organizations in Houston that have demonstrated excellence in helping others, especially the vulnerable and poor. Included in our strategy is a dedicated effort to love, support, encourage and help the victims of flood damage in FPC's church family.

Plan Overview

Phase I (Current Phase)

Description: Serving immediate needs, including targeted demolition, cleanup, packing and moving

- We have served 75+ families connected with FPC and other residents of Houston.
- 150 FPC volunteers have been active in relief efforts.
- We continue to coordinate volunteers, utilizing team captains to lead short-term work efforts each weekend.
- Four-week #Harvey Sunday School class offered.

Phase II

Description: Extend support to address emotional and spiritual needs, as well as assistance with physical needs associated with displacement

- Connect FPC Small Groups and Sunday School classes with ongoing opportunities for relational ministry with flood-affected communities and families, including FPC members
- Work with existing ministries (see below) in Houston.
- Offer ongoing care, support and counseling to members affected (one-on-one pastoral care, meal signups, professional counseling, care team follow-up, etc.).
- Host mission teams from outside churches (FPC Amarillo and Highland Park have already offered to send teams). Potential for teams to be housed in the Oakdale Apartment.

Long Term Trajectory*

Description: Activities to support individuals and families experiencing prolonged displacement

- Partner with existing ministries to encourage FPC members (Sunday School classes, Small Groups, Women's groups, etc.) to adopt a low-income family affected by Harvey.
- Partner with citywide efforts for construction and recovery.
- Continue to message flood relief efforts of FPC in weekly communications.

*Specific tactics to be determined once needs in this phase are better understood.

As the needs continue to unfold, the following are other organizations we will support through volunteerism and, when appropriate, financial assistance. These primarily include:

- **Main Street Ministries:** MSM is focusing on short-term financial support with those in need (to bridge employment and income gaps)
- **Nehemiah Center:** We will work directly with Nehemiah to assess needs for students and families
- **City Church/Attack Poverty (Fifth Ward):** Many residents in the Fifth Ward are teetering at the poverty line. Connecting with City Church has allowed us to send volunteers and, potentially adopt this neighborhood as a place to serve long-term.
- **Builders Without Borders/Rebuilding Together Houston:** Both are construction organizations that coordinate effective rebuilding strategies for affected homes.
- **Samaritan's Purse:** An internationally known relief organization working in Houston.

There are other opportunities not listed that will arise in the coming weeks and months. We will be flexible in our approach, but focused on both the immediate needs and long-term recovery.