

Team/Committee Structure for the Supervision of The NALC Disaster Response Spiritual Care Training Program

The workload is unknown at this time. Yet, it is projected that the workload would come in waves. The first wave is at the beginning, with a workload consisting of organizing each team, while also dealing with a possible influx of trainees. At this time, our Disaster Response Director, Mary Bates, has a mailing list of over 200 disaster response volunteers. What percentage of this group will engage in training is uncertain. A response from one training program indicates that maybe about 10-15% will participate.

Waves of trainees will follow based on various disaster events—on how publicized they are in social media, and on how many engaged NALC congregations we have in the disaster area. Again, what percentage of volunteers will seek training is uncertain; yet an influx may occur with various disaster responses.

Thus, at this time, the responsibilities of supervising the trainees and the training program is extended over four teams, and one committee with oversight duties. As the actual workload is realized over time—and as the number of team volunteers becomes known—adjustments will be made to the number of teams, team responsibilities, and team volunteers needed.

To become a member of one of the teams, or the program's committee:

- Seriously consider if you are called to work in this field of ministry.
- Fill out and submit the application form.
- If approved, your service will begin immediately. Yet, you will need to complete the second and third divisions of training—the Trained Volunteer and the Prayer Minister training presentations—within 4 months after you are approved.
- If you have no experience in a disaster setting, you are encouraged to volunteer for some type of disaster response service (preferably an NALC Disaster Response setting).

Prayerfully consider applying for one of the following:

Committee / Teams and Duties...

Application Approval and Communication Team

- Approval of applicants for the three main training divisions—Trained Volunteer, Prayer Minister, and Spiritual Care Provider divisions.
- Review requests and make recommendations to the Spiritual Care Training Committee for approval of previous experience substitutions.
- Possible duty: get and review background checks on each volunteer.
- Maintenance of directories (committee and team members; volunteers who have completed which training division; and trainees in process); and respective email lists.
- Provide assistance in dispersing communications to volunteers and trainees.

Completion of Training Review Team

- Review and grant approval for completion of each training presentation of all trainees.
- Keep record of trainees and the presentations they have successfully completed.
- Grant specialized name tags for the volunteers who have completed one of the three main divisions.

- Oversee the making and distribution of name tags.
- Supervision of trainees to encourage them to complete their ministry division.

New Training Presentations Development Team

- Review applications for new training presentations; and submit recommendations to the Spiritual Care Training Committee.
- Perform editing of new training presentations for continuity of ministry and training principles; and for set up with on-line use.
- Provide set-up and follow-through for placement of an online power point presentation, and for an online video recording of new training presentations.

Field Experience Support and Review Team

- Maintain contact and provide support for volunteers during and after disaster response field experiences.
- Seek input from volunteers to improve the training program (especially themes for training).
- Pass on input to the Spiritual Care Training Committee.
- Be in communication with disaster response supervisors to review the quality of ministry being performed by our volunteers. Give a report to the Spiritual Care Training Committee.
- When needed require a volunteer to repeat a particular training presentation(s).
- When needed, make recommendation to the Spiritual Care Training Committee for a volunteer to be removed from being a particular kind of volunteer.
- Discern if there are volunteers who should be encouraged to become a Trained Volunteer, a Prayer Minister, or a Spiritual Care Provider. Provide such encouragement.

Disaster Response Spiritual Care Training Committee

- Promote the mission of training Disaster Response Volunteers.
- Over site of the training program structure and process.
- Over site of work done by “teams.”
- Review and approve requests for new training presentations; and determine placement in the Program.
- Review and approve theme suggestions; and recruit applicants who might be able to author and present on such themes.
- Recruit and approve (and remove) committee and team members as deemed needed.
- As deemed needed, remove a volunteer from serving as a volunteer. Set up guidelines for such.
- Other tasks as needed.

The more who elect to work on one of these teams, the more efficient and vibrant the work of the Spiritual Care Training Program will be. So, please elect to serve in the ministry of one of these teams.

In the Name of our Lord Jesus, thank you for your prayerful considerations.

The Rev. George Zornow
Spiritual Care Training Committee Chairperson