**Presbytery of Western Kentucky – Tornado Recovery Team**

**Zoom Meeting Notes**

**April 14, 2022**

The Presbytery of Western Kentucky Tornado Recovery Team met via Zoom on Thursday, April 14th. Participating on the call were:

Debbie McCoy (RE Owensboro First)

Ralph Young (RE Paducah First)

Karen Harris (WKY Presbytery)

Dave Doehnert PDA

Rev Jim Kirk PDA

Don Barger (CLP Mayfield First)

Rev Donna Webster (Princeton Central)

Rev Bailey Pickens (Franklin PC)

1. Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Don opened with prayer.
2. Ralph informed the group that Rev Bailey Pickens had agreed to take on the leadership role to lead the WKY Presbytery Tornado Recovery Team. The Presbytery Oversight Commission approved her appointment at their meeting on April 12th and added her to the docket to report at the May 10th Presbytery meeting. Bailey introduced herself as being new to the disaster recovery ministry but pledged to devote the time needed to understand, lead, and facilitate committee activities.
3. Don started with a report from the Mayfield Church. They are still navigating FEMA obstacles and questions but are hopeful that a FEMA settlement is forthcoming. Worship is continuing at an alternate location with attendance holding. At this point, Mayfield’s greatest needs seem to be time and funds to rebuild the church. There is some rebuilding of homes in the area of the church, but Mayfield cannot act without a ruling from FEMA. Mayfield would be very interested in supporting a host site at First Pres Calvert City since it is the closest to Mayfield.
4. Debbie reported that First Pres Owensboro has no disaster recovery needs at this time. Their youth will participate in the Presbytery’s Mission Trip to do disaster recovery work. Some of their efforts have been diverted to assisting Afghan refugees that have migrated to the area.
5. Donna reported that Princeton Central is calling a new pastor, Rev Steve Fortenberry. He will start April 24 with some transition time to take over the Disaster Recovery role for the church. Donna stated that the Crossroads Mission and Fuller are well established as a work partner for the church in Princeton as well as Madisonville. Relief efforts among the churches in Princeton and Madisonville are going well. Jim added that there is one more approval needed for the ~$25,000 Princeton PDA grant to fund a coordinator for the area. He expects full approval soon.
6. Dave reported that he has been in contact with Kentucky VOAD (Volunteers…). They are meeting regularly with the Long Term Recovery Groups from each county to help coordinate recovery efforts. As Dave collects minutes from these groups, he will share them with our team.

The greatest need at the moment is to identify a Work Partner for the Mayfield-Graves County area and Warren County so that a hosting site can be established at Calvert City and/or Smiths Grove. The Princeton-Crossroads partnership would serve as a good template for establishing those relationships.

Rob Hale from Bowling Green has been attending the Long Term Recovery Group meetings in Warren County. Their LTRG has split into sub-committees to deal with the routine activities.

1. At this point, Bailey asked the team how we should best function to serve the recovery needs. Ideas included

* Continuing to share information about recovery activities in each area and what’s happening.
* Try to focus on the needs in each area through participation with the Long Term Recovery Groups
* Taking and responding to calls from outside the presbytery with offers to help.
* Set up a Facebook page for our Recovery Team to facilitate communication.
* Work with Crossroads, Fuller, and other providers to set up Work Partners to coordinate the recovery work. The two key functions are volunteer management and construction management.

**Action: Bailey agreed to set up a Facebook page for the Presbytery Tornado Recovery Team to share information and solicit needs.**

1. Other action items include Jim sharing the information of “Pathways to Home Ownership” and Donna on “How to set up a Hosting Center”
2. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 18th at 2:30 Central Time via Zoom**.
3. Bailey closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Young