

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
(Psalm 46:1-3)*

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Friends, we don't have to tell you that Monday's derecho left a wide swath of destruction and chaos. Many of our towns and cities are still without power four days later. Communication has been difficult for so many reasons.

The Presbytery of East Iowa is responding. Grant requests have been sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and we are getting a disaster response task force put together. PDA has made available church damage grants of up to \$5,000, so please contact Stated Clerk Rebecca Blair to apply if your church building has sustained damage.

In an effort to help us coordinate our response, if you have not already done so, please communicate to the presbytery through Julia Andrews, our Communications Project Manager (julia@peia.org or 319-354-9220) with the following information:

- 1) Any damage to your church building, manse, or property
- 2) The extent of damage in your community and what needs remain (clean up help, restoration of power, minor repairs, food or ice, etc.)
- 3) If your community was NOT affected, if you have volunteers willing to help and what kind of help they can offer (chain saws, moving debris, minor home repair, provide food, etc.)
- 4) Anything else you think we need to know

Thanks be to God, congregations that were not affected are mobilizing to help others that were. Even as we write this, Presbyterians from Mt. Pleasant and Washington are at First Cedar Rapids distributing foods and helping with clean up in the neighborhood. Olivet Neighborhood Mission is asking for volunteers tomorrow, Saturday, August 15 beginning 9 am to bring chain saws, rakes, gloves and people power.

When the body of Christ works together to care for all of its members, it is a beautiful thing. Thank you for helping the Presbytery of East Iowa be Christ's body in this time of crisis!

We are praying for you, your congregations, and communities.

Peace,

Lori Wunder & Dan Jessop, Co-Moderators
Dr. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk

