



The Reverend Dyanne Pina - Executive Director

Dear LICC Clergy, Friends & Community,

During tragic events like Hurricane Harvey, many of us look for ways to reach out and help. The most immediate and effective way to support is to: **Donate Money, Donate Blood and Pray.** The devastating impact of Hurricane Harvey continues to cause damage to the Gulf Coast and surrounding communities of Houston. As of August 29th, Houston Mayor, Sylvester Turner stated that there are about 12,000 shelters open, with another 13,000 shelters to open August 30th. Instead of requesting tangeable goods like clothing and can goods, I am asking that we support the efforts of Mayor Turner with monetary donations, at least until the waters recede.

There are several non-profit organizations & foundations set up to receive donations. Here are few that are having an immediate impact:

Justin J. Watt Defensive End for the Houston Texans has set up a crowd funding appeal at www.youcaring.com **JJ Watt's Houston Flood Relief Fund**. This site has already received 10 million dollars for Hurricane Harvey and is steadily rising.

UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief is a U.S. Disaster Response - umcor.org/donate Advance#901670.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - <http://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/prayer-hurricane-harvey/>

The **Red Cross** and **FEMA** are also staple disaster organizations.

Blood is another great need. The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center which serves the greater Houston area is in dire need of blood. **Long Island Blood Services**, a division of the New York Blood Center is asking for you to give blood at your local blood donation center, www.nybloodcenter.org

IF YOU HAVE HURRICANE HARVEY DONATION INFORMATION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE THE LICC TO DISSEMINATE, PLEASE FORWARD INFO TO: LICC@optonline.net and we will post on our website at LICC-NY.org



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And last but by no means the least, let us **Pray**.

God of our life, whose presence sustains us in every circumstance, in storm and distress, we welcome the restoring power of your love and compassion. We open our hearts in sorrow, gratitude, and hope: that those who have been spared nature's fury as well as those whose lives are changed forever by ravages of wind and water may find solace, sustenance, and strength in the days of recovery and rebuilding that come.

We are thankful for the generous grace of days of preparation; for the wise counsel of experts and the generous collaboration of so many communities, that in the face of the storm kept many out of harm's way, and lessened the effects of wind and water on others. We pray for those yet in harm's way; who wait in neighborhoods while the waters rise, who pray for the rains to cease. We pray for those huddled at home or among strangers while wind ravages, for those who have fled from home and wait and wonder. We ask for sustaining courage, for the kindness of strangers, for hope that does not disappoint.

We open ourselves to listen with compassion to the stories of those whom Hurricane Harvey has not spared: communities deeply affected, whose livelihood, homes and stability have been destroyed. We pray in grief, honoring the lives, shattered and the livelihoods, homes, and businesses for whom recovery seems an insurmountable mountain. We lift our voices in sorrow and compassion for families who have lost loved ones, homes, or livelihood.

We ask for sustaining courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we, your people, respond to the deep human needs beginning to emerge in the wake of the storm.

In these days of relief, assessment, and response, open our eyes, our hearts, and our hands to the needs of your children and the movements of your Spirit, who flows in us like the river whose streams makes glad the city of God, and the hearts of all who dwell in it, and in You.

In the name of Christ, the Healer we pray, amen.

the Rev. Dr. Laurie Ann Kraus
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance