



**TO ALL PASTORS AND CHURCHES IN THE OKLAHOMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
URGENT: HAITI DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT**

By now we will all be aware of the major earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti causing widespread destruction. Millions of people are affected and thousands are feared dead. The events in Haiti on January 12, 2010, are going to demand an immediate and a long-term response from us. That United Methodists will respond is not in question: we have done so for countless disasters within and beyond our borders for generations! The generosity and compassion of our church will be seen here, too. Information will continue to emerge on a daily basis and so we urge you to keep visiting the Oklahoma Conference Web site for the latest news. Go to www.okumc.org. We will update it as information comes to us. For now, the immediate and most important response we can make is donations of money. Our **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** is already active in responding to this disaster.

Monetary Donations

UMCOR is assessing the needs and preparing to respond. UMCOR asks for prayers for all who are affected by the disaster. Support for relief efforts can be made to Haiti Emergency, **UMCOR Advance # 418325** Individuals can go to the UMCOR Web site and make donations there if they choose to. Go to www.gbgn-umc.org/umcor/ where you will find a link to donate. Be aware that this site is experiencing enormous traffic – and has already crashed today! Churches—and individuals, too—can send in donations to the Oklahoma Conference Office. Make checks out to the “Conference Treasurer” and write “Haiti Relief” on the memo line. Remember, because UMCOR has a separate operational budget, one hundred percent of gifts will be utilized in the response!

UMCOR Health Kits Needed!

UMCOR put out an urgent request for Health Kits as part of our response to this disaster. See detailed instructions on how to assemble these kits. You can print out this page and make copies to hand to your people. Please get your health kits to the Conference office as soon as you can. UMCOR has committed to getting them collected from us. (see below) Please do not ask for or collect any other goods, materials or clothing at this stage. We need to wait to hear what else is needed and also for assurances that goods collected can be delivered.

Health Kit

Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes. When people gain the knowledge and materials to maintain personal hygiene, their overall health improves.

Contents:

- 1 hand towel (from 15" x 25" up to 17" x 27")
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 1 large tube of toothpaste (4.5 oz. or larger, expiration date must be 6 months or longer in advance of the date of shipment to UMCOR Sager Brown)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag. It should cost around \$12 per kit. In a separate envelope, please send a check for at least \$1 for each kit to help UMCOR Sager Brown with the costs of processing and shipping kits around the world.

Important: Please do not include any religious, political or patriotic notes or emblems in any kit. All emergency kits have been carefully planned to make them as usable as possible in the greatest number of situations. Because of strict rules imposed by international communities regarding product entry into their countries, it is important that kits contain only the items requested and nothing more. Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials. These things must be painstakingly removed and will impede the progress of the shipment. Please note that all items included in kits must be NEW!