Natural Disaster Assistance

The Architectural Advisory Committee is prepared to assist Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations, schools and ministries in times of natural disasters (floods, fire, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.). The following steps are recommended:

• Coordinate through the District offices that are available during disaster recovery efforts.

• Be in communication with your District President and District Vice President on areas in which the Architectural Advisory Committee can assist in the aftermath, such as:
  a. Evaluation of building damage.
  b. Review repair options, quotes, etc.
  c. Be available by phone to congregations for advice.

• Develop a plan BEFORE a disaster or emergency happens.
  a. Establish who is to be in charge of recovery efforts.
  b. Ensure items have been inventoried and photographed for insurance purposes.
  c. Determine communication or re-organization plans and distribute them to members and leaders. Keep records updated, such as phone numbers, email addresses and meeting points.
  d. If the church facilities are not damaged, draft plans for usage in assisting the community. This will mean understanding what may be needed and filling the gaps, such as coordination/meeting point, meals, supplies, etc.
  e. Consider involving other ministries and congregations.

• After a disaster or emergency, ensure all involved in the recovery efforts know:
  a. How to communicate to the district and other LCMS organizations needs.
b. How to coordinate the volunteers.

- Architectural Committee members’ can:

  a. Assist in development of pre-disaster plans.

  b. Make on-site observations of damage after the event.

  c. Evaluate safety concerns, further damage potential and remedies for prevention of further damage after the event.

  d. Help determine what areas are accessible to retrieve personal or critical items.

  e. Assist in determining on-site needs, repairs and options after the event.

  f. Inform leaders of potential code issues and proper procedure to rebuild.

  g. Assist in reviewing the potential general contractor or subcontractors, such as licensing, bonding, etc., when preparing to rebuild.

  h. Follow up as work progresses to determine other needs or issues.

Contact LCEF for an Architectural Advisory Committee member near you.