

Proposal: For Development of Disaster Preparedness and Response Capability of Churches within the LIE District.

**Background**

In 2015, at the direction of the District Superintendent the LIE DCOM sought to develop Hubs within the district that would begin to prepare the district churches and build a capability that would enable the Church to respond to disasters as may occur within the LIE District.

To that end the Disaster Preparation and Response (DPR) Committee has generated a plan to guide the Churches of the LIE District to prepare for and be in a position to respond with resources and help when a disaster strikes within our district. It is intended that the DPR plan can be amended to meet new demands as they may occur.

**Proposal**

It is proposed that the DCOM adopt the Long Island East District Disaster Preparation and Response Plan to guide the district in building a disaster preparation and response capability that provides for the following;

**Training** – Identify and train individuals from each of the district churches for the purpose of generating disaster plans for each church, (What to do when something happens). UMCOR has a resource titled, Connecting Neighbors, which provides this training material. Additionally, trainings will be provided on an annual basis to continue to develop church plans and to develop and maintain ERT and ESC teams for the district.

**Identify Resources** – Work with each church to identify and document resources that can be used in the event of a disaster. Examples include; warming stations, food pantry, soup kitchen, thrift shop, housing for volunteers, etc.

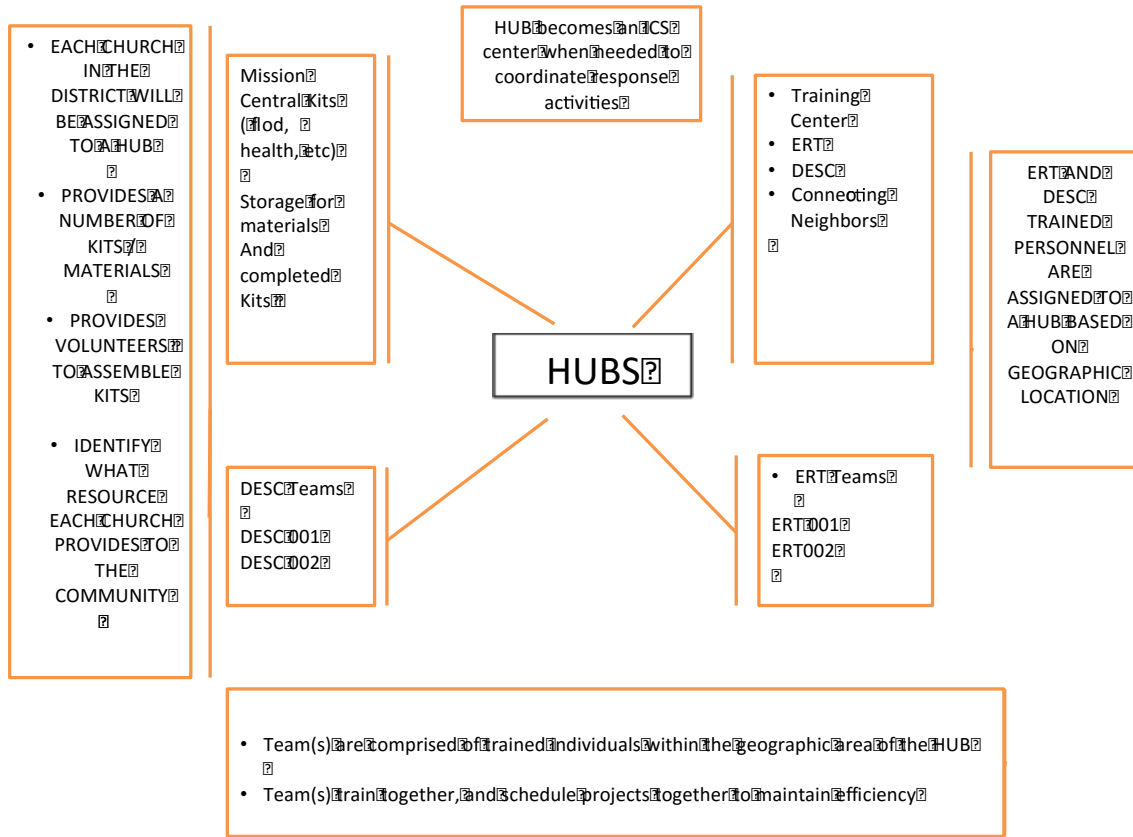
**Assign Churches to Hubs** - Assign each church of the LIE District to a Hub within the LIE District. Each Church in the district would be assigned to one of the Hubs based upon geographic location to the Hub. (Currently three churches have agreed to become one of the two types of hubs listed below but this could grow if other churches seek to become a Hub).

**Mission Central HUBS** - work with the Mission Central ministry of the Susquehanna Annual Conference that is located in Mechanicsburg, PA. The Mission Central HUBS provide leadership necessary to coordinate efforts of area churches to act as the central collection point for UMCOR kits and the efforts associated with kit collection, assembly and storage.

**Disaster Preparation Response (DPR) Hub** - would act as a center to enable UMCs on Long Island to prepare for and respond to disasters as they may occur within the LIE District. These Hubs would offer space for training, meetings, tool and equipment storage, and be a center for ERT and ESC teams to operate from and maintain proficiency.

**Charge Conference Agenda Item** – The district superintendent would direct each church within the district to address DPR activities at every church charge conference.

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LIE DISTRICT HUB CONCEPT