

Moravian Disaster Response – Prayers for Disaster Recovery Board of World Mission

Adapted from the Liturgy “Intercessions in Time of Crisis” in the Moravian Book of Worship, p. 117

God of Mercy, God of Comfort, we come before you in this time of difficulty, mindful of human frailty and need, confused and struggling to find meaning in the face of suffering.

We are grateful that even as we share in the joy of Christ Jesus, we can also share abundantly in comfort in the midst of suffering.

For victims of fire or flood, storm or earthquake, famine or disease,

For those whom disaster has left homeless, injured or bereaved,

For refugees and those separated from loved ones,

Specifically for the victims of the Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, for the families, neighbors and friends of those who have been injured or died.

For all who are in danger, trouble, or anguish,

We ask the presence and strength of your Spirit.

Give all who suffer the love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

We know that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because your love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Be the support of all who give their strength, their skill, and their stamina in a ministry of mercy.

Open our hearts in generosity that we may be partners in their commitment to bring relief.

Where tempers flare and a partisan spirit provokes new hostility, raise up people who have patience and restraint.

Where indifference allows crisis to deepen and suffering to go without relief, awaken deliverers who have zeal and strength.

We pray for those who are engaged in making important decisions in this time, for those who report on these events, and for those who shape public opinion.

Give them the courage to speak out and the restraint to listen, that together we may discern the truth and hold aloft its light.

Take away the temptation to trust only in human power, and give us the courage to be your servants to the community of nations.

Help us come together and respond to the cries of those in need. Let our love and compassion win out over any and all differences between us.

We pray for those who are suffering and can make no sense of tragedy.

Help them to turn to the One who embraces us in our lives -- even Jesus Christ, who lived and suffered among us.

Help us to be generous with our time, our talents and our money. Let us recognize the ways we can act, the ways we can make an impact and help those in need.

Guide us, O Lord, to join together and take the first steps down a path of recovery. Give us the endurance needed to walk this long road together.

Amen