

“How Safe Will You Be in 2023” Church Readiness Challenge

Take the 2023 Readiness Challenge with your congregation! Complete 6 of the following activities before September 15, 2023. Send your tracking sheet to Heartland Conference Disaster Coordinator, Kevin Gehres at gehreskb@gmail.com by the September 15th date and be honored as a ***Ready, Set, GO! Congregation*** at the 2023 Annual Gathering.

Complete 6 of the following activities. Check them off when completed. All Activities count as one, unless otherwise noted. **Get Ready, Set, GO!!!**

Ready, Set Go! Activity

Completed

A member of your congregation joins the Conference Disaster Ministry Team (**Counts as 3 tasks**)

Present the 2023 Readiness Challenge at a Council/Consistory meeting and adopt the Challenge for your congregation.

Post evacuation maps in each space by the exits and include emergency contact phone numbers for the church and emergency responders.

Create a plan as to how you will account for all those who are part of your church community before or after an emergency occurs. Will you have a phone tree? Will it work if cell service is out? Will different people be responsible for following up with a certain number of people on your roster?

Make an asset list of church property. (2) hard copies, one kept at church , one offsite. (1) digital copy that is accessible from outside the church’s physical computer (accessible remotely).

Register as a UCC Willing to Respond Congregation and send your coordinator’s name to Kevin Gehres (**Counts as 2 tasks**) Info link: WillingToRespond.org

Hold a work party to make sure your church property is safe from fire. Info link: Safewise.com

Provide several first aid kits throughout the church. Mark their locations clearly, so they are easy to locate in an emergency. In other locations, post where kits are located.

Make a list of congregational members with “special gifts & talents” for emergencies, such as medical, counselors, those with tools and equipment, those with spare rooms or space for animals, etc. Keep (2) hard copies, one at church, one offsite; (1) digital copy that is accessible from outside the church’s physical computer. (accessible remotely).

Conduct a review to ensure your church building has adequate insurance.

Hold a “Make a Go Now Bag” event with members of your congregation (a good youth project) (Counts as 2 tasks) BuildAKit/Ready.gov

Hold an event to help members put local emergency warning apps on their cell phones.

Create an Active Shooter Emergency Plan for your church building. [Active Shooter Emergency Plan Template \(Nov 2017\) \(cisa.gov\)](http://ActiveShooterEmergencyPlanTemplate(Nov2017)(cisa.gov)) (**Counts as 2 tasks**)

Purchase and install an AED in your church building OR offer a CPR class to staff and members of your congregation.

Purchase a fire safe filing cabinet to house the church’s important documents on site.