

Disaster Preparedness Handbook

June 2021

The
**Episcopal
Church**
in WESTERN LOUISIANA

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June 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

The global pandemic and hurricanes of 2020 followed by the ice storm of 2021 dramatically demonstrated how disasters can disrupt our lives. Although we cannot prevent the occurrence of future destructive events, making advance preparations can help minimize their impact to property and human lives and give us greater confidence and peace when we face difficulties.

This packet includes information developed by Episcopal Relief and Development (<https://www.episcopalrelief.org>). These materials provide concrete steps that churches and individuals can take to be ready for the next hazard that may come our way. I strongly urge you to take the time now to read through these pages, fill out the forms, and take other suggested steps to safeguard the lives and property of people in your congregation and local community.

To learn more about disaster preparedness, you can also visit our diocesan website, <http://epiwl.org/resource-library/disaster-preparation-and-response/>. There you will find links to all of the materials contained in this handbook as well as other local and national resources.

As you begin to do this work, let it be a time of prayerful preparation rather than an opportunity for fear and anxiety. Whatever may come our way, we are all in this together.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, PhD, DD
IV Bishop of Western Louisiana