



2011 Nashville Mission/Work Team

Kiski Presbytery Disaster Response Task Group
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To: Church Mission Leaders

From: Gary & Lisa Lyon

Purpose: Pennsylvania Disaster Response Opportunities and Presbytery Endeavors

Our e-mails and phones have been overwhelmed since the return of the Presbytery Mission/Work team from Nashville, TN in November 2011. Most people want to know when the next trip is being planned! Please know that we are working toward the next endeavor. Lisa and I have felt a particular call to Mission/Work sites in the US, that are the result of natural disasters. We have been coordinating trips for Kiskiminetas Presbytery for 5 years and have a rather loose group of volunteers from among the many people who have gone on these trips whom we call upon for advice and counsel. We are under the umbrella of the Diaconal Ministry work.

Typically a presbytery-wide mission/work trip involving more than 25 people requires 6 to 9 months of planning. It takes so much time to plan because of issues of transportation, lodging, having enough work for a large group to do at a site, and cost (*more importantly cash flow*). We also try to keep these endeavors close to the beating drum of the mission work of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Lisa and I are beginning to look for possibilities for the fall of 2012 or the spring of 2013.

In the meantime, we encourage you to respond in a hands-on way to natural disasters that happened right here in Pennsylvania in September 2011. Why not try organizing a smaller trip with your church or combine with another church to one of three small sites that are operating in Pennsylvania right now. Here is the contact information:

Carlisle Presbytery funds a ministry entitled Lend-a-Hand in the Harrisburg area that is responding to the Sept. 2011 flooding. They are looking for groups of up to about 12 persons to come for a few days, weekend, or week to work.

Please go to the following site for more information and to contact them directly. Our church will be spending a week there in mid-March.

<http://www.lendahand.net/>

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is opening two sites in eastern Pennsylvania beginning at the end of March. You will need to register directly with PDA and not the church. The specifics are below.

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pda/volunteer-opportunities/>

Tropical Storm Lee flooding response

The **Presbytery of Lackawanna** is hosting volunteer teams in response to September 2011's Tropical Storm Lee. Useful skills include general construction, cleaning, painting and installation of sheetrock and flooring.

→ Minimum age 16; one adult age 25 or older per 5 students under 19 years of age.

→ Contact the PDA Call Center at (866) 732-6121, or [register your interest online](#).

First Presbyterian Church of Towanda and **Trinity Lutheran church** are working together to host volunteers in response to flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee (September 2011). Volunteers are needed for general construction, cleaning, painting, and installation of sheetrock, drywall and insulation.

→ Minimum age 16

→ Contact the PDA Call Center at (866) 732-6121, or [register your interest online](#).

For many years churches from Kiski Presbytery have led Mission/Work Trips to a site sponsored in part by the Presbytery of West Virginia. This recovery work is constant because of Appalachia conditions and yearly flooding. Please contact us if this is something you might want to organize or be a part of and we will forward you contact information.

In the early summer of 2011 we organized a work weekend at Camp Lambec that never materialized. We believe with new Camp Board representatives in place this opportunity for mission/work to Camp Lambec and Westminster Highlands will be highly publicized in the coming months. Keep your eyes open!

We hope this answers most your questions. May God continue to bless you with the energy and the vision of hands-on mission work in Jesus' name! Call us if you need any help or run into any snags and we'll dig into our mission/work trip wisdom bag and work at finding out the answer.