Church & Community
Crisis Response Training
May 2014

What is the Purpose?
To equip town and country churches to better understand and employ their particular gifts in helping their community prepare for and recover resiliently from crisis and disaster. This doesn’t replace provincial emergency measures. Rather, it intends to enhance local emergency plans and expand the range of crises considered, with a special focus on how churches can contribute.

Who Might be Interested?
Congregations, Rural Emergency Measures Organizations (EMO) and other community members that want to be ready to respond in an effective way - not just to weather-related disasters, but also to economic downturns, accidents, crime and other stressful events or chronic circumstances.

Who Could be Involved?
Several teams from different rural areas will participate. Each community's team will consist of about 5 to 8 members. Teams will be a mixture of representatives from local churches and town leadership (e.g. members of town council, chamber of commerce, health units, fire, RCMP). Each community's team will also include the coordinator of any Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) that the town or region has established.

Who are our Trainers?

Dr. Judith Kulig, Professor, University of Lethbridge (AB), Faculty of Health Sciences; specialty in Community Resiliency of Rural Communities.

Dr. Cathy Carter-Snell, Nurse Education Scholar and Associate Professor for the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Mount Royal University, Calgary AB; specialty in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Majors Al and Karen Hoeft, Salvation Army Disaster Response Services, Winnipeg MB Region.

Major Mike Hoeft, Salvation Army Emergency and Disaster Service Coordinator, Saskatchewan.

Rev. Dr. Cam Harder, Executive Director of CiRCLe M. Professor of Systematic Theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon SK.

(please visit www.circle-m.ca to read their biographies)
What is the Format?
The process will begin with on-line webinar training using locally available technology (laptop, projector, internet connection, speaker phone).

Following the webinars, each team will work to address gaps in its local EMO plan, building on community strengths and on connecting church resources to the plan. The effort will include feedback from others in local communities.

CiRCLe M will produce recordings of the webinar information and distribute them to each team so that they (the teams) can share the information with others.

What is the Content?
The webinars will look at some key dynamics that occur in times of crisis and the role that the church can have in responding to them. Experienced trainers will focus on how churches can help communities prepare for and respond to:

1) weather related disasters (e.g. flooding, fire)
2) critical incidents (e.g. major crimes, explosions)
3) economic crises (e.g. mine closure, market crash)
4) post-traumatic stress in individuals and communities.

In each presentation church’s facilities and resources, spiritual gifts and unique role in rural communities will be considered.

Dates:
Webinar Training: May 15 and 22, 2014. 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.

During summer and early fall teams will work together and in their communities determining the contributions that churches can make to the local crisis intervention plan.

In late fall, CiRCLe M will conduct site visits and interviews to see how communities/churches are doing with their plans.

Who Are the Key Organizers?
This training is hosted by CiRCLe M (Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry).

The People:
Rev. Tim Wray, St. Peter's Lutheran Church (Millet AB)
Rev. Joyce Sasse, Canadian Rural Church Network (Pincher Creek AB)
Colleen Rickard, CiRCLe M (Saskatoon SK)
**Information and Registration:**
To learn more about the webinars, call
  - Tim Wray at 780-387-4262 or
  - Colleen Rickard at 306-966-7864

Please contact CiRCLe M to register.
Email. circle.m.ministries@gmail.com
Phone: 306-966-7864 (Saskatoon)

**What is the Cost?**
The webinars are free.

CiRCLe M is grateful to the following donors for financially supporting these webinars:

**Lutheran Triune Educational and Benevolent Society of Calgary**

*and*

**The Calgary Foundation**