

Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund

Approved October 18, 2018 by Virginia Synod Council

The “Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund” is designed to be one component of an overall disaster response strategy within the Virginia Synod. The overall strategy will include a webpage for sharing preparation and response information and coordinated work with LFSVA who will manage and coordinate any interventions by Lutheran Disaster Response.

Fund Definition:

The **Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund** is a designated fund created to provide support for disaster relief through the Virginia Synod, ELCA.

Management of Funds:

Gifts to the Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund will be managed using these guiding principles:

- All gifts given to the Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund will be used for disaster response.
- Requests for Virginia Synod Disaster Response Funds will be made in writing/by email to the Virginia Synod by congregations or affiliated organizations.
- Requests for funding will be considered as they are received.
- The Synod Council Executive Committee or a sub-committee appointed by the Synod Council will work with the Synod Staff to consider requests and approve funding.
- Distributions from the Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund will not exceed donations to the Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund.
- Typical requests for funding will include, but are not limited to:
 - Supplies to assist with clean up and rebuilding in a local community
 - Temporary staff support for disaster areas
 - Facilities and infrastructure repairs for congregations and affiliated organizations

Notes:

1. The Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund is intended to supplement the work of Lutheran Disaster Response and to provide a local giving opportunity for individuals who prefer to give to a local organization. The suggestion to start this fund was made by our contact at LDR and from conversations with other leaders. Disaster response funds like this already exist in other Synods.
2. Creating a Virginia Synod Disaster Response Fund will provide the Virginia Synod with a donation and distribution mechanism for responding to any disaster that occurs, even ones that don't rise to the level of a national or statewide disaster. Instead of creating disaster specific funds, we will run everything through this fund and hopefully build up a fund balance between disasters that can be used for future response.
3. The management guidelines are broad enough to allow for gifts to be used to support disaster response outside the Virginia Synod. Since the guidelines state that requests may be made by congregations or affiliated organizations, a request from a neighboring Synod, for example, would be permissible. Similarly, the parameters for typical requests allow the Virginia Synod to support relief ministry outside of the Synod's territory.