

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN TIME OF DISASTER:

1. Who will receive this special offering?

Upper Columbia Conference will receive the donations through church remittance or direct donations. UCC donations will be sent to Northern California Conference with the understanding that these funds are specifically given for those impacted by the Paradise fire (Camp Fire). Treasurers will receive specific information from UCC Treasury.

2. How much of the donated dollars of the special offering will be sent to Northern California Conference (NCC) for those impacted by the Paradise Fire?

100% The donation will be restricted to the Camp Fire relief/recovery that affected tens of thousands in Paradise, CA and at this writing has affected a limited number in surrounding communities.

3. Will the conference send truckloads of clothing and household items to assist?

Certainly not at this time. Many times well-meaning individuals and organizations truck in, ship or mail clothing, furniture, toys, food, and other items. At this point, that is not what is needed.

In fact, decades of disaster experience have shown such donations can become a “secondary disaster.” Why? Where will donated goods be stored or distributed? Who will distribute? Who will sort the items? What do you do with the mounds of poor quality items that often are sent? Who will pay for the shipping expenses?

Where are the individuals and families who have fled the fires? Some may be living in their cars with limited space. It may be weeks until individuals and families are even allowed back into the area and then where will they go?

4. Why in most cases is cash the best way to give in time of disaster?

- a. Cash is flexible -- The nature of disaster is chaos, complexity and a reality that changes by the minute. Today's need may not be tomorrow's need. We can be assured, however, *there will be needs in the days, weeks, months and years to come.*
- b. Cash can quickly be transferred to individuals or families in need by a check or gift card. The individuals and families are then able to make their own choices.
- c. Cash can be used immediately or the use can be delayed if that is best.
- d. Cash can be leveraged.
For example, if bottled water is needed, individuals will pay full price at the local box store. If a relief organization buys water by the semi-truck loads, the organization may purchase 5-10 times the amount of water for the same dollars.
- e. Cash supports the local economies that perhaps are struggling because of the disaster.

5. How can a donation be made?

- a. A special offering at church on Sabbath, November 17. Tithing envelopes can be marked "Paradise Recovery" through December.
- b. On-line Giving – "UCC Disaster Response-Paradise Recovery"
- c. Mail a check to Upper Columbia Conference – marked Paradise Recovery Offering.

Thank you for your generosity in assisting those so tragically impacted by this disaster.

Privileged to serve with the Master,

Patty