

REBUILDING HOPE: CHURCH RELIEF AND RECOVERY INITIATIVE



OVERVIEW: The *Rebuilding Hope: Church Relief and Recovery Initiative* is a collaborative effort led by the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) to support churches devastated by natural disasters. This initiative relies on the vital facilitation of partnering organizations and emphasizes working together to provide financial assistance to churches for their physical restoration, necessary repairs, and community outreaches that provide essential needs (shelter, food, water, clothing, etc.). Additionally, the initiative focuses on the spiritual renewal of congregations and communities, helping them heal from the disaster and emerge stronger in their faith and unity.

A. KEY OBJECTIVES

1. **Provide Relief and Recovery Support:** Assist churches in repairing physical damage caused by the disaster, so that they can resume their ministry work.
2. **Community Engagement:** Empower churches to continue serving their communities with essential relief, such as food, water, shelter, etc.
3. **Spiritual Renewal:** Restore the churches' spiritual strength, fostering hope and community healing through experiences such as prayer services, counseling, community engagement, and addressing the emotional and psychological hurt caused by the disaster.

B. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **NABF's Role:**
 - a) Raise and provide support to the Partnering Organization that is responsible for distributing the funds to the selected churches for relief and recovery efforts.
 - b) Continue the collection of donations for the Initiative and raise awareness of the needs of the affected churches.
 - c) Oversee the administration of the funds.
 - d) Collect regular progress reports from the Partnering Organization, including photos, videos, and financial documentation, to track the use and impact of the funds.
 - e) Share the progress and impact of the recovery efforts through its network, communications, and media channels to raise awareness and encourage further support from NABF member bodies and partners.
2. **Partnering Organization's Role:**
 - a) Identify and select the churches that need disaster relief support in the affected regions (e.g., North Carolina, Southeast, etc.) in consultation with the NABF Disaster Relief Team. Priority is given to churches providing disaster recovery services to their community.
 - b) Allocate the financial support to the designated churches in a fair and just manner, requiring that the funds are utilized solely for their disaster relief and recovery; and require the funds to be returned if they are not used for their intended purpose.
 - c) Gather detailed information and documentation on how the funds are used by the recipient churches, as well as photographs, videos, and written reports detailing the progress of the recovery efforts, including before-and-after images.
 - d) Submit a final *NABF Disaster Relief Report* to the NABF within 120 days after the funds were distributed. Additional time needed shall be agreed upon by both the NABF and the partner organization.

C. CRITERIA FOR RH FUND USAGE

The RH funds provided by the Partnering Organization can be used for the following criteria:

1. **Church Restoration:** Churches will get repairs for facilities and ministries, helping them continue their mission of service to the community.
2. **Structural Damage Restoration:** Restoration of damaged roofs and any other structural elements, including repairs to the church's foundation, walls, or other critical components that impact the building's integrity.
3. **Enhancing Disaster Relief and Recovery Efforts:** Enhancement and restoration the church's capacity to support its disaster relief and recovery efforts, enabling them to serve their community more effectively during and after the recovery period.
4. **Community Impact:** Equipping their facilities to continue providing a space for worship, fellowship, and assistance to those in need. This includes creating spaces for community outreach, offering services like shelter, prayer, and support for those affected by the disaster.
5. **Meeting Basic Needs:** Meeting basic and immediate needs in the community, including providing food, water, clean clothing, hygiene products, and temporary shelter for displaced individuals or families.
6. **Materials and Supplies:** Necessary materials and supplies directly related to the repair and recovery efforts, such as construction materials, volunteer coordination, and temporary facilities for displaced persons.
7. **Spiritual Renewal:** Activities aimed at spiritual renewal, which will support both the church and the broader community. This may include prayer services, counseling, community engagement, and addressing the emotional and psychological hurt caused by the disaster.

Funds may not be used for:

- General operational expenses unrelated to disaster recovery.
- Any costs not directly associated with the repairs, restoration, or spiritual renewal of the church as outlined above.

D. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. **Church Restoration:** Churches will get repairs for facilities and ministries, helping them continue their mission of service to the community.
2. **Community Impact:** Churches will be better equipped to support their communities in the aftermath of the disaster, providing a place of worship, refuge, and healing.
3. **Spiritual Rebuilding:** The spiritual health of congregations will be nurtured, helping them regain strength and resilience.

E. ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

1. The Partnering Organization will be responsible for ensuring that all funds are used as intended. A detailed account of the use of funds, including photographs, videos, and progress reports, must be submitted to NABF within the agreed timeline.
2. NABF reserves the right to request additional documentation or clarification on how the funds have been used, should any concerns arise.
3. If the funds are not utilized for their intended purposes, the Partnering Organization will require the funds to be returned from the church within 60 days of the misuse being discovered.

F. TIMELINE

The project will continue through the recovery phase, with progress reports to be submitted periodically. The funds will be allocated as churches are selected, and updates will be provided by the partnering organizations within 180 days of receiving the funds.