

**Disaster Preparedness from a Theological Lens  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Workshops  
October 18 & 19, 2024  
Presbyterian College**

A series of four workshops is being offered in conjunction with the SC5 School of Theology. The workshops are designed to expose the participants to the importance of awareness in disaster preparedness from a theological viewpoint as we prepare ourselves through this specialized ministry of Presbytery and congregational service. The ten-hour program is divided into four workshops focusing on disaster preparedness, church safety and security, human caused disaster, as well as emotional care and building resilience.

You may register for **all four** workshops or for **two on Friday** or **two on Saturday**.

**Friday, October 18 3:00 until 8:15, includes dinner**

**3:00 – 5:00 Workshop 1: “*Protecting Our Flock through Church Safety & Security*”**

The need for active shooter training for churches and houses of worship has sadly become a point of ministry in today’s world.

**5:15 – 6:00 Dinner at Dining Hall**

**6:15 – 8:15 Workshop 2: “*Offering Disaster Emotional & Spiritual Care After Human Caused Disasters*”**

Although faith community leaders and others are trained to provide quality emotional and spiritual care, the disaster environment presents distinct challenges.

**Saturday, October 19 9:00 – 5:30, includes lunch and worship**

**9:00 – Noon Workshop 3: “*Hurricanes! Tornadoes! Fires! OH MY!*”**

The purpose of this session is to provide training and materials to be used to support congregations and mid councils to create disaster preparedness plans.

**12:15 – 1:10 Lunch in Dining Hall**

**1:20 – 2:20 Worship**

**2:30 – 5:30 Workshop 4: “*Building Resilience for Stressful Times When Times Are Stressful*”**

Faith leader resilience has been tested in ways thought unimaginable. With the stress of living through a pandemic as the norm, faith leaders who invest spiritual and physical energy in following the teachings of Jesus to serve face a world of need and diminishing resources.

**Leaders:** Elder Mark H. McCain, the Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk, Carolyn Thalman, and Elder Gertrude McFadden Washington

**Costs**

\$75 for both days, includes Friday dinner & Saturday lunch

\$40 for Friday only, includes dinner

\$40 for Saturday only, includes lunch

**Hotel Option**

If you wish to stay overnight on Friday, we have negotiated a discounted rate of \$104 at the Hampton Inn, Clinton. Use this link to reserve a room: [SC5 School of Theology](#)

### **Disaster Preparedness from a Theological Lens** (Elective)

This is a series of *four* workshops designed to expose the participants to the importance of awareness in disaster preparedness from a theological viewpoint as we prepare ourselves through this specialized ministry of Presbytery and congregational service. The ten-hour program is divided into four workshops focusing on disaster preparedness, church safety and security, human caused disaster, as well as emotional care and building resilience.

SC5 School of Theology students will take *all four* workshops to equal one elective. Others in our community may take 2 or 4 workshops.

**Leaders: Elder Mark H. McCain, the Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk, Carolyn Thalman, and Elder Gertrude McFadden Washington**

**Textbook information:** No textbooks are required. Materials will be provided.

#### **Workshop 1: “Protecting Our Flock through Church Safety & Security”**

The need for active shooter training for churches and houses of worship has sadly become a point of ministry in today’s world. The reality of today is that places of worship are just as vulnerable to active shooter events as schools and businesses. A program overview will afford participants the opportunity to learn of events which have taken place to impact houses of worship. Understanding the benefits of a site review to learn of the awareness of your surroundings. Understand the characteristics of human behavior and perform associated assessments of potential persons wishing to harm others. Generate awareness of how the power of HELLO can serve your Ushers / Greeters well. Secure a basic knowledge of the principles of Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. Visit with the principles of “Stop the Bleed” and basic first aid as part of an event response.

**Leader: Elder Mark H. McCain**, who is a retired Professional Civil Engineer has served as a volunteer member of the PDA National Response Team since 2017. Mark’s previous experience within the area of Critical Infrastructure Security and Resiliency provides the foundation for his working as a certified instructor for Church Safety and Security to presbyteries and congregations. In addition, Mark is a member and certified instructor for Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).

#### **Workshop 2: “Offering Disaster Emotional & Spiritual Care After Human Caused Disasters”**

"Nothing can separate us from the love of God." Although faith community leaders and others are trained to provide quality emotional and spiritual care, the disaster environment presents distinct challenges. Violence changes everything, and it requires different skills to respond to natural disasters. Participants will learn definitions and guidelines for human-caused disasters, clergy care, congregational care, worship and liturgy, and long-term emotional and spiritual care.

**Leader: Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk** is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in August of 2016 accepted the position of Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This position is responsible for coordinating the denominations domestic response to the many disasters that impact our congregations, Presbyteries, and communities. The mission of PDA is to bring, “Out of Chaos, Hope”. Jim is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional (CCFP) through the International Association of Trauma Professionals and a member of the International Critical Stress Foundation (ICSF). Jim was a volunteer with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for over 20 years. In that role Jim has responded to a variety of disasters including natural and public violence.

#### **Workshop 3: “Hurricanes! Tornadoes! Fires! OH MY!”**

The purpose of this session is to provide training and materials to be used to support

congregations and mid councils to create disaster preparedness plans. The materials presented are resources to be used when working with congregations and mid councils that want to create their own preparedness plans and teams. The presentation will summarize the work of PDA and the steps needed to create a plan. There will be sample plans from PCUSA churches and mid councils and a template for creating a plan. There are checklists for family, church and mid councils and additional resources that the team has found to be helpful.

**Leaders: Carolyn Thalman and Elder Gertrude Washington**

**Carolyn Thalman** is a retired teacher, who has been a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team since 2006. She led the creation of the materials for the PDA - Presbyterian Women's Partnership to train Presbyterian Women to support Disaster Preparedness in their presbyteries and congregations. Carolyn is the National Response Team Lead for the PDA Preparedness Team.

**Gertrude McFadden Washington** is a resident of Sumter, SC. She is an elder in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, USA in Alcolu, SC. Gertrude is a retired teacher of 35+ years. She has been a member of the National Response Team since 2017, Care Team, Emotional Spiritual Care Team, a member of South Carolina PDAT and New Harmony Disaster Commission.

**Workshop 4: "Building Resilience for Stressful Times When Times Are Stressful"**

"Do not grow weary in doing what is good." Faith leader resilience has been tested in ways thought unimaginable. With the stress of living through a pandemic as the norm, faith leaders who invest spiritual and physical energy in following the teachings of Jesus to serve face a world of need and diminishing resources. This practical workshop will equip participants to strengthen their resilience to stress and trauma in the midst of stress and trauma. Mitigating one's reaction to stress and trauma is an effective way to help others mitigate their stress reactions. Learn why we suffer symptoms of compassion fatigue and learn the five practices that can refuel us and restore our joy and energy in ministry.

**Leader: Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk** is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in August of 2016 accepted the position of Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This position is responsible for coordinating the denominations domestic response to the many disasters that impact our congregations, Presbyteries, and communities. The mission of PDA is to bring, "Out of Chaos, Hope". Jim is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional (CCFP) through the International Association of Trauma Professionals and a member of the International Critical Stress Foundation (ICSF). Jim was a volunteer with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for over 20 years. In that role Jim has responded to a variety of disasters including natural and public violence.

**Notes:**

1. The deadline for registration is Thursday, October 3, 2024.
2. The last day to withdraw with a full refund is October 8, 2024.
3. You may reserve a hotel room at Hampton Inn, Clinton via this link ([SC5 School of Theology](#)) or make other arrangements as desired.



**SC5 School of Theology  
Fall 2024 Schedule  
October 18 and 19, 2024**

**Friday, October 18**

2:30 – 3:00	Registration (check-in) in Neville Hall
3:00 – 5:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Class Session (2 hours)
5:15 – 6:00	Dinner at Presbyterian College Dining Hall
6:15 – 8:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Session (2 hours)
8:20 – 8:45	Welcome, Announcements, Evening Vespers

**Saturday, October 19**

8:30 – 8:45	Morning Worship in Neville Hall
9:00 – 12:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Session (3 hours)
12:15 – 1:10	Lunch in Dining Hall
1:20 – 2:20	Worship with Presentation and Communion
2:30 – 5:30	4 <sup>th</sup> Class Session (3 hours)
5:30	Depart (Optional 2 <sup>nd</sup> night at hotel. Dinner on your own.)