



# COGIC Hurricane Response

**To: Bishops, Pastors, and Leaders of the Church of God in Christ**

Thank you so much for your prayers and cooperation as the Church Of God In Christ responds to this catastrophic event, Hurricane Harvey. Our hearts and prayers are with those persons affected by this devastating storm.

The vision of our Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. is broad, yet focused on responding with passion and urgency to people in need. The following provides an overview of the plan that the Presiding Bishop articulates for recovery and restoration of citizens in the region affected by Harvey's path.

1. **The COGIC Super Resource Center is established in the city of Houston. This 30,000 square feet facility is being launched to serve as:**
  - a. **The National Collection & Distribution Center** - for donations received from churches, jurisdictions, communities, and compassionate contributors around the country.
  - b. **A Resource Deployment Hub** – as larger trucks from around the country are unloaded, smaller trucks are loaded and dispatched to neighborhoods in need of immediate assistance. These neighborhoods and cities include those most impacted in the Texas Gulf region.
  - c. **An Information Hub** - from the Super Resource Center, individuals and families can access national, regional, and local agencies, such as FEMA and other related organizations that will provide resources.
  - d. **A Local Resource Distribution Center** - where individuals and families can receive needed resources as available, *e.g., clothes, toiletries, shoes, tools, emergency items, etc.* See complete list on COGIC website.



- e. **The Volunteer Task Force Headquarters** - that trains, coordinates, schedules, and deploys volunteers for assignments at the COGIC Super Center, Neighborhood Response Centers, and wherever assistance may be needed.

## 2. Regional Collection Centers

The National COGIC Response Team will partner with at least 30 to 50 regional locations that will serve as major collection centers for participating churches and communities. Currently, there are more than 25 sites established with more being added daily (see list below).

Churches may choose to:

- Sponsor a truck individually, or
- Partner with multiple churches, districts, jurisdictions, and/or communities.

Please note that this is not only a *multi-jurisdictional* effort but in many cases, a *multi-denominational* effort. For example, all churches in one city or area may join together to fill one or more trucks. If this is the direction you choose, each church may serve as a sub-collection site. Then, during the official collection weekend (September 14-17), the church will coordinate the transporting of all donations received to the designated central regional site. There, the large truck will be loaded and deployed to Houston during the week of September 18-22.

The sponsoring regional site and/or churches in the area are asked to underwrite/donate the cost of transportation. Several companies have already expressed their willingness to donate their services or to transport goods for the cost of fuel. Others have identified local truck operators willing to transport the donations at reduced rates. For assistance in arranging transportation, please contact Elder Carl Pierce, Logistics Coordinator, at 410.752.6123.



### ***Official Launch***

A ribbon-cutting and official opening of the **COGIC SUPER RESOURCE CENTER** is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 11:00 am. The address and location of the center will be identified in the next few days. If you, your church, jurisdiction, or community would like to participate as a regional site, **please contact us immediately**. Be assured, your support will strengthen this compassionate and urgent response to the victims of Hurricane Harvey!

Our Logistics and Planning Team is standing by to assist you and your community. Time is of the essence!

### **3. September 17, 2017 - Impact Compassion Sunday**

On this all-important Sunday, in all COGIC churches, our Presiding Bishop is requesting that a special offering be received for Hurricane Harvey victims **and** for churches that are in desperate need of our assistance.

Following a church's normal time of giving, it is our Presiding Bishop's desire that members of our great church be given the opportunity to respond in kindness to others.

After this special offering is received by the congregation, at the pastor's direction, financial officers will remit the total offering received to the COGIC Charities Official Website, **immediately**. The official portal will offer the ability to donate via:

..... **Givelify - PayPal - ACH - Text to Give - 800#.....**

As each church submits their donations through any of the aforementioned portals, the church's name will be listed on the COGIC website, with a return acknowledgment for donations received.



The Web/Tel-a-thon will broadcast in real-time, and churches may join in by watching online. Many churches are planning to have dinner in their fellowship halls and watch on large screens as the Church of God in Christ family comes together for this great cause.

Additional information will be forthcoming, providing greater detail and ideas on how this great day can and will bless your church.

Our Presiding Bishop and the family of the Church Of God In Christ thanks you in advance for all that you do in support of our COGIC Plan for Hurricane Harvey Recovery and Restoration.

Bishop J. W. Macklin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Presiding Bishop