

# Disaster Spiritual Care

## “Why?”

No question is more common to survivors of disaster than this. And, devoutly religious or not, the one who cries out this question is expressing the deepest spiritual question of all. Disaster Spiritual Care seeks to assist an individual, family or community to draw upon their own spiritual perspective as a source of strength, hope and healing. In disaster, anything that nurtures the human spirit in coping with the crisis is Disaster Spiritual Care.

## Who we are

The Pennsylvania Disaster Spiritual Care Network (PDSCN) will provide spiritual care to persons affected by natural disaster or terrorist activity within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A service of the Pennsylvania Behavioral Health Crisis Response Advisory Consortium, PDSCN was founded in 2014 after years of planning. It reflects the oft-demonstrated concern that residents of Pennsylvania have for one another especially during very difficult times following a disaster.

Built upon the belief that friends and neighbors can truly help one another in these difficult circumstances, PDSCN will train, credential, and support those who wish to help their fellow Pennsylvanians. PDSCN will offer spiritual care support that reflects the highest standards within the field of Disaster Spiritual Care.



# Will you join us?

Perhaps you have the gifts and the passion to accompany a disaster survivor on their journey to recovery. The path you will walk is hope.

Becoming a part of the Pennsylvania Disaster Spiritual Care Network requires some serious preparation and self-examination. Each applicant must:

- Have a **letter of recommendation** from a religious “superior” (pastor, bishop, imam, rabbi, etc.)
- Have a **solid personal faith** foundation
- Take a **basic Disaster Spiritual Care course\*** approved by the Network
- Participate in an **interview**
- Commit themselves to the **standards** for Disaster Spiritual Care as detailed by the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (available upon request)
- Complete the requirements for **IS-100** (Introduction to Incident Command System) and **IS-700** (National Incident Management System)
- Successfully complete an approved **Psychological First Aid** course

Upon completion of these criteria, you will be credentialed as a PA Disaster Spiritual Care Provider and available when your neighbors need you most.

**\* The best place to begin is by taking the Network’s Disaster Spiritual Care training course. See the back for training dates and location.**

# What will you do?

When a disaster strikes a community or region, Spiritual Care Providers will be deployed by the appropriate disaster management office. This may be a county office or a regional office. It may be directly from the PDSCN leadership. Spiritual Care Providers **never** self-deploy.

With that deployment will come instructions and assignments of where you are needed and what the mission is.

The actual work then begins. Listening is the most important part of what you do. Verbal support, though, is also important as you give them recognition that this is a difficult time for them. Much of the Spiritual Care Provider’s care can be described as a “ministry of presence.”

Your training will help you assess the needs of the persons you are with and how you can best help them discover their own spiritual resources for finding hope and comfort. In some cases, your training will help you determine if any of these persons could benefit from mental health services and then make the appropriate referrals. You do not provide mental health services yourself.

If any of those persons are connected with their own faith communities, you will, with their permission, seek to connect them to those communities. You will always remember that God will precede you to the disaster scene and will be there long after your work is done. You are but a piece – an important one – in God’s care for those you serve. Your training will be your guide through the often fluid and unpredictable needs you will encounter.





The Pennsylvania Society of Chaplains, Inc.

The Pennsylvania Disaster Spiritual Care Network  
will offer basic Disaster Spiritual Care Training  
in partnership with the  
Pennsylvania Society of Chaplains  
Annual Fall Conference.

October 8—10, 2017  
Bongiorno Conference Center  
430 Union Hall Road  
Carlisle, PA 17013

Conference Registration:  
Sunday, October 8, 2017, from 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
Hotel Meeting Room D  
Training Program begins at 4:00 p.m.  
on Sunday and ends at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 14TH.**  
**Rooms are available onsite**  
**but limited to a first come, first serve basis**  
**(based on receipt of registration form).**  
**Commuters are also welcome to attend the conference.**

Questions regarding registration?  
Call Kelly Kleckner at 717-544-5979 OR  
Email [KJKLECKN@LGHEALTH.ORG](mailto:KJKLECKN@LGHEALTH.ORG)

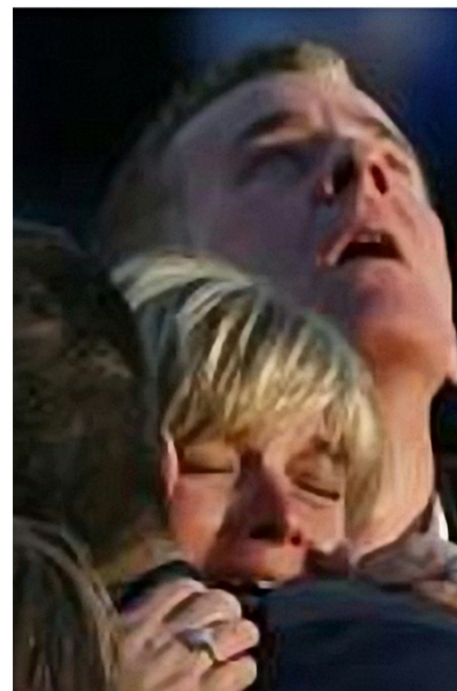
*Please mail the enclosed registration form  
along with a check payable to  
"The Pennsylvania Society of Chaplains" to:*

The PA Society of Chaplains Fall Conference  
C/O Chaplaincy Care & Education Department  
Lancaster General Hospital  
555 North Duke Street, PO Box 3555  
Lancaster, PA 17604-3555

[www.societyofchaplains.org](http://www.societyofchaplains.org)



PENNSYLVANIA  
DISASTER  
SPIRITUAL CARE  
NETWORK



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*Disaster brings chaos  
We bring hope*

**DIRECTIONS TO THE BONGIORNO CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**430 Union Hall Road, Carlisle, Pa 17013 • 717-243-7381 • bongiornocc.com**

**From the Turnpike:** Take Turnpike Exit #226 and follow U.S. 11 South into Carlisle. This becomes Hanover Street. Follow Hanover to High Street. Make a right onto High Street. Go four blocks to College Street and follow directions below. \*

**From Rt. 81 Southbound:** Take Exit #49. Turn right at end of exit ramp and go toward town on Rt. 641, Trindle Road. This becomes High Street. Follow High Street into town past the Square to College Street and follow directions below. \*

**From Rt. 81 Northbound:** Take Exit #47 and turn left at end of exit ramp and proceed toward town on Hanover Street (Hwy. 34). Follow Hanover to High Street. Make a left onto High Street and proceed four blocks to College Street and follow directions below. \*

**\* Directions once you reach College Street:** Turn right onto College Street (74 N.). Go 6 blocks to an arrow indicating Rt. 74 to the left. Follow Rt. 74 (Waggoners Gap Road) past schools and cross over a bridge. Turn left at the second road after the bridge (Union Hall Road). Follow Union Hall Road approximately 1 mile. The Conference Center is on the left. Follow the driveway to the conference buildings.