



FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD Protocol for

Congregation Request for Synod Disaster Funds

The Florida-Bahamas Synod is able to provide assistance to congregations needing financial assistance to recover from disaster according to the generosity of the synod congregations who share mission support for this purpose. As faithful stewards of these gifts, congregations who request these funds are required to show the following before any assistance can be granted:

- If there is a school on the church property, a FEMA application has been submitted and the results of that application
- A Small Business Administration loan application has been submitted and the results of that application
- The Mission Investment Fund has been contacted and the results of that consultation/loan application
- The response of the Insurer
- Current Financial Statements (Income & Expense and Balance Sheet)
- Short written summary of the event, damage and expected costs to repair
- 3 estimates from licensed and insured trades people to complete the repairs (only one estimate needed for under \$1,000)
- The response of the congregation to a financial appeal to fund the repairs

Once the above requirements are provided, a team from the Synod, consisting of 5 members, 2 of whom will also be on the Synod Council, will review the requests and take into consideration as well, the following signs of being church together:

- Whether the congregation filed its annual parochial report
- Whether the congregation filed a covenant for mission support in the past year
- What % of mission support the congregation shares
- Whether the pastor filed a Rostered Minister Report in the past year
- Whether the pastor and congregation members attended the most recent Synod Assembly
- Whether the Pastor attended the most recent Conference on Ministry
- Whether the pastor and congregation members are active in Conference gatherings

The team will then take the total amount of disaster funds available and determine the percentage award based on the being church together that can be granted, up to and including the total amount requested.

For example, a church requests a grant of \$5,000, completes all the pre-requisites and has 11 of 11 points. The total Disaster Fund at that point in time is \$225,000. The Church would be awarded \$5,000 as that is the lesser of the request or 11% of the total fund.

Or a church requests \$80,000, completes all the pre-requisites and has 6 of the 11 points. The most that could be awarded here is 6% of \$225,000 or \$13,500. (In this situation, there may be other funds available to the congregation from the synod in the form of a low interest loan to cover the balance)