Isabel (left) and Amelia Carttar, sisters and case managers at Centro Hispano in Lawrence, Kansas, which received UCC COVID-19 help. Full story inside.

Social Distancing and Sacred Engagement: United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries in 2020

2020 was a record year of disasters, including a global pandemic affecting billions and sickening and killing millions. Concurrently, many people around the world also suffered extreme heat or cold, typhoons, floods or droughts. The U.S. South and East endured a record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season. The West had record wildfires. A derecho swept the Midwest. To name just a few.

UCC Disaster Ministries quickly recognized that 2020 would not be business as usual. The COVID-19 pandemic affected customary ways of assisting disaster survivors and called for creativity to help meet the additional challenges the pandemic posed.

Even when helping disaster-impacted people survive in the short term, we kept focused on what we do best: building preparedness and resiliency, and supporting community-based long-term recovery.

Note: Carol Fouke-Mpoyo, UCC Disaster Ministries writer, compiled this report. Its purpose is to share highlights of our work in 2020. It is not an audited financial report.
In the United States, 2020 set a new annual record of 22 weather/climate disaster events with losses exceeding $1 billion each. The 22 events took 262 lives and cost the nation a combined $95 billion in damages. Swiss Re put 2020’s global economic losses from natural disasters at $175 billion.

The above does not include the high cost of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. COVID-19 claimed more than 334,000 lives in the United States from the start of the pandemic through December. The cumulative financial costs related to lost output and health reduction were estimated at more than $16 trillion, or approximately 90 percent of the U.S. annual gross domestic product.

The World Economic Forum estimated the COVID-19 pandemic’s ultimate global cost would be between $8 and $15.8 trillion. By January 26, 2021, COVID-19 had infected more than 100 million and killed more than two million worldwide.

In the face of all these disasters, UCC Disaster Ministries leveraged available resources and relationships for maximum long-term impact.
COVID-19 Response

On January 25, 2020, UCC Disaster Ministries received a plea for help from Global Ministries partner Amity Foundation in China: The new coronavirus had just broken out in Wuhan, and personal protective equipment was in critically short supply. The UCC promptly contributed $5,000 for purchase of medical face masks and robes, marking the start of its COVID-19 response.

“It was apparent even then that aid would need to be increasingly spread around globally, but it was meaningful that we could act quickly and in collaboration with China partners,” said Derek Duncan, Global Ministries Area Executive for East Asia and the Pacific. Indeed, COVID-19 would be a major focus for the UCC’s ministry in 2020.

As the pandemic spread, it was accompanied by a deluge of information and disinformation. Early on, the UCC undertook to share accurate information with its churches.

Vetted resources were posted to www.ucc.org. By March, Wider Church Ministries had contracted with Barbara Baylor, an Atlanta-based public health professional (pictured, left), to write a daily briefing separating fact from fiction. She wrote nearly 80 (See Appendix B). She also convened the new cross-programmatic Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (REHD) Team, which addressed COVID-19’s higher toll on people of color.

To help relieve the heavy emotional and vocational cost the pandemic was exacting on pastors, chaplains and other church leaders, the UCC conceived Recovering Hope and started rolling out resources for emotional and spiritual care. Along the way, a number of grant opportunities were developed.

Conference Disaster Coordinators “zoomed” weekly with national setting staff to share information, strategies and moral support. At right: Ken Skalitzky leading a primer on the CARES Act.
United Church of Christ conferences engaged the challenges and disparities created or worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic with assistance as diverse as eviction protection for people out of work, personal protective equipment (PPE) for hurricane shelters and technology upgrades for rural congregations.

Funding from Wider Church Ministries (WCM) “helped them serve communities hardest hit by the pandemic,” said the Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith, Executive Associate for Wider Church Ministries and Operations.

2020 recipients:

Central Atlantic (direct assistance in northern New Jersey) $10,000
Hawaii (PPE for food pantry workers and evacuation centers) $10,000
Indiana-Kentucky (clergy mental health) $9,600
Missouri Mid-South (help for vulnerable Marshallese in Alabama) $10,000
Montana-Northern Wyoming (distance-bridging technology) $10,000
Northern CA-Nevada (hard-hit Hispanics, African Americans) $7,500
New York (help with family members' burial expenses) $25,000
Rocky Mountain (congregations under stress) $10,000

TOTAL $92,100

Here are stories from several of these conferences:

- The pandemic has forced pastors and chaplains to make sometimes agonizing decisions about how to minister to their congregants while keeping everyone safe. Many clergy have reported stress, depression and burnout. To help its clergy cope, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference used its UCC grant to organize Ongoing Communities of Practice and a February 2021 convocation on clergy mental health. Pictured: Rev. Jeffrey McCarn leads virtual worship from Evangelical UCC in Tell City, Indiana.
• The Marshallese community in Springdale, Arkansas, comprises 3 percent of the population but half the COVID-19 related deaths. Many working in poultry plants were not being paid if they tested positive for the virus. Missouri Mid-South Conference got a UCC grant to help with face masks, rent, utilities, food and medical bills for people not eligible for Medicaid and other aid.

• The Latinx community in Placer County, California, has been affected disproportionately by COVID-19. The Northern California-Nevada Conference got a UCC grant to help with food, rent, PPE, and cleaning and hygiene items. *Pictured: Promotores Efrain and Gabby deliver essentials.*

• In Hawaii, pandemic-related job loss has left many unable to afford to feed their families. The Hawaii Conference got a UCC grant to help support food pantries with food and personal protective equipment, and to purchase PPE for hurricane shelters.

• With its 26 congregations scattered across a 500-by-400 mile territory, opportunities to connect mean everything in the Montana-North Wyoming Conference. It got a UCC grant to help upgrade internet connectivity so that pastors and parishioners can meet, including for worship and conference meetings, while under stay-at-home protocols and for the longer term.

• In April, while the UCC COVID-19 Conference Recovery Grants program was still being set up, UCC Disaster Ministries made a grant to the New York State Conference. At that time, New York was the epicenter of the pandemic in the United States. The funds were designated to help families without resources to properly bury their loved ones who died of COVID-19.

• With its grant, the Rocky Mountain Conference in 2021 organized online “Healthy Congregations” workshops for clergy and lay leaders. The goal: to help congregations ease the anxiety, even outright conflict precipitated by the pandemic and “open new space for us on how to talk about difficult subjects,” said Conference Minister the Rev. Sue Artt.

The UCC’s COVID-19 Refugee & Asylum Fund helped churches and community organizations providing relief to refugees and asylum seekers with needs caused or worsened by the pandemic. 2020 recipients:

Plymouth Congregational Church, Lawrence, Kansas                $2,500
Eden UCC, Hayward, California                   $2,500
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Oakland, California              $2,500
Justice for Migrant Families, Buffalo, New York                 $2,500
Christ Church, Maplewood, Missouri                   $2,500

TOTAL $12,500

Cover Story: Plymouth UCC in Lawrence, Kansas

Plymouth Congregational Church and Centro Hispano in Lawrence, Kansas, worked together to help reduce the strain on new immigrant families impacted by the pandemic.

The UCC grant helped families pay for rent, utilities, food, diapers, baby formula, medications, feminine hygiene products and other needs, said Plymouth UCC’s Becky Eason. $600 went for the bulk purchase of 1,300 diapers, easing multiple families’ struggle to buy an item that is normally difficult to afford. Here are two of the families served:

- Parents of two preschoolers escaped violence and gangs in Guatemala and settled in Lawrence. When the husband was deported, his wife couldn’t afford their apartment on her part-time salary and had to move out. She found a new place, but it wasn’t available for 10 days. “We spent $485 on a hotel room and paid the security deposit on her new apartment,” said Centro Hispano’s Executive Director Lydia Diebolt. “This kept a family from being homeless.”

- A Mexican mother whose young child was suffering from a serious illness and weakened immune system couldn’t risk going out to work and bringing COVID-19 back. “That could be fatal for the child,” Diebolt said. Centro Hispano used some of the UCC grant to help this family with rent.
Caring for, Feeding Newcomers Aided by COVID Relief Grant

A grant from the UCC’s COVID-19 Refugee and Asylum Fund helped buy groceries for the daily hot meal program at Eden UCC in Hayward, California.

Migrant mothers volunteered as cooks for the program to sustain 100 asylum-seeking youth and their family members, many in quarantine or in isolation because someone was recovering from COVID-19 at home.

Many adults receiving meals were working one or more low-wage jobs to cover basic necessities, but lost that work due to the pandemic.

Rev. Arlene Nehring, the congregation’s pastor, introduced some of the cooks bringing nourishment and a taste of home to their neighbors:

- Micaela Serrano Cuevas, a native of Mexico, is the executive chef for UIY Hot Meals, and a popular cook at a local restaurant. She enlisted her niece, a pastry chef.

- Lucy, from El Salvador, first came to Eden UCC a year ago, after she and her children (17, 15 and 10) were released from an immigration detention center. The family walked six miles to the church from the apartment in which they were renting sleeping space on the kitchen floor. “Someone told us you helped immigrants,” Lucy said.

- Mayerling Perez Oliveras is from Nicaragua. She and three of her children (10, 6 and 3) have lived at the church since May 2018. Her husband, Alejandro, joined the family last October after winning his asylum case in Florence, Arizona.

Pictured: Viki Vivoldo (Companeras Ministry Leader, EUCC) and Olga Gutierrez (school counselor, Hayward Unified School District).
### COVID-19 Response Grants – International

- Bangladesh $15,000
- China $5,000
- Democratic Republic of the Congo $1,700
- Egypt $3,750
- India $15,000
- Lebanon $5,000
- Mexico/U.S. Border $5,000
- Middle East (Orthodox Initiative) $2,500
- Mozambique $2,540
- Nicaragua $3,500
- Philippines $10,000
- Sierra Leone $1,760
- South Sudan $4,000
- Syria $8,750
- Syria and Lebanon $5,000
- Zimbabwe $5,000

**TOTAL** $88,500

### Stories:

Two $5,000 grants from the UCC to partners helped East Asians better cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

One grant helped the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh support about 150 vulnerable families with emergency food, protection & WASH materials and homestead gardening support.

The other helped the Church's Auxiliary for Community Action in India provide vulnerable communities on lockdown with WASH (pictured) and food.
• Three partners in Africa - in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and South Sudan - received support from UCC Global H.O.P.E. for their work to stem the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding was for handwashing kits and disinfectants.

• UCC Global H.O.P.E. helped support partners working in Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon with refugees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable citizens to meet needs created or worsened due to COVID-19, from soap and hygiene kits to food, potable water and heating.

For example:

- In Lebanon, the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue provided food, hygiene items and vegetable seeds to Syrian refugees and vulnerable host community members. The goal was to mitigate the growing starvation rates resulting from economic crisis and exacerbated by COVID-19, and to prevent beneficiaries from needing to leave their homes to work, beg or shop for food in conditions unsafe from COVID-19.

- The Middle East Council of Churches used UCC funds to help vulnerable people in Syria and Lebanon with food, safety and well-being, and to ensure timely access to health support for cancer patients and people with chronic illnesses.

- The UCC grant helped the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, provide COVID-19 awareness training, detergents, sanitizer and non-cash assistance for vulnerable communities, especially homebound elderly.
Recovering Hope

The long-running COVID-19 disaster is taking an enormous emotional toll on millions of people, sparing no one as they and those around them suffer sickness and death, isolation and loss of community and livelihoods. Fear, grief, anxiety, PTSD, depression, moral injury, suicide and domestic violence are widespread.

Adding to the stress, murders of Black men and women, including that of George Floyd, slain by a white policeman, sent protestors pouring into the streets demanding justice, including attention to racial and ethnic disparities in policing – and in health and healthcare that have left African Americans, Native Americans and Latinx people more vulnerable to serious illness and death from COVID-19.

In response, a multidisciplinary United Church of Christ team has launched Recovering Hope, with resources for emotional and spiritual care to pastors, chaplains and other church leaders, congregants, vulnerable communities and beyond.

Resources are indexed at www.ucc.org/recovering_hope in a variety of formats, including virtual workshops, referrals to vetted providers, and other easily accessible resources from the UCC and beyond.

The team worked in close contact with UCC conference ministers and disaster coordinators to complement, not duplicate, the support services they were providing to pastors, chaplains and churches.
Other Domestic Grants (Non-COVID-19)

- California (wildfires) $3,000
- Florida (Hurricane Michael recovery) $49,849
- Nebraska (flooding, straight-line winds, severe winter storms) $13,000
- North Carolina (Hurricanes Dorian and Florence) $10,000
- Oregon (wildfires) $20,000
- Pennsylvania (flooding) $10,000
- Pennsylvania (Hurricane Isaias) $10,000
- Puerto Rico (2017 hurricanes, earthquake) $120,000

TOTAL $235,849

UCC Grant Restores Essential Medical Equipment

Steve and Amber Watson and their six children of rural Buffalo County, Nebraska, lost nearly everything to a flood in July 2019. An outpouring of support from their community along with their own hard work restored their home.

But Amber (pictured) – who uses a wheelchair since a car accident in 2003 left her legs paralyzed – still lacked an essential item: a special bike to passively exercise her legs while she actively exercises her upper body.

UCC Nebraska Conference Disaster Coordinator the Rev. Coral Parmenter secured a $4,000 grant from UCC Disaster Ministries for the Kearney, Nebraska, Area Disaster Recovery Group to buy Amber a new bike.
Support for Puerto Rico Hurricane, Earthquake Recovery

UCC Disaster Ministries has invested close to $820,000 to date in Hurricane Maria recovery work in Puerto Rico, including $50,000 just authorized for roof repair as soon as the COVID-19 lockdown ends. Also pending are repairs following earthquakes early in 2020.

From 2018 until the lockdown began in March, 542 UCC volunteers restored 121 hurricane-damaged roofs and performed other minor reconstruction, and helped restore three churches and a camp and conference center.

UCC Disaster Ministries has sent an initial $20,000 to sister church IEUPR in Puerto Rico to support food, shelter, hygiene kits and temporary shelter in areas affected by earthquakes in early January. IEUPR is the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico, with which UCC Disaster Ministries is partnering on Hurricane Maria recovery.

In North Carolina, Volunteers Restore Hurricane Survivor to Her Home

"If it wasn't for God and you people, I wouldn’t be in my house tonight."

That’s how Josephine Henry described the situation as a crowd joined her just before the COVID-19 crisis to dedicate her restored home in Wilmington, North Carolina. Hurricane Florence had torn the roof off, but now it was fixed, thanks to One Great Hour of Sharing donations and volunteer work by UCC members, United Methodist volunteers, and others.
Across the Florida Panhandle in 2020, there were still significant unmet needs from Hurricane Michael in 2018. Households in both coastal and inland communities were still awaiting help to rebuild or rehabilitate their homes.

UCC Disaster Ministries had a broad program of support for the Panhandle’s recovery, including seed grants to multiple long-term recovery groups, including those serving Holmes, Liberty, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson and Calhoun counties.

It also funded a construction manager in Calhoun and Jackson counties to field commuter work teams, and deployed UCC Partner in Service volunteer Betzi Yungclas for part of the year to the Holmes County LTRG to identify families with unmet needs, assess damages and coordinate volunteers.

A Northampton County, Pennsylvania, family with medical issues lost its bridge in August 2020 to Tropical Storm Isaias. The UCC’s Penn Northeast Conference, in cooperation with area volunteer organizations, was awarded a $5,000 UCC Long-Term Recovery Grant, with rebuilding the bridge the top priority for the funds.

Thanks to the UCC funds together with contributions from the family and Team Orwigsburg, an experienced volunteer bridge-building team, the 44-foot bridge (pictured) was completed just before Christmas.
Record Wildfires in the U.S. West

The U.S. West suffered a record wildfire season in 2020, affecting a dozen states. A UCC Disaster Ministries Solidarity Grant helped members and neighbors of four Central Pacific Conference congregations in Oregon cover evacuation expenses, replace belongings lost to fire, or get through a period of desperate need – in particular, migrant workers, homeless people and hungry people.

First Congregational Church in Sonoma, California, also received a Solidarity Grant, to help meet fire survivors who were left food and rent insecure.

Disaster Recovery Support Initiative

In 2017, UCC Disaster Ministries formed the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI), in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministries.

The DRSI’s program objective was to develop local long-term recovery groups (LTRGs) to help communities in an efficient, effective and timely manner between the period from immediate disaster response to long-term recovery, in states with low or non-National VOAD response (i.e. low-attention disasters).

In August 2019, the DRSI was folded into the Church World Service (CWS) U.S. Domestic Disaster Program. That provided an opportunity for closer collaboration with CWS communion members, including DRSI founding members and others, with the goal of replicating and scaling up DRSI in U.S. states and communities.

As part of the DRSI handover process to CWS, CWS and DRSI founding members agreed on the formation of a Steering Committee.

These terms of reference set out the key roles, responsibilities, membership and communications guidelines for the DRSI Steering Committee and were the focus of our collective work in 2020.
### International Grants (Non-COVID-19)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location and Events</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia (forest fires)</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt (heavy rain and flooding)</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Salvador (Tropical Storm Amanda and Cristobal)</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaza Strip (bombing)</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras (Hurricane Eta and Iota)</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Chad Basin, Africa (cholera prevention)</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<td>Lebanon (Beirut Explosion)</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicaragua (Hurricane Eta and Iota)</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (Typhoon Tisoy $5k, earthquake $5k,</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taal volcano $3k; Typhoon Vongfong/Ambo $25k)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Syria (vulnerable people home winterization)</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$114,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Hurricanes Eta and Iota brought catastrophic damage to Nicaragua and Honduras's Atlantic coast with heavy rain, winds triggering inland flooding, and landslides. The joint Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ/Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Latin America and Caribbean Office made an initial contribution toward immediate relief needs through a Global H.O.P.E. grant.

- Tens of thousands of people fled the eruption of the Taal volcano in January 2020 in Batangas, Philippines. The volcano spewed clouds of ash across the region. Global Ministries partner United Church of Christ in the Philippines was actively involved in relief work among evacuees, especially the elderly, pregnant and lactating women, children and persons with disability. UCC Global H.O.P.E. contributed toward food, potable drinking water, sleeping materials, toiletries, basic medicines and N95 masks.

- UCC Disaster Ministries in 2019 granted $10,000 for CWS Japan to help 1,000 vulnerable families without support mechanisms recover from Typhoon Hagibis. The typhoon struck central Japan in October 2019, forcing millions to evacuate and killing at least 80 people. The recovery was completed in 2020. It prioritized the elderly, single parent families, non-Japanese residents and people with disability. A special focus was older adults with dementia and families with members who had special needs.
UCC Global H.O.P.E. contributed to a multifaceted program to meet both physical and psychological needs created by the August 2020 explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. The funding was requested by the Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue (F.D.C.D.), a long-time Global Ministries partner, to help provide food, rent and other essentials to 200 families made homeless in this disaster, and to extend care for the psychosocial trauma the event caused, especially for children.

**UCC Matching Grants for Congregations Assembling Kits, Buckets**

In 2020, 21 UCC congregations applied for and received $250 UCC matching grants to assemble CWS Kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets, totaling $5,250.

Among them was First Congregational Church UCC, Brimfield, Massachusetts. Members found a way to safely assemble CWS School Kits in a large room, wearing masks and social distancing.

"Despite not holding church in person, people generously dropped donations at our back door," said Pastor Dawn Adams.

"Also, all the bags are handmade each year by several women in our church," she said. "This year, they were particularly thankful for something to keep them busy. Many went between making masks and making bags."
Appendix A: 2020 Disaster Updates

NOVEMBER
With UCC grant, conference supports clergy mental health in pandemic - November 12
Meet UCC Volunteer Ministries volunteer Gail McAfee - November 10

OCTOBER
In typhoon-prone Philippines, recovery from Ambo begins as new storms hit - October 31
Deadline extended for COVID-19 grants for conferences - October 30
Staff changes on the UCC's Global H.O.P.E. team - October 30
Health supplies for Lake Chad Basin, West Africa - October 26
Volunteer engagement, disaster response positions open at UCC - October 23
An update on Hagibis recovery in Japan - October 13
UCC Disaster Ministries' $50K more for Puerto Rico - October 7
2020 Hurricanes - UCC Disaster Ministries Responds - October 6

SEPTEMBER
Western Wildfires Keep People on High Alert - September 29
Being community together: UCC steps up after Iowa derecho - September 2
Ministering in destruction's wake: an Iowa pastor's story - September 2
September is Disaster Preparedness Month - September 1

AUGUST
UCC rallies support for derecho response in Iowa - August 21
CWS, UCC resuming kits ministry - carefully - August 19
UCC sends initial contribution to recovery after Beirut explosion - August 19
Beirut Explosion Response - August 19
UCC Disaster Ministries supports COVID response in India, Bangladesh - August 18
UCC helps Middle East partners meet COVID-related needs - August 18
UCC grants help COVID-affected refugees and immigrants in CA, NY - August 14
UCC aids Isaias recovery with CWS Kits and Buckets, offer of grants - August 12
Kansas church aids COVID-19 affected immigrant neighbors - August 6
Grants to UCC Conferences - from PPE to Tech Upgrades - August 4

JULY
COVID-19 grant to CA church helps migrant moms "stir in the love" - July 20
"Recovering Hope" offers emotional care resources during COVID-19 - July 10
JUNE
270 Gallons of Hand Sanitizer for UCC PA Southeast Conference - June 23
UCC: Pandemics of COVID-19 and of Racism are Interrelated- June 19
UCC funds three COVID-19 response grant requests in Africa - June 15
UCC grants help advance two 2018 storm recoveries - June 12

MAY
UCC Conferences Offer Guidance for "Reopening" Decisions - May 28
UCC Announces COVID-19 Financial Aid - May 26
Response to other disasters during the COVID-19 pandemic - May 22
Safety first before reopening, UCC leaders urge churches - May 19
UCC Disaster Ministries grants COVID-19 relief funds to N.Y. Conference - May 1

APRIL
UCC disaster specialist deploys to NYC for COVID-19 relief duty - April 28
Indiana-Kentucky Conference models face mask-making project - April 21
UCC Daily COVID-19 Briefing provides facts to fight fear - April 2
In North Carolina, volunteers restore hurricane survivor to her home - April 1

MARCH
Barbara Baylor is UCC Disaster Ministries' new COVID-19 point person - March 20
UCC coronavirus resources for churches and members multiply - March 15
UCC offers technical, pastoral guidance for "worship & coronavirus" - March 10
UCC churches establish protocols as coronavirus spreads - March 10
Tennessee tornadoes - a conversation with the conference minister - March 6

FEBRUARY
A word from Traci Blackmon about coronavirus - February 28
Just published! 2019 UCC Disaster Ministries highlights - February 17
Maria recovery continues in Puerto Rico post quakes - February 17
Earthquake Recovery - Puerto Rico - February 17
UCC Disaster Ministries sends grants to Australia, Philippines, Syria - February 3

JANUARY
UCC Matching Grants for CWS Kits Home Page - January 31
UCC Disaster Ministries joins ecumenical coronavirus response - January 29
Help restock CWS Cleanup Buckets, Kits with UCC matching grants - January 28
North Carolina’s Ocracoke Island gets Dorian recovery help from UCC - January 26
UCC Disaster Ministries augments support for Hurricane Michael recovery - January 17
Appendix B: COVID-19 Daily Briefings
(Briefings on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Bold)

OCTOBER
COVID-19 racial, ethnic disparities affect kids, too - October 2

SEPTEMBER
ACA repeal would worsen racial, ethnic health disparities - September 25
Health a Key 2020 Election Issue - September 23

AUGUST
Post Office cuts are slowing more than ballots - August 24
COVID-19 myths and facts: children, flu and more - August 11
How Racial and Ethnic Disparities Impact Health - August 7
Other Disasters and COVID-19 - August 4

JULY
COVID-19, the Politicizing of Science and the CDC - July 20
Sickle-Cell Disease Increases COVID-19 Risks - July 15
As Mask Ordinances Proliferate, So Do Mask Myths - July 13
COVID-19 recovery not as simple as once thought - July 10
Overview: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (REHD) Task Force – July 9
New data on COVID-19's disproportionate impact by race - July 8
Are 5G Networks Spreading the Coronavirus? - July 6
Left Behind? Persons with Disabilities and COVID-19 - July 1

JUNE
Repeal the ACA?! Doom for Many, Especially in Pandemic - June 29
COVID-19 and America's Hired Farmworkers - June 26
Black Men Fear Wearing a Mask More than Getting COVID-19 - June 24
COVID-19 and Millennials - June 22
Global Humanitarian Impact of COVID-19 - June 19
Women of Color and COVID-19 - June 17
New CDC COVID-19 Guidelines as States Reopen, Cases Spike - June 15
Middle East and North Africa COVID-19 Update - June 12
COVID-19, Racist Violence and Defunding the Police - June 10
Has the Coronavirus Gone Away? - June 8
Southern Asia and COVID-19 - June 5
COVID-19 Data Collection by Race Improves, with Some Gaps - June 3
Who Will Stand Up for the World Health Organization? - June 1

MAY
COVID-19 Impact on Latin America and the Caribbean - May 29
Racial and Ethnic Medicare Disparities and COVID-19 - May 28
HEROES Act Update: Is a Second COVID-19 Check Coming? - May 27
"Masked" Grace - May 26
Mitigating COVID-19 in East Asia and the Pacific - May 22
The COVID-19 Pandemic, Mental Health and Suicide - May 21
Five States Where COVID-19 Cases are Rising Sharply - May 20
How Can Refugees be Protected from COVID-19? - May 19
Do Face Masks Dangerously Reduce Oxygen Intake? - May 18
Africa: The Next Epicenter of the COVID-19 Pandemic? - May 15
Will COVID-19 Antibody Testing Get Us "Back to Normal?" - May 14
Is Another COVID-19 Relief Check Coming for Americans? - May 13
Contact Tracing and the TRACE Act H.R. 6666 - May 12
COVID-19 side effect: domestic violence increase worldwide - May 11
COVID-19 job loss approaches Great Depression rate - May 8
COVID-19 and the U.S. Meat Supply Chain - May 7
Asian Americans and COVID-19 - May 6
COVID-19's Burden on Latinx Communities - May 5
Tribes await $8 billion in approved COVID-19 federal funding - May 4
COVID-19 "New Normal?" (Part Two) - May 1

APRIL
COVID-19 "New Normal?" (Part One) - April 30
COVID reopening guidelines: strengths, gaps - April 29
Housing injustice laid bare by COVID-19 - April 28
DACA students excluded from COVID-19 education aid fund - April 27
Inject/ingest disinfectant for COVID-19? No way! - April 24
Farmers dump food, milk while people go hungry - April 23
States rush to reopen – is that safe? April 22
New symptoms for COVID-19 keep appearing - April 21
Do you have an “Advance Directive?” - April 20
Scammers take advantage during COVID-19 pandemic - April 17
Protect yourself from creditors who come after your COVID-19 stimulus check - April 16
Are ageism and COVID-19’s heavy toll on seniors connected? - April 15
How are children, teens affected by COVID-19? - April 14
Global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic - April 9
Your COVID-18 questions answered, myths addressed - April 8
Press the federal government to track race, ethnicity of COVID-19 cases - April 7
Possibilities, limits for getting health insurance coverage now - April 6
Role of “silent carriers” in spreading the COVID-19 virus - April 3
Impact of COVID-19 on communities of color - April 2
Homeless in a pandemic! How we can extend support - April 1

MARCH
Do face masks protect against COVID-19? - March 31
The CARES Act and other stimulus packages - March 30
Coping with stress and anxiety in the COVID-19 pandemic -March 27
COVID-19 and the U.S. healthcare system - March 26
Urgency of continuing social distancing - March 25
Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine are not wonder drugs for COVID-19 - March 24
A look at current topics in the COVID-19 pandemic - March 23

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Page 8: Photo courtesy Centro Hispano
Page 9: Photo courtesy Church’s Auxiliary for Community Action
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