

**Policy for use of Presbytery Hurricane Helene Relief Funds:
Amended January 14th, 2026**

Overview

- Purpose: We want to help churches in our presbytery who were damaged by Helene to repair their property; we want to help churches provide direct relief to their communities; and we want to provide housing and materials to work teams who come to our area.
- The fund is to be used for support of direct relief efforts as detailed hereafter in this policy
- The fund is not for salary and expenses of PWNC's Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

Categories and Process

- Churches that have incurred damage attributable to Hurricane Helene may submit requests for funding, as follows:
 - Provide receipts for repairs already made that will not be funded by FEMA, Insurance, or other parties.
 - Provide bids received for repairs to be made (at least two bids where possible) that will not be funded by FEMA, Insurance, or other parties.
 - Priority is given to this category of need. Churches may request funds for this kind of assistance up to three times each year.
 - Session shall approve the requests of their churches before they are submitted.
 - The maximum amount that can be awarded to a church in one request is \$10,000.00
 - A church can submit up to 3 requests for funding in a year, one before each of the following deadlines: March 31, July 31, and October 31.
 - A church shall indicate the date by which it expects to have distributed the funds covered by its request. Within 90 days after that date, the church shall report to the Disaster Recovery Coordinator how the funds were distributed.
 - Except under conditions of exceptional need, priority will be afforded to churches that have not already submitted multiple requests.
- Churches may submit requests for funding to provide direct relief for members and neighbors who have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. When funding is requested for a partner organization, the request shall still be submitted from the church and a new or existing partnership should exist between church and organization.
 - Session shall approve the requests of their churches before they are submitted.
 - The maximum amount that can be awarded to a church for direct relief of members and neighbors or to existing and effective partners in one request is \$10,000.00.

- A church can submit up to 3 requests for funding in a year, one before each of the following deadlines: March 31, July 31, and October 31.
 - A church shall indicate the date by which it expects to have distributed the funds covered by its request. Within 90 days after that date, the church shall report to the Disaster Recovery Coordinator how the funds were distributed.
- PWNC's costs of providing housing and resources for work teams that provide direct relief to churches and communities affected by Hurricane Helene.
 - Provide receipts for such costs that are not otherwise funded from other sources.
 - The maximum amount that can be awarded to a church for *housing* costs for volunteers is \$2,500.00.
 - A church can submit up to 3 requests for funding in a year, one before each of the following deadlines: March 31, July 31, and October 31
 - Cost of *materials* for work teams will be coordinated between the PWNC Disaster Recovery Team and the established work partners. After case-managed cost-estimates are provided by the work partners, and only as a cost-share, the PWNC DRT will consider requests up to \$10,000 per property for a total of no more than \$100,000 per year, and will approve and distribute on an as needed frequency.

Plan for disbursement of funds in year two:

- Priority in order indicated above in categories and process.
- 20% of available funds to Churches that have incurred damage.
- 35% of available funds to Churches to provide relief for members and neighbors who have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene.
- 10% of available funds to costs to provide housing for work teams.
- 35% of available funds to costs to provide materials for work teams
- This policy will be reviewed after each application deadline and may be changed as needs evolve and new needs emerge.

Procedure

1. Applicants will submit requests for funding to the Disaster Recovery Coordinator. The Coordinator may request such additional information as the Coordinator thinks is necessary for the Disaster Recovery Team to make an informed decision.
2. The Disaster Recovery Team may create such forms as it believes will help it consider requests for funding.
3. The Disaster Recovery Team shall decide all requests for relief as soon as possible. Whenever feasible, the team will make a decision within 30 days of the application deadlines.
4. If available funds are insufficient to fund completely all approved requests, the Disaster Recovery Team will divide the funds as equitably as possible giving priority to churches who have submitted fewer requests. If additional funds become

available, the Disaster Recovery Team can distribute them among approved requests.

5. As the Disaster Recovery Team gains experience with the process of distributing relief funds, it shall recommend to the Coordinating Ministry Team any changes to these procedures it believes will improve the process.

Communication regarding this policy

- Once approved by Coordinating Ministry on January 14, 2026, the amended policy will be communicated to all churches of PWNC.
- A form to assist churches request funding will be available and will be communicated shortly thereafter.
- Requests will be responded to as soon as possible after application deadlines.
- The Presbytery will welcome contributions to continue to grow the PWNC Hurricane Helene Relief fund and provide financial support for a minimum of 2 years. Communications about the size of the fund, the amount available to disburse and the review process will be shared widely and frequently.