



Sep 10-13, 2017
Course Offerings

Session 1

UMCOR Foundations-If this is your first Academy join us for this session! The faith community plays a unique and important role in disaster response in the United States. This session is an introduction to traditional responses to disaster, and how the faith-based response differs. See a vision that includes emotional and spiritual care as well as rebuilding to assist in long-term recovery of those in need, and addresses the unmet needs of all survivors, particularly people who were vulnerable before a disaster.

In Mission Together: The 50/50 Initiative-A traditional approach to mission is often needs-based, short-term relief. In this session you will learn of a new vision of partnership that embraces asset-based, long-term development. Partners commit to one another through a sacred covenant to participate equally as the body of Christ by utilizing everyone's skills and resources. A 50/50 framework prevents dependency and fosters self-sufficiency. These principles address systemic issues rather than treating symptoms.

Session 2

Disaster: From Relief to Long-Term Recovery-Transitioning from relief to recovery can be daunting as roles evolve and resources ebb and flow. Explore similarities and differences between relief and recovery, providing leadership in developing recovery coalitions, and ways to resource individuals and families. Additionally, recovery of many individuals and families is often dependent upon a well-functioning group effort. This workshop will explore ways you might participate in the development of this vital group.

Spiritual Growth in Mission-Mission experiences are full of opportunities to engage in spiritual growth. In this session we will talk about how to create time and space for spiritual development, as well as exercises to engage in spiritual conversations.

Powerful Presentations: Upgrade Your Facilitation Skills-Many of the topics we cover at the SCJ Mission Academy can be presented in your local Conference/Church setting. The quality of our presentations is key to effectively sharing our message. In this session, techniques for keeping your listeners engaged, and effective ways to develop an appealing and memorable presentation are discussed.

Hands-On Mission Opportunity-Join in the fun and fellowship of community service during our time together! We will have the opportunity to help the Leadership Center with some basic clean up and maintenance throughout the week. This option is offered throughout the Mission Academy.

Session 3

Connecting Neighbors: Introduction & Ready Churches-This is a two-part course. Enrolling in this session will auto enroll you in Part 2 in session 4. For this topic, there are three focus areas: Ready Congregants-focusing on personal preparedness, Ready Churches-focusing on your church facility and congregational preparedness, and Ready Response-with a focus on making connections with key people/institutions in your community for the purposes of pre-planning for disaster response.

Cultural Competency-Regardless of whether we serve inside the US or Internationally we often encounter different cultures. In this session learn techniques for serving cross-culturally with grace.

Health Missions: Wholistic Health-The new model of healthcare in mission focuses on education to strengthen community-based prevention to common health issues. In this session, learn how the United Methodist Church is creating healthier communities through a wholistic health approach.

Hands-On Mission Opportunity-Offered throughout.

Session 4

Connecting Neighbors: Ready Congregants & Response-Part 2 of previous.

Disaster Response: Hosting Volunteers-Learn to effectively coordinate and support volunteers who are willing to come to your community after a disaster to repair and rebuild.

Spiritual Growth in Mission-Repeat of Session 2.

In Mission Together: The 50/50 Initiative-Repeat of Session 1.

Hands-On Mission Opportunity-Offered throughout.

Session 5

Early Response Team: On-Site Management-(OSM) is a class designed to help communities receive ERTs by knowing what should be in place before the invitation is issued. Discuss assessments, forms, or other arrangements that can be made to speed up the invitation of ERTs to a disaster area.

Mexico: Mission on the Border-Manos Juntas means hands together and this ministry in Rio Bravo brings the hands of many people together to provide education and training, medical care, housing, and more for people along the border. Learn more about this work and how you can participate.

Serving Refugees Through Mission-The plight of refugees is increasingly dire as more areas of unrest develop throughout the world, and more people flee to find safety for themselves and their families. Learn how you can be a part of alleviating the suffering of refugees.