

PSEC *Communitas*

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE + UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

178 UCC churches in southeastern Pennsylvania



Thank you to the churches and individuals of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference who contributed a total of **\$115,655** (\$111,750 from churches and nearly \$4,000 from individuals) in response to the earthquake in Haiti.



Your generosity to alleviate human suffering in the face of dire need is amazing!

Here's how the initial money has been spent so far:

- \$6,000 to clear the rubble of the CONASPEH office building which totally collapsed
- \$1,000 for administrative expenses to 2 secretaries, the administrator, and 2 school teachers
- \$26,000 for 46 tents distributed to 36 church/schools for housing people
- \$20,000 for basic food for two weeks (rice, beans, spaghetti, oil, canned, sardines toilet paper, and soap) and 5-gallon buckets for collecting water given to 1,000 families of at least 6 people
- \$9,000 for transportation, administration, and coordinators to facilitate distribution of the above items

The long-term pressing need will be to rebuild the CONASPEH office building which was completely destroyed. Because the building was rented, rebuilding will necessitate the purchase of land. Reports from Haiti indicate that property values are volatile, with land speculators taking advantage of the situation. Funds will also be needed for new equipment and supplies.

Our UCC partner in Haiti is CONASPEH, an umbrella organization of 6,700 Protestant churches and associations throughout Haiti, established in 1986. It has been a close partner with Global Ministries since its inception. CONASPEH has seven regional centers from which it houses medical clinics, schools, and theological educational training centers.

The work of rebuilding will continue for a long time, with funds needed throughout the process. The initial response, whenever widespread natural disasters occur throughout the world, is made with One Great Hour of Sharing funds, which are received by UCC congregations during Lent. In addition to Haiti, response to the earthquakes in Chile is supported by OGHS offerings. Your generosity to OGHS is making a big difference in both these emergency situations.



This Spring, the United Church of Christ is launching brand new congregational resources, Faith Practices. While there will be several yet unplanned opportunities for you to learn in person about these new resources, you can get a jump start by visiting the United Church of Christ web site and reading all about these resources as well as downloading the free samples that are available. Simply go to www.ucc.org and run your cursor to the tab labeled Big Things at the top of the page. On the drop down box, click on Faith Practices and you will gain access to the Faith Practices resources.



Faith practices have been talked about in the ecumenical church world for over a decade. Faith practices involve us in God's activities in the world and reflect God's grace and love. They are learned with and from other people and shape the people who participate. Faith practices come to focus in worship. -from www.practicingourfaith.org.

These resources will be available to order on the Faith Practices web site www.faithpractices.org on or before June 1st. You will be able to use them in your congregation by September.

Mary Sicher, Minister of Christian Education in PSEC, was trained in the use of Faith Practices and is available to answer your questions. She can be reached by email at mary@psec.org or by phone at 610.489.2056, ext. 310.



PSEC office closed for Easter - The Church House offices in Collegetown will be closed on Friday, April 2nd.



PRAYER PARTNERS - Prayers are requested for St. Peter's UCC, Frackville and Rev. W. Keith Bowie for their support of the Frackville Food Bank.