

## 2005 Hurricanes Disaster Response Update



**Gulf Coast Response Leadership Coordinator**  
**Barbara Adams - b.c.adams@comcast.net**

**Central Congregational Church, UCC**  
**Partnership Leader—Rev. Ed Rawls**  
**pastoredrawls@yahoo.com**

Rev. Ed Rawls and a small delegation traveled shortly after Thanksgiving to New Orleans to meet with Rev. Wilmer Brown, some members of Central Congregational Church and Rev. Alan Coe, coordinator for Disaster Recovery for the

South Central Conference. Ed agreed to accept this leadership role because of his long-standing friendship with Rev. Brown, formed when they both pastored UCC churches in Cary, North Carolina.

“Will and I did a workshop with our churches to help build understanding between African- American and white churches. What convinced me, though, was my first phone conversation with Will. Talking to Will was like going to a reunion. He also said he would love for the coordinator to be someone he knew.”

Central Congregational Church was founded in 1872 by the American Missionary Association, which has deep roots in the Amistad Committee in Connecticut. It is the church in which Ambassador Andrew Young, a UCC minister, was raised. Today, the church serves as a vital UCC witness in the heart of New Orleans.

At our Annual Meeting in October, Rev. Brown expressed his profound gratitude to the churches of the Conference for their commitment to partnership with CCC. He shared that his congregation is in a transitional phase. While some members have lost their homes, and others might not return to the city, Rev. Brown said this is an opportunity to re-vision the church’s mission and ministry, even as they grieve the loss of their community. We continue to hold Central Congregational Church in our prayers, as we identify how we can best work side by side with the members in rebuilding their lives, their homes and their neighborhoods.

*Contributions for these Partnerships may be sent to the Connecticut Conference UCC, 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105. Checks should be made payable to “Missionary Society of CT” and earmarked for CT Hurricane Response. And please add your name to the “Hope Shall Bloom” Covenant of Compassion online at [www.ucc.org/disaster/](http://www.ucc.org/disaster/)*

**Back Bay Mission Partnership Leaders**  
**Lorelle Foulds – lvfoulds@aol.com and**  
**Rev. Donna Manocchio - associate@rhccucc.org**



We want to tell the story of Back Bay Mission and our partnership throughout the Connecticut Conference, and invite you to become a Back Bay Mission ambassador! In the coming weeks, we will gather prospective ambassadors together, and with the help of conference staff, provide you with talking points and other resources for meetings with churches, and perhaps even associations. Please consider becoming an ambassador. Contact Donna or Lorelle to sign up or if you have any questions.

We also want to hear your stories and ideas! We know there is a treasure of generosity and creativity in our conference, so please let us know if you have a suggestion, want to become involved, or can tell us what’s happening in your church as we reach out together to Back Bay Mission.

**CT Disaster Response Team Coordinators and Work Team**  
**Leaders – Rev. Newell and Jane Curtis - njcurtis@comcast.net**

A Conference-wide volunteer work group is looking for adults to go the Port Charlotte, Florida area March 4-11, 2006 for a week that will include rebuilding homes during the days Monday through Friday, developing relationships with local families, sharing meals as a group, and engaging in evening discussions and worship.

This group will be led by Rev. Richard Grobe, former Associate Minister of Asylum Hill Congregational Church, under the auspices of ServCorps, the non-profit organization that he founded. Rich has led many work teams to Florida and other places. In the words of one participant, these mission experiences are “superbly organized and executed.”

This opportunity is open to all members of the Connecticut Conference, regardless of experience or skill level in construction. For further information and to sign up for this opportunity call 860-674-8576 or email [RRGrobe@aol.com](mailto:RRGrobe@aol.com).

Information also is available for other opportunities in assisting in the Florida recovery, either as an individual or as a team, from Rev. Newell and Jane Curtis, Disaster Response Coordinators for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ. They can be reached at 860-399-9584 or [njcurtis@comcast.net](mailto:njcurtis@comcast.net).