

## GOLDEN BELT DISASTER RECOVERY COMMITTEE

September 5, 2007

First United Methodist Church

Great Bend, Ks

Those present: Jerry Harfoot, FEMA; Deb Folkerts, Salvation Army; Sandy Hendrickson, United Methodist West Conference Disaster Response; Megan Gottchalk, Red Cross Hutchinson; Richard Heaton, Garry Dassow, Hoisington, Ministerial Association; Vernon Maelzer, Ellinwood United Methodist Church; and Gary Brooks, Great Bend United Methodist Church

The meeting was called to order by Vernon Mealzer with a reading from Corinthians and prayer. Those present introduced themselves.

The minutes of the August 22 meeting were approved as mailed.

Gary Brooks gave a treasurers report. He received a check for \$5,417.50 from donations given to the Golden Belt Community Foundation. This money is to be used for persons suffering loss in the May storms who live in Barton County. Jerry reported there are other groups you usually contribute seed money. Sandy said that UMCOR does not have funds at this time because their money has been distributed elsewhere.

Vernon handed out forms that contain a space for both FEMA and local numbers. Garry Dassow handed out the release form to be used. It was moved, seconded and passed that the forms be accepted.

Randy Meis, Lutheran Disaster Relief, will provide training for case managers. Richard Heaton will work with Randy and Jerry H. to set a time and place for the training.

Discussion was held concerning the lack of response from the press release that was in local papers. The committee felt that it will be a one on one process and work of mouth will be the best source of those who need assistance. The churches and agencies should be the first group to seek those needing assistance. (A flyer was made and handed out at the Barton County Association of Churches meeting at noon on September 5. Contact the RSVP office if you would like some flyers to distribute)

Vernon said that a case from the South Central Kansas Tornado Recovery Organization (Greensburg and area counties) had been transferred from that organization to the Golden Belt committee, because the persons requesting assistance live in Barton County.

Volunteers and the possibility of housing them were discussed. Several places with showers were listed. It was felt by the group that most volunteers would come only for a day, or perhaps a weekend.

The next meeting will be October 3 at 9:30 at First United Methodist Church. At that time we hope to have case managers and Construction managers in place.

The press release that was sent will be sent to the e-mail list in a separate mailing.

