

Mission Statement

The Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry (UUTRM) was formed in 2002 to provide timely, multilevel, multifaith, culturally sensitive spiritual care to survivors of mass disasters and other significant trauma. Our ministries include, but are not limited to:

- educating individuals, congregations and other groups on culturally and spiritually sensitive responses to trauma and mass disaster;
- providing resources (including the deployment of critical incident stress management teams) to assist congregations and communities in the wake of mass disaster and other significant trauma;
- affiliating with local, national, and international organizations that integrate spiritual care as a component of their disaster response efforts.
- deploying CISM teams and other spiritual care workers in coordination with local disaster response efforts.

We take up this work in the spirit of our Unitarian Universalist faith, which calls us to respond in the spirit of respect and compassion for all people, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.

UUTRM has been there to help those affected by:

- Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Charley
- California wildfires
- Incidents of violence affecting churches and their members
- Church fires
- Catastrophic traffic accidents
- School violence
- The need for advice and counsel

*Recipient of the 2007
President's Award for
Volunteer Service to the
Association*

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*Unitarian Universalist
Trauma Response Ministry*

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*A Liberal Faith
A Caring People
A Ministry of Hope*



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What Is Trauma Response?



When people or forces of nature bring violence into our lives, as happened on September 11, 2001, or at the 1999 shootings at the Columbine High School, or during Hurricane Katrina, individuals and communities may feel isolated and fearful. There are well established methods of responding to trauma that provide good coping skills and prevent later emotional difficulties. One such method is found in the availability of compassionate individuals to accompany the traumatized as they deal with threats to their sense of hope and meaning.

Who We Are

UU Trauma Response Ministry is composed of Unitarian Universalist ministers, lay members of UU congregations, and others who respect the vision and beliefs of Unitarian Universalism. Trained in trauma response, these people desire to assist those involved in traumatic situations. This assistance may take the form of:

- direct, on-site ministry at the trauma scene, whether national or local;
- crisis counseling for those who have experienced various levels of trauma;
- hospitality and respite care for victims;
- debriefing and other stress management skills;
- administrative assistance, telephone answering, on-site greeters, office support;
- pulpit supply for ministers engaged in trauma response.



Education and Training



Those involved in direct trauma response will be trained in

models of crisis counseling, UU theological understandings of hope, companionship and suffering, and critical incident reporting.

Fundraising

The work of trauma response ministry is an important calling. While we obtained grants for organizing purposes, we are in need of help for our ongoing work.

Volunteers Needed

We would welcome volunteers to help in our efforts at fundraising, grant application writing, development of educational materials, and website management. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above work please contact us at:

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