

Shepherding Families

DRC Guide #8



Churches of Greater Austin
Bringing Hope into Crisis™

Big Idea:

The Local Church is uniquely equipped and positioned to help every family who is directly impacted by disasters encounter God and be spiritually, emotionally, and materially restored through the support of an equipped Disaster Relief Shepherd.

Scriptural Basis:

*'So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My lambs.**" He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Shepherd My sheep.**"*

*He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**"*
John 21:15-17

Explanation:

As a disaster preparedness core team in your church, one of the most important things that you can do is identify and help develop Disaster Relief Shepherds (DRS). As we reference John 21:15-17 we see that Jesus is very passionate about people and caring for them. We can also draw from the scripture that he wants our passion to love and care for people to be the same. In this guideline we will discuss WHY it is so important, HOW you can share the opportunity with your pastors/congregation and WHAT the basic steps are for growing into a support role developing Shepherds in your church!

“When a person or family loses everything in a disaster, they often feel an overwhelming sense of despair. At ADRN, our primary goal is to restore hope by revealing the love of God to families impacted by disaster. We do this by offering emotional, spiritual and physical support. *When a family loses everything in a disaster, they shouldn't lose hope too.*” **ADRN Shepherd Training**

“I will give you shepherds after my own heart, and they will feed you with knowledge and understanding.” Jeremiah 3:15

WHY *Shepherding so important?*

At ADRN we believe Jesus is the hope of the world and the most sustainable solution we can offer for hurting and lost people is the local church! Our primary goal in times of disaster is to connect survivors to the local church and SPONSOR FAMILIES!

<< Share Shepherding Video >>

What a Shepherd IS

- A non-judgmental listener
- An intercessor, who prays with and for the family or individual
- A coach, helping them think through problems and establish a plan
- A connector of resources
- A spiritual support; empowering the family to once again be self-sustaining
- A champion, who advocates on their behalf to others who want to help

What a shepherd is NOT

- Expected to have all the answers
- Personally, liable for the well-being of the family
- Responsible to replace everything the family lost
- Responsible for doing what the family can and should do for themselves
- Expected to have the family live in their home
- Expected to help them beyond what has been affected by the disaster

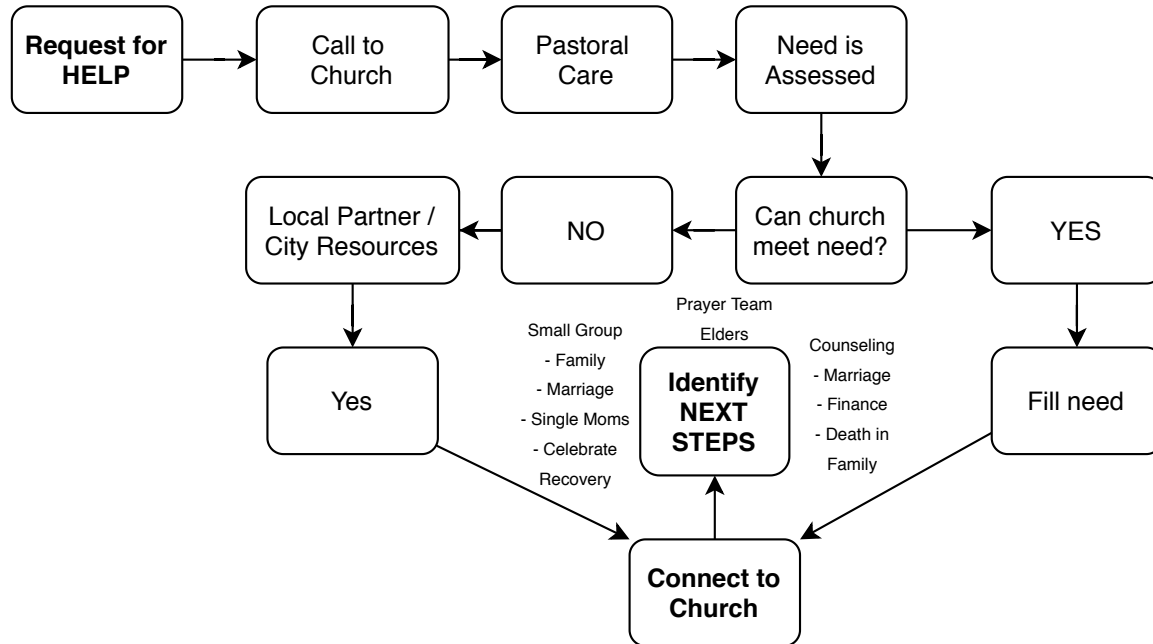
HOW *does Shepherding work?*

One of the best ways to think about Disaster Relief Shepherding is to understand what already happens through your church on a daily basis. Some call it Pastoral Care while others call it benevolence or even support ministry. Fact of the matter is, there is most likely a mechanism of ministry that deals with needs and requests that come from members of your congregations and the community. Disaster Relief Shepherds are really no different and are developed to support your church in and out of times of disaster...

|| **Pastoral ministry** involves **shepherding** the flock. ...

Shepherding involves protection, tending to needs, strengthening the weak, encouragement, feeding the flock, making provision, shielding, refreshing, restoring, leading by example to move people on in their pursuit of holiness, comforting, guiding – **WIKIPEDIA**

Let's take a look at how pastoral care works in the church...



Discussion:

Does your church have a pastoral care department?
 If so... it's time to get familiar with the leadership!

Pastoral Care Leader name: _____

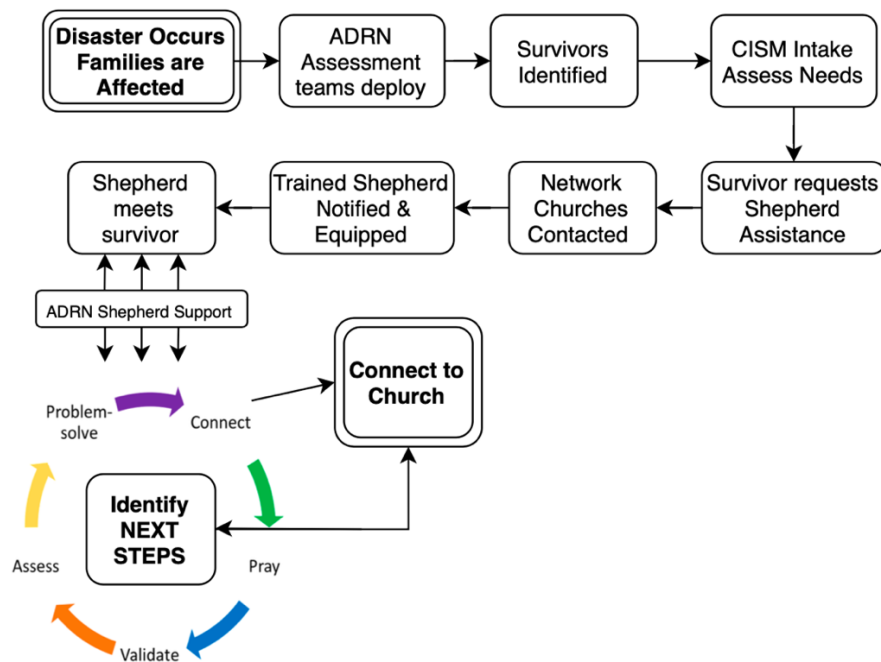
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Who from Core Team will set up a meeting? _____

Purpose of your meeting with pastoral care:

Education – Ask leader to explain day to day operations of Church pastoral care department. Does the diagram above line up?

Now... Let's talk about Disaster Relief Shepherding



“Did you know that there are upwards of 95 disasters a year in our Greater Austin area? Many are happening in your communities!” Tammy Manning – Shepherding Dept

WHAT are the basic steps to develop Shepherds in your church?

1. Core Team goes through ADRN Disaster Relief Shepherd training
2. Share ADRN shepherd model with pastoral leadership
3. Engage your church – Share Shepherd training opportunities!

#1 Core Team goes through Shepherd Training

- Identify a date that works best for all core team – 2-hour class
- Go to: <https://adrn.org/drs2/>
 - Follow the direction from the DRS training page (link above)
 - Online or in-person classes available
- Once training is complete, discuss lessons learned and reach out to ADRN church development team with any questions. shepherdsupport@adrntx.org
- Contact your Sector Leader with questions and to talk next steps!

#2 Share ADRN Shepherd model with your Pastoral Leadership

After completing the core team shepherd training, we truly believe that you will understand the value Shepherd training brings to your church in and out of times of disaster! As you convey the importance of this program to your church leadership, remember our ultimate goal is to help bring hope to survivors in times of disaster and connect them to the local church. With this goal in mind, it's important to honor church leadership as you begin sharing . Here are a couple of ways to get started:

- Set meeting with pastoral leadership – might include Pastoral care in this one!
- Share the vision of Shepherding – Connecting disaster survivors to our church
- Ask questions:
 - Does the ADRN Shepherding model line up with the vision/mission of our church?
 - How can Shepherding best support our church model?
 - How can we best share the opportunity with our congregation?
 - Individuals? Small Groups?
- What are my next steps to help begin this program?

#3 Engage Church with Shepherding Training opportunities

- Personal Invites through existing relationships within the church
- Identify individuals in church already engaged with Pastoral Care & Prayer team
- Host a volunteer gathering – Share vision & next steps to becoming part of a Church Shepherding Team
- Ask pastoral leadership about potential ways to share the need for shepherds
 - Mention from the stage?
 - Small group engagement?
 - Information booth on a Sunday?
 - Ask for their direction on this!
