

Dear Friends

You have heard me speak many times about 'partnership' as an essential component of the ways we participate in God's mission of the mending of the world. While we point to the ways we are in partnership actively such as through The Healing Farm, CREST refugee sponsorship, or Community Ventures, it is vitally important to understand that partnership also means we don't have to do it all ourselves.

Such is the case in times of responding to humanitarian crises. If we were able to be together on Sunday mornings I might ask for a special offering, pass the plates if you will, and gather together funds from members of the congregation to be sent where the need is great. But in these disruptive and disparate times it may be best to depend on our partners.

Rather than collect through the church, I invite you to turn to one of the agencies whom we trust and have been able to rely on in the past. The United Church of Canada has issued an appeal for Haiti and you can donate to it directly. They will ensure your donation goes to church partners in Haiti for the most effective response. In a like manner, the Mennonite Central Committee and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank are Christian organisations, both based in Winnipeg and possessing an extensive network of contacts in Haiti and the Caribbean. Each has extended its own appeal. And, of course, The Canadian Red Cross can always be counted on to bring the goodwill and generosity of Canadians wherever disaster strikes.

Please respond to the crisis in Haiti brought on by the recent earthquake. Any of the agencies below are prepared to receive donations and you can be assured that your gift will go where it is most needed. I have used all of them in the past. For more information, please select any of the links below.

- ❖ The United Church of Canada Haiti Emergency Appeal: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/earthquake-haiti>
- ❖ Mennonite Central Committee: <https://donate.mcccanada.ca/cause/haiti-earthquake>
- ❖ Canadian Foodgrains Bank: <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/haiti-crisis/>
- ❖ The Canadian Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.ca/>

Grace and peace,

Michael