



The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina | The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina | The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

Bishops Across North Carolina Respond to Tornadoes in Tennessee

The four bishops across the dioceses in North Carolina join together to offer support and prayers for those affected by today's tornadoes in central Tennessee.

As a state that understands the destructive and far-reaching impact a natural weather event can have, all three dioceses in North Carolina stand ready to respond and help in whatever way is needed. One of the lessons we've learned through experience is that part of assisting well is listening to those in need.

We ask that all who read this wait to hear from those affected about what assistance is required and wanted. When that information is shared, we call on everyone who is able to join us in answering the need.

In a statement earlier today, the Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf, bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee, and the Rt. Rev. Brian Cole, bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee, stated "[w]e plan to be faithful companions to our neighbors for the long haul as they proceed through the stages of immediate rescue, mid-term relief, and ultimately long-term recovery."

Our brothers and sisters in Tennessee may add the dioceses in North Carolina to their list of companions ready to stand with them for the long haul.

As we await word of where the work will begin, we pray for the victims, their families and friends who mourn tonight, the first responders who remained and continue to toil, and for everyone who has lost loved ones or their home, or had their world turned upside down.

We thank our friends at Episcopal Relief and Development for the beauty of this prayer:

"Holy One, you are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster, crisis or chaos. Surround us now with your grace and peace through storm or earthquake, fire or flood. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen."

+Rob Skirving
The Diocese of East Carolina

+Sam Rodman
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