

# Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief

**RON CROW, DIRECTOR**

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## WHAT IS **READY CHURCH**?

**READY CHURCH** is a strategic initiative developed by **Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief** to help churches proactively prepare for, connect with, and respond to crises or disasters in their communities. Rather than being reactive, **READY CHURCH** equips congregations with a clear plan and practical tools to serve effectively when disaster strikes.

### Key Objectives of **READY CHURCH**:

1. **PREPARE** – Develop a disaster preparedness plan tailored to your church.
2. **CONNECT** – Build relationships with local community leaders and organizations before a crisis occurs.
3. **RESPOND** – Mobilize your church to serve and minister during and after a disaster.

### What **READY CHURCH** Offers:

- Guidance on forming a response team.
- Training for church members with defined roles.
- Strategies for ministry and evangelism during crises.
- Tools to assess community needs and available resources.
- A framework to be the hands and feet of Jesus in times of need.

### Training Details:

- **Duration:** 1.5 hours
- **Scheduling:** Flexible to fit participants' availability
- **Cost:** Free (funded by the Cooperative Program)
- **Setup:** Tables preferred; PowerPoint/TV setup available; podium or music stand helpful
- **Refreshments:** Optional, provided by the church

**Note:** **READY CHURCH** is not disaster relief training. It is a **preparation program** to help churches be ready to respond. Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief remains a resource for actual disaster relief efforts.

**To Schedule or Learn More:** Contact the **KBC Disaster Relief Director** at **502-489-3401**.



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## Step by Step Guide to Start a READY Church Plan:

### 1. Schedule a READY CHURCH Training

- **Contact** the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Director at **502-489-3401** to set up a training session.
- Choose a **date and time** that works best for your church leadership and volunteers.
- Decide on a **location** and setup (tables, projector/TV, podium/music stand).

### 2. Assemble a Core Team

- Identify a group of committed individuals from your church who will lead the effort.
- Include people with organizational, communication, and ministry skills.

### 3. Attend the Training

- The 1.5-hour session will walk your team through:
  - Building a preparedness plan
  - Connecting with community leaders
  - Responding effectively during a disaster

### 4. Develop Your Church's Disaster Preparedness Plan

- Use the READY CHURCH materials to:
  - Define roles and responsibilities
  - Identify available resources (people, facilities, supplies)
  - Create communication and response protocols

### 5. Build Community Relationships

- Reach out to local emergency services, shelters, and community organizations.
- Offer your church as a resource and build trust before a crisis occurs.

### 6. Train and Equip Your Congregation

- Host follow-up sessions to train volunteers.
- Share the vision and encourage participation in various roles.

### 7. Review and Update Regularly

- Revisit your plan annually or after any local disaster.
- Keep contact lists, resources, and roles up to date.

