



Q: What is a “Ready Church?”

A Ready Church is a church that commits to respond to crisis needs in its community with an equal commitment to sharing the Gospel. The commitment is the critical ingredient—not resources, buildings, or talents.

Q: How is Ready Church different than Disaster Relief?

1. It meets “smaller” needs. A crisis is an event or situation that causes human suffering or creates human needs that cannot be alleviated by those impacted, for example, a house fire. A “disaster” occurs when so many people in a community experience a crisis, that the community cannot effectively respond to the disaster without help from outside the community. Disaster Relief is designed for wide-spread crises. Ready Church is designed for the church to address small-scale crises in its community.
2. Ready Church responds to local needs, under the direction of the local church (or perhaps a group of local churches if you partner together with other churches.) Disaster Relief responses are usually not local and are under the direction of the State Disaster Relief Coordinator.
3. Ready Church minimum age is decided by local churches, based on the type of crisis. Disaster relief minimum age is 18.
4. Disaster Relief has MOU’s (Memorandum of Understanding) with government and private agencies (FEMA, Salvation Army, NAMB, etc.) that cause it to be somewhat inflexible out of necessity. Ready Church is highly flexible and can be customized to fit the context of each church, community, and crisis.

How can my church become a Ready Church?

Prepare: Cast a Vision (sermon ideas: Luke 10 – The Good Samaritan; Matthew 9:35-38 – Jesus’ Care, Compassion, and Commissions) and call for people to take the next step. Next Steps:

- 1) Church Member Interest Form (Electronic Questionnaire + AirTable App = An instant spreadsheet of searchable Ready Church people and resources)
- 2) Church Resources Inventory – what does your church have that can be leveraged for the sake of the community. Van, shelter, food, comfort, care, finances, hygiene, exercises, fun, entertainment, belonging, education, etc.
- 3) Church Opportunities and Action Sheet.

Connect: Within your church and outside of your church (other churches, SBCV, Emergency Management, Community Leaders)

Respond: See a need and meet it. Your resources and your volunteer base will dictate how often and how long you will respond to a crisis.

How will SBC of Virginia help my church become a Ready Church?

- Equip:**
- 1) Trainings: Evangelism, Spiritual First Aid, Flood Recovery, Feeding, Chainsaw, etc..
 - 2) Networking with strategic partners and experienced DR workers for coaching and how-to’s.
 - 3) Equipment – DR equipment and resources.

Empower: The local church “steers the bus” and is the final authority on the actual project(s). The work is performed under the banner of the local church or group of churches. (Idea: supply the same shirt for all volunteers to connect the effort back to the love of the local church for the person or community)

Encourage: Celebrate what God does through the local church and promote the power of a Ready Church!