

Dear Regional Family,

This Sunday morning you are in our hearts and prayers. We give thanks for you. This morning we have much for which to be thankful and much that brings us heaviness of heart.

We are so thankful for the reports coming from our churches that tell us our members have weathered the storm and are physically safe both in their homes and places of evacuation. We are grateful for the generosity and compassion we are seeing in Disciples both here and around the nation. We are grateful for the thousands of volunteers who have stepped up and stepped in to protect our lives and ease our struggles. And though we wish she would hurry up and move on her way, we are thankful Florence came to us as a level 1 hurricane rather than a level 3+ as predicted.

Our hearts are heavy for the overwhelming loss and devastation our communities are experiencing. Those affected are our friends, neighbors and family. We pray for those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. We stand in solidarity with churches whose places of worship are unable to be used this morning. We mourn with communities who have suffered the loss of precious lives.

We know the road ahead is long, but we are a resilient people. The witness of our resilience was evidenced during our recent month of prayer to become a more spirit-led and prayer-driven region. Our assurance is that God's hand will lead us in the days and months ahead. We have already been touched by God's grace. God is calling us, in this moment, to embody the hands, feet, and heart of Christ from our doorsteps into our community. Peace be with you.

Valerie & Annell

Bishop Valerie Melvin  
Regional Minister, CCNC  
valerie@ncdisciples.org  
252-291-4047 ext. 202

Rev. Annell George-McLawhorn  
Disaster Relief Coordinator CCNC  
DisasterResponseCCNC@gmail.com  
252-717-4938