Leader Only: Read/say this to the attendees:

Intro: The point of this dinner is to gather those of us that have particular interest in the OPC Disaster Response Ministry, and to consider how we, as a church, might be ready to send a team to serve when the opportunity arises. Everyone probably has questions and concerns and we thought that bringing the group together would be of mutual help and encouragement, as well as provide an opportunity to pray together about these things.

Lead-in to Discussion Questions: Some of you may have already decided that you are ready to serve in this type of work. Others are interested but have more questions or concerns.

Discussion Question 1) Of those of you who have already decided you are ready to serve in some way, would you be willing to share a little bit about what brought you to that decision or level of commitment?

Discussion Question 2) Of those of you who are interested but not yet decided, what questions or concerns do you have that might help you get closer to a decision about whether Disaster Response service is the place of service for you?

Leader Only: Answer questions or concerns as you are able. Make note of those that you are not able to answer and tell the attendees you’ll get answers. You may email your questions to DRFeedback@opc.org.

Some popular questions will probably be associated with the following:

- **Time off from work** – You might refer to (or replay) the portion of the video where David talks about how you may be surprised how ready employers may be to let people go and serve in such an instance. (Starts at 20:37 in the video) Ask: How would you present this opportunity to your employer? / Who thinks it’s possible to get time off? / Would you consider other alternatives to time off such as using vacation or personal days, or doing a shorter trip over a long weekend such as from Thursday night to Monday or Tuesday night - only taking 1 or 2 days off work?
- **Finances** – You might consider whether the church would support a team.  
  *Ask: What do you think about asking our church to take 1-2 diaconal offerings for the purpose of sending our team? / What are some other ways that we could raise support?* (Know that if all else fails, you may inform David Nakhla about interested parties and potential need for funds. He will do everything possible to provide assistance or scholarships for people ready to serve that fall short or can’t provide the finances needed.)

- **How Much Time to Prepare:** Not everyone is needed the first week after a disaster. On the contrary, there is a need to spread teams out, so individuals and teams will be scheduled according to their ability to go: some may be able to get ready to go quickly and others may need a month’s notice. The DR work can support teams for up to a year after a disaster hits.  
  *Ask: How much advance notice would you/your employer require?*

**Next Steps:** Agree on the following next steps for each individual.

1.) Determine **how many days** each is willing to take off (vacation days, personal days, no-pay days, etc). Speak to employer, if required.

2.) Determine how each will provide **funding** for the trip (own funds, raise from family or friends, ask diaconate to send, etc.)

3.) Determine **who will speak to the deacons**, session, or pastor about a diaconal offering or special offering, if applicable.

**Prayer:** Spend time praying for these common matters and individual requests.

**Closing:** *If you are ready, or ready to get ready to go, the immediate next step is to register with OPC Disaster Response, to let them know who is seriously interested in serving. Registering doesn’t bind you to going. It’s simply an indication that you want to be among the first to be invited to serve when there is an opportunity.***

**Leader Only:** Give out the following URL for registering and ask them to register right away on their phone, if possible. Ask them to inform you once they register so that you can keep track of who in your church has done so.

https://opcdisasterresponse.org/volunteer-registry/