# Hurricane Maria left a path of devastation in Puerto Rico. The people of The United Methodist Church have been moved by God to help us and we are very grateful. With the help of UMCOR and The United Methodist Church we are leading the way in rebuilding the island and repairing houses in Puerto Rico’s communities.

# Hurricane Maria also caused significant damage to the church buildings of The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR). Forty-four of our local churches suffered property damage. Two years have passed, and we still have many repairs to do in churches and in the community.

# While UMCOR and The United Methodist Church have awarded a $2 million grant to the MCPR for church repairs, the extent of the damage now means that this will not be enough to cover the total cost of repairs.

# Most of the damage to church buildings was to roofs and therefor water damage on the interior. Unfortunately, when the churches were built, the installation of most of the roofs was not the best. Hurricane Maria is now giving us an opportunity to do a better job with the roofs and repair them in such a way that a future hurricane will not damage or destroy them. We want to mitigate the damage of future events. Therefore, we need to comply with local building codes and warranties.

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# We have received several requests from people who have heard about the damage to church buildings and want to help a local church. A program called ***“Church-to-Church”*** was established with the specific purpose of helping repair our Methodist churches in Puerto Rico, Vieques, and St. Croix.

# Through Church-to-Church, a UMC congregation can enter into a Collaboration Agreement with one of our local churches. Every Collaboration Agreement is custom-made for the two church congregations involved. This agreement can be as simple as sending an offering to help in the reconstruction of the buildings of a specific church. Or, it can be as complex as sending and offering volunteer groups to help in the reconstruction of the local church, sending volunteers for the reconstruction of the community and/or doing ministries.

# These agreements are coordinated through the MCPR Conference Office. If you wish to enter into a Church-to-Church agreement, it is important that you follow these steps:

1. Contact Paloma Rodríguez-Rivera, Missional Alliance Coordinator, at the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR) Conference Office. She can be reached at 787-765-3195 or churchtochurch@metodistapr.org
2. The Conference Office staff will do their best to find a local church.
3. Review the information provided to you by the Conference Office and let us know if you wish to participate.
4. The MCPR Conference Office staff will let the local church know about your interest and will present the terms of the agreement. As soon as we reach an agreement with the local church, we will let you know by telephone or email.
5. If your Church wants to send volunteers, we will gladly receive them. The trip has to be coordinated with the MCPR Conference Office and the team registration should be done through UMCOR’s central volunteer registration system with Tymera Jackson at [puertoricovols@umcor.org](mailto:puertoricovols@umcor.org). All team need to comply with the UMCOR Volunteer Guidelines, especially with:
   1. 18 year or older
   2. Medical plan, liability insurance and Safe Sanctuary documentation
   3. Drivers of 25 years or older
   4. Follow camp rules

For more information, please consult the Travel Information Guidelines from UMCOR and Methodist Church of Puerto Rico.

1. Volunteers should be aware that the scope of work will be determined by the MCPR Local Engineer. The type of work available for the volunteers will depend upon their skill levels and the needs of the local church.

Depending on the repairs needed, we will be working with local roofing contractors who will complete the work according to local building codes and provide us with a limited ten (10) year warranty.

Based on the skills of volunteers we may use them for roof demolition, preparation of the new roof and the installation of the metal deck.

It is important for you to know that all construction must **comply with local codes**. All of the work on the churches will be under the direction of the Local Engineer selected by the MCPR Conference Office and the MCPR Construction Manager. Besides the roofing work there are other, multiple jobs to be done in each one of the churches. These projects also will need to be coordinated through the MCPR Conference Office.

1. The donations or offerings for any *Church-to-Church* should be sent in the name of

Iglesia Metodista de Puerto Rico

P. O. Box 23339

San Juan, PR 00931-3339

ATT: Paloma Rodríguez-Rivera Church-to-Church with (Insert Local Church Name).

1. Your donation will be restricted to the selected Local Church you designate.
2. You will receive a statement from the MCPR Conference Office with the details on how the donation was used and pictures of the work done.

At the end of all the repairs, the local church will most likely want to celebrate with a “Consecration Service”. If possible, we would like to have one or more representatives of your church participate in this service. We want to celebrate God’s care through you.

Words cannot express our gratitude for having you as part of our family of The Methodist Church around the world. You are the hands and feet of Christ in our island and in our world.

Thank you!