

TO: All IKC Churches and all IKC Authorized Ministers  
FR: Stephen C. Gray, Conference Minister, Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC  
RE: Response to Earthquake in Haiti

The message below is from Susan Sanders, UCC Minister for Global Sharing of Resources. This is initial information. More information will follow. May we all respond with prayers and generosity. Thank you.

**Subject:** Haiti Earthquake

Dear Friends:

The earthquake which struck Haiti Tuesday afternoon appears to be devastating. Felix Ortiz, David Vargas and I continue to try to make contact with our partners and Global Ministries mission personnel in Haiti, but as of Tuesday late evening, have not yet had direct contact. We have received word that a Disciples of Christ group from the Tennessee Region which is visiting our partner CONASPEH in Haiti are all safe.

Initial emergency response grants from One Great Hour of Sharing funds have been approved and attempts will be made to transfer the funds to CONASPEH and House of Hope beginning Wednesday morning. As the extent of the disaster becomes clear we anticipate we need for substantial designated gifts.

An initial Haiti earthquake disaster post, including information on how to make a donation, has been placed on the UCC/OGHS website at: <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/>

Copied below is the text of the post.

Your assistance in sharing this information with the pastors and congregations of the Conference you serve is most appreciated. Thank you.

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## Major Earthquake Strikes Haiti

January 12, 2010

*A 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti just before 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 with major damage and loss of life feared. Striking 10 miles west of the capital city of Port-au-Prince, with a population of over 2 million, the shallow quake has been followed by several significant aftershocks.*

### Donate Now to Provide Emergency Relief In Haiti

Initial reports of damage are sketchy, but Haiti's Ambassador to the U.S., his Excellency Raymond Alcide Joseph fears the earthquake is "a catastrophe of major proportions." Mike Godfrey of USAID in Haiti reported seeing a "huge cloud of smoke and dust" over Port-au-Prince which appeared shortly after the initial earthquake and lingered for 20 minutes. Such a cloud is likely to arise from the cement dust released in the collapse of buildings. Attempts by UCC and Global Ministries staff to contact partners and Global Ministries personnel in Haiti will continue into the night. Land and cell phone service is severely disrupted.

One Great Hour of Sharing funds are being rushed to our Haitian partners to support their initial emergency response. As damage assessments are made and plans for relief, recovery and rehabilitation are developed, additional OGHS funds will be shared with our partners.

#### How to Help:

1. Pray for the people of Haiti their leaders and emergency and humanitarian aid workers.
2. To assist impacted families, you may, send gifts payable to your congregation marked for "OGHS – Haitian Relief" with the request they be sent through your Conference office on to Wider Church Ministries.

OR

Send gifts, made out to Wider Church Ministries and marked in the memo portion "OGHS – Haitian Relief" to Wider Church Ministries; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

OR

Make a secure online donation to the OGHS International Disaster Relief fund.

Thank you for your compassion and support.