

## Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Financial Policy

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief (TBDR) is a volunteer ministry of Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB) that seeks to share the love of Jesus Christ with individuals and families whose lives are disrupted by disaster both large and small. TBDR units also use their equipment and training to share the love of Jesus Christ in their local communities by responding to evangelistic opportunities as appropriate.

### Funding Sources

**Designated Gifts:** Every response is dependent upon gifts designated for Disaster Relief. There are no funds budgeted for direct relief efforts. While gifts designated to Disaster Relief are accepted at any time, special accounts within the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) are created to track gifts and expenses for significant responses. Consistent with the Business and Financial Plan of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, all designated gifts for Disaster Relief will be used as instructed by the donor.

**Volunteers:** TBDR volunteers pay for their own credentials, clothing, and training. They are also responsible for the expense of travelling to a disaster site, lodging and meals on site, and other personal expenses. However, lodging and meals are often provided by local churches and other partners.

**Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions:** Tennessee Baptists giving sacrificially through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provide the base budget for administration of the ministry, including some equipment, maintenance of the Missions Mobilization Center, and other operating expenses.

**Cooperative Program:** Tennessee Baptist churches giving faithfully through the Cooperative Program provide the budgeting for a limited staff to facilitate and administer the ministry.

### Spending Guidelines

**Disaster Where TBDR is responding with personnel and/or equipment:** TBDR will use available funds from the DRF and the specific disaster relief account to respond to the needs of the disaster. These funds will be used in the following ways:

1. Victim relief providing: cash payments to victims, groceries, repair materials or services, clothing or physical materials, and other services.
2. Repair or replacement of equipment damaged or consumed during response.
3. Transportation of equipment or personnel to disaster site. Transportation costs may include provision for recovering costs of TBDR vehicle purchase, insurance, maintenance, tires, etc.
4. Purchase of food for cooking by disaster unit.
5. Purchase of supplies or equipment consumed during response.
6. Repair or rebuilding of homes and churches damaged or destroyed by disaster.
7. When appropriate, funds may be sent to another state convention or SBC agency to assist in response.
8. Funds received designated for a specific disaster in excess of funds needed for the response will be placed in the DRF for use in the next disaster.

**Disaster Where There is No Direct Response by TBDR:** Funds will be forwarded to the appropriate state convention or Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agency responding to the disaster with designation.