

1. The UCCJ 37th GA Executive Council's Executive Meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2011

The Executive Meeting established the Relief Planning Headquarters (chaired by Rev. Ishibashi, UCCJ moderator), which largely takes over the tasks of the Relief Planning Committee in charge of the investigation and the initial planning. The headquarters is to meet the long-term goals and is charged with the following tasks:

- 1) To control the whole UCCJ relief activities and send the appropriate information.
- 2) To assist the communities suffering the disasters through the UCCJ local churches, sub-districts and districts.
- 3) To create a relief desk in the UCCJ General Office.
- 4) To place the Relief Center in Tohoku District and dispatch an executive in charge.
- 5) To support the health of local church pastors.
- 6) To open a session of District Moderators' Conference and discuss the relief plans.

The UCCJ Relief Fund fuels the relief goods & activity expenditures. This will be in a bottom up procedure: The UCCJ will not cover the costs, unless the Districts' Relief Planning Committee approves such relief activities. The UCCJ Relief Planning Headquarters (and the UCCJ Relief Planning Committee), then, make a decision of payment for those applications that have passed the district's screening above.

In the meanwhile, the UCCJ Relief Planning Committee (in charge of the initial planning) decided, on Wednesday, March 23, to wire the relief fund of JPY 10,000,000 (equivalent to USD 125,000) each to three districts under disaster, i.e. Ou District, Tohoku District and Kanto District.

2. UCCJ Local Churches (mainly from <http://www.douhoku.org/> as of March 24, 2011, and <http://esashihoikuen.com/2011ouukyoku/newpage1.html>)

* Hachinohe Konakano Church

One member lost the house by the tsunami.

* Miyako Church

The tsunami reached, and the heavy oil thickly covered the ground floor of the chapel.

Rev. Moriwake is visiting church members to encourage. The pastor and volunteers are now trying hard to clean it up, so that the second floor of the church can be used as refuge for those who lost their houses.



<YMCA volunteers and Rev. Moriwake>



<The volunteers helped cleanse the floor.>



* Hanamaki Church

The public relief supply does not reach those staying at their own houses as of March 14.

* Tohno Church

The UCCJ related Keiwa High School, in Niigata Prefecture, dispatched a wagon charged with relief goods to a public refuge center. This resulted in the community's joy and appreciation.

* Shinsei Kamaishi Church

Rev. Yanagiya kept the service alone on the Lord's day, March 13.

Ten members came to the church, by overcoming the debris, and joined Rev. Yanagiya for the service on Sunday, March 20. They together sang worship songs. The gospel was proclaimed.

Two members are still missing. No telephone. Some members lost their houses.

A team of an NGO "Crash Japan" came to the church and rearranged everything inside.

<Pastor's house (left) and the chapel (depth)>



<Church surroundings>



<The "Crash Japan" at work>



<Rev. Yanagiya in counseling>





* Semmaya Church

Rev. Mikawa and his family are take refuge in an inn.

(See the picture on the right, taken by Rev. Ohara, Ou District moderator.)



* Ohfunato Church



The pastor and the members are fine.

The neighboring city, Rikuzen Takada, was completely destroyed by the tsunami: Water, electricity and gas systems do not work there.

The picture, taken by Ou District Moderator, Rev. Ohara, shows destroyed houses alongside of the national route No. 45.

* Ishinomaki Eiko Church

The tsunami reached its garden, but the buildings remained safe.

The church and its kindergarten were used as temporary refuge for four days.

The death of a member is confirmed.

Needs gasoline, foods and men's underwear, but the electricity and the telephone are recovered on March 23.



* Sendai Kita Church

One member is still missing.

* Sendai Kawadaira Church

One member lost the house by the tsunami.

* Sendai Kita 3-bancho Church, which the CGMB missionary, Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek, attends.
Seven members are still missing.

* Sendai Higashi Church
The church has hosted fifteen refugees, both members and non-members.

* Sendai Itsutsubashi Church, which the CGMB missionary, Rev. David Murchie, attends.
Five members are still missing.

* Sendai Minami Church
The church has hosted thirteen refugees.

* Miyagino Aisen Church
The church has hosted sixteen refugees, but has no more food available.

* Iwaki Church
A staff of a related nursery school died on the day of earthquake, while communicating with the kids' parents.
Another staff of a related nursery school is still missing.

* Tohoku District Center, where Rev. Jeffrey Mensendiek is the director of its Student Center.
A number of volunteers have gathered.
For more info, visit <http://ameblo.jp/jishin-support-uccj/>

N.B. The supply of gasoline is being recovered in some places of Aomori Prefecture.

3. The story of the tsunami survivor

The survivor spent the night on the roof of a three-story building while snowing.

The UCCJ team of four pastors gave him a ride from the coast area to Sendai City on Monday, March 14. No wonder his colleagues burst into joy when he arrived at his company, because his presence had never been confirmed before.

