



# Office of Mission

1501 N.W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73106-3635

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September 15, 2018

**United Methodist Ministry Center**

**Rev. Jeremy Basset**

Director  
(405)530-2028  
jbasset@okumc.org

**Kristin Terrell-Wilkes**

Coordinator  
(405)530-2029  
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Administrative Assistant  
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atrejo@okumc.org

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a privilege that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Chad Detwiler.

Chad has served approximately four and a half years with our Oklahoma United Methodist Disaster Response (OKUMC-DR) ministry as the Project and Volunteer Management Supervisor. Chad served survivors of the 2013 thru 2018 Oklahoma disaster events helping them through some of the most difficult times in their lives. Together with other staff members and partner organizations he assisted us in developing an effective disaster recovery organization for the Oklahoma United Methodist Church.

Chad was hired by OKUMC-DR in 2014 for what we believed would be a two year "temporary" position, but the major devastation of the 2013 storms and the statewide flooding of 2015 created difficulty in project and volunteer coordination resulting in a longer Recovery. In addition, 2015 and 2016 both brought tornado events to Tulsa and other towns in NE Oklahoma and each disaster extended the need of those temporary staff members. We were blessed by receiving significant funding during the 2013 event which enabled us to continue to restore lives that we would not have been able to do otherwise.

Since the end of 2016, for the most part, we have been in a "Blue Sky" time period when disasters have been few and far between, and so has the funding for our ministry. Because of the reduced funding OKUMC-DR is having to restructure back to its pre-2013 staff and disaster ministry structure. This reduction has nothing to do with the performance of Chad and/or the other staff members who will be released from employment on October 31, 2018.

The reduction in our ministry is very disappointing, but the impact Chad and the other staff members have made will be remembered for years to come. They leave a lasting mark on Oklahoma communities, on the lives of hundreds of disaster survivors, and on the thousands of volunteers who continue to return because of the experience they received.

It is my understanding Chad and the other staff members are striving to continue this vital ministry through a new 501c3 organization. It is our prayer they will be successful in this endeavor which is vital in the state of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,



Rev. Jeremy Basset



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September 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a privilege that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Kevin Walker.

Kevin has served approximately five and a half years with our Oklahoma United Methodist Disaster Response (OKUMC-DR) ministry as a Disaster Construction Project Manager. Kevin served survivors of 12 disasters from 2013 thru 2018 helping them through some of the most difficult times in their lives. Together with other staff members and partner organizations he assisted us in developing an effective disaster recovery organization for the Oklahoma United Methodist Church.

Kevin has a huge servant heart and a willingness to do whatever it takes including working side by side with volunteers making them feel needed, wanted, and appreciated. Kevin worked to create a servant atmosphere focused on the recovery of each survivor. Ultimately the greatest impact Kevin and the other staff members made was on the lives of the individuals and families for which they restored homes and to whom they helped begin restoring to a "new normal."

Kevin was hired by OKUMC-DR in 2013 for what we believed would be a two year "temporary" position, but the major devastation of the 2013 tornados and the statewide flooding of 2015 created difficulty in construction coordination resulting in a longer Recovery. In addition, 2015 and 2016 both brought tornado events to Tulsa and other towns in NE Oklahoma and each disaster extended the need of those temporary staff members. We were blessed to receive significant funding during the 2013 event which enabled us to continue to restore lives that we would not have been able to do otherwise.

Since the end of 2016, for the most part, we have been in a "Blue Sky" time period when disasters have been few and far between, and so has the funding for our ministry. Because of the reduced funding OKUMC-DR is having to restructure back to its pre-2013 staff and disaster ministry structure. This reduction has nothing to do with the performance of Kevin and/or the other staff members who will be released from employment on October 31, 2018.

The reduction in our ministry is very disappointing, but the impact Kevin and the other staff members have made will be remembered for years to come. They leave a lasting mark on Oklahoma communities, on the lives of hundreds of disaster survivors, and on the thousands of volunteers who continue to return because of the positive experience they received.

It is my understanding Kevin and the other staff members are striving to continue this vital ministry through a new 501c3 organization. It is our prayer they will be successful in this endeavor which is vital in the state of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

  
Rev. Jeremy Basset