

Holston's RESPONSE to Sevier County Wildfires

Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church • December 2016

**Your donations provide
immediate aid to
fire survivors**



Dakota Cogdill sifts through the remains of a home in Pigeon Forge. (Photo by Tom Sherlin/ *The Daily Times*)

Whenever people donate money for a good cause, they want to know it's going directly to help people who need it most.

On Dec. 8, five United Methodist churches at the center of Gatlinburg fire destruction received a total \$40,000 from donations made to Holston Conference, empowering them to take care of survivors' needs in a hurry.

From donations made to Holston and designated for "Wildfire," three grants of \$5,000 each were made to: First United Methodist Church, Gatlinburg, First United Methodist Church, Pigeon Forge, and El Ministerio del Espiritu Santo (at The Connexion in Sevierville)

From donations made to "Change for Children" throughout the year, five grants of \$5,000 each were made to: First United Methodist Church, Gatlinburg, First United Methodist Church, Pigeon Forge, Burnett Memorial United Methodist Church, El Ministerio del Espiritu Santo, and Wears Valley United Methodist Church

"We know the local churches know what the needs are," said the Rev. Michael Sluder, director of connectional ministries. "We wanted to get some money into the hands of the pastors and say, 'You go be the church and meet those needs.'"

As of Dec. 13, a total \$93,240.20 had been received online and in cash from generous givers all over the nation for the Holston United Methodist wildfire response.

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