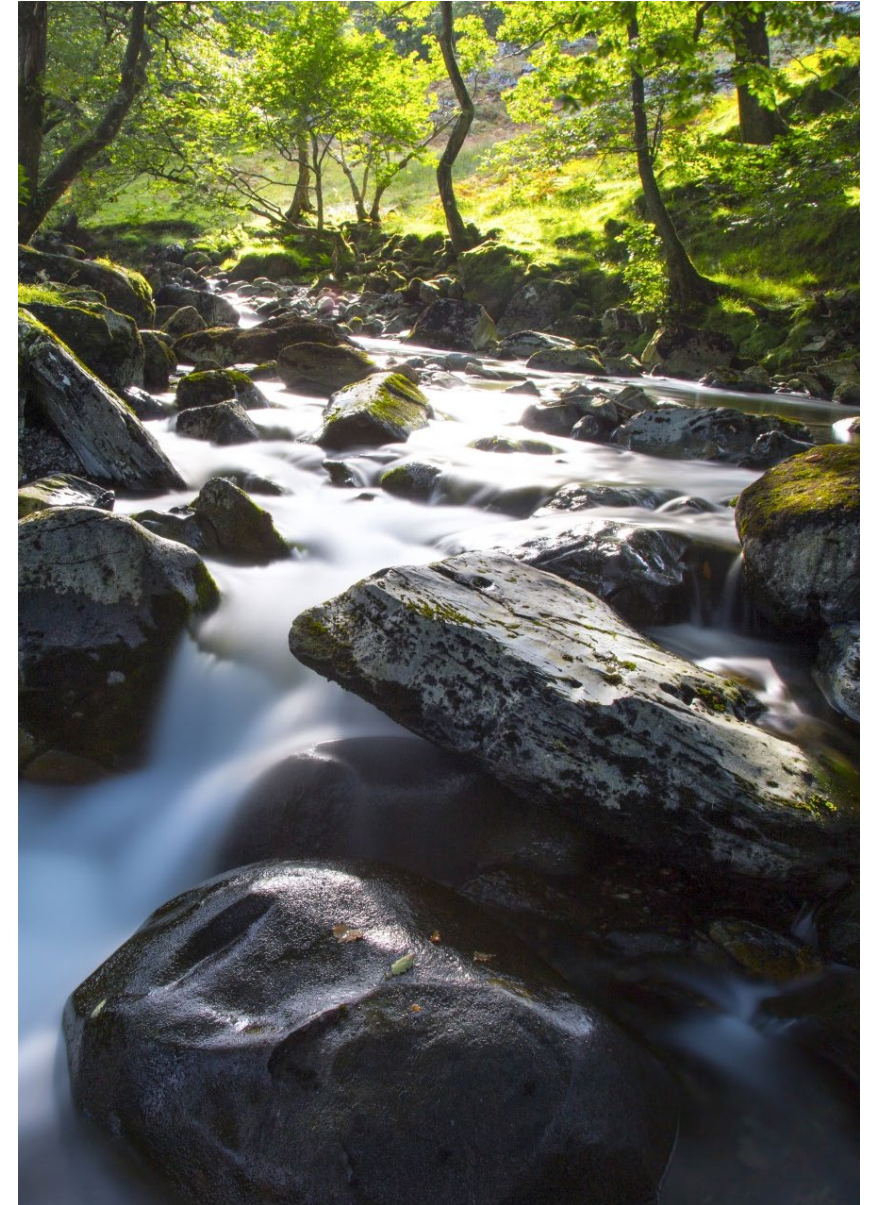


# Disaster Spiritual Care: A Brief Introduction

Rev. David Hottinger, M.Div, BCC  
Director of Spiritual Care, Allina Health  
Minneapolis, MN  
[david.hottinger@allina.com](mailto:david.hottinger@allina.com)



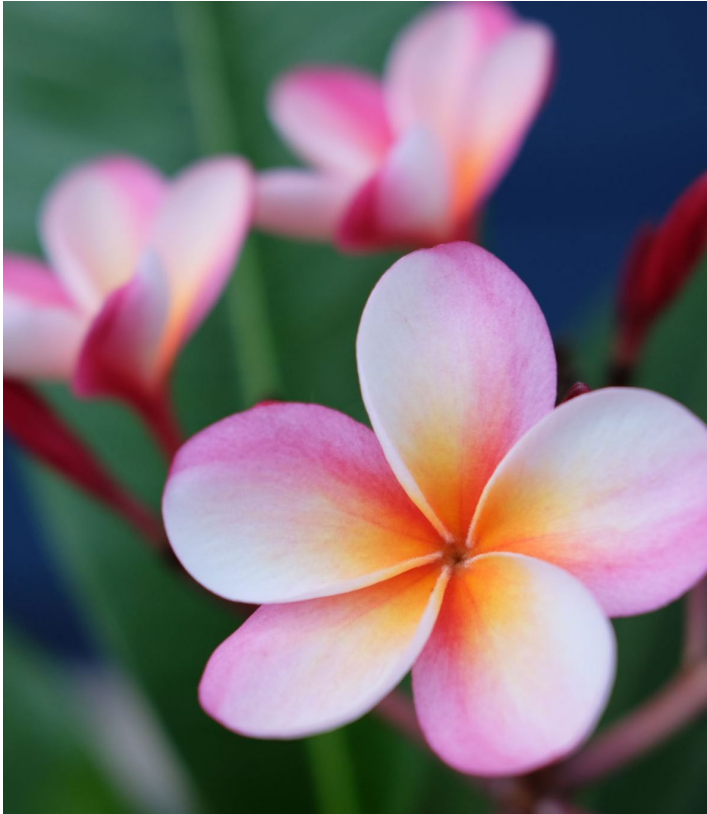
# Disaster Spiritual Care is Trauma-Informed

## ***Consensus-Based Definition***

"a strengths-based framework that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors, and that creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment"

(Hopper, Bausik, and Olivet, 2010).





# A Trauma-Informed Disaster Spiritual Care Provider (SAMSHA)

---

***Realizes*** the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery

---

***Recognizes*** the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system


---

***Responds*** by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices

---

***Resists*** re-traumatization





# Disaster Spiritual Care = Healing Centered Engagement

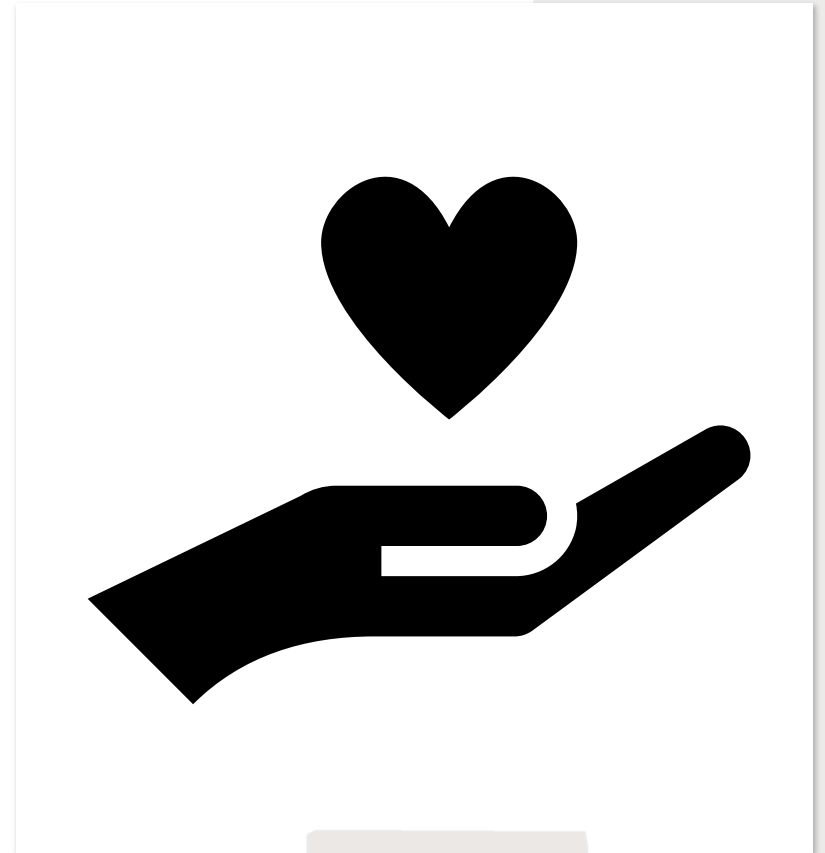
(Shawn Ginwright)

- Trauma is not just something experienced by isolated individuals but often happens collectively.
- We ask not only “what happened to you?” but also “what is right with you?”
- People exposed to trauma are agents in the creation of their own well being, not just victims.
- HCE is culturally grounded and views healing as the restoration of identity.
- Organizations have the responsibility to foster a climate in which healing and well-being are prioritized.

Shawn Ginwright, 2018

# National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Points of Consensus: Disaster Spiritual Care (2006)

- 1. Basic concepts of disaster spiritual care.**
- 2. Types of disaster spiritual care**
- 3. Local community resources**
- 4. Disaster emotional care and its relationship to disaster spiritual care**
- 5. Disaster spiritual care in response and recovery**
- 6. Disaster emotional and spiritual care for the care giver**
- 7. Planning, preparedness, training and mitigation as spiritual care components**

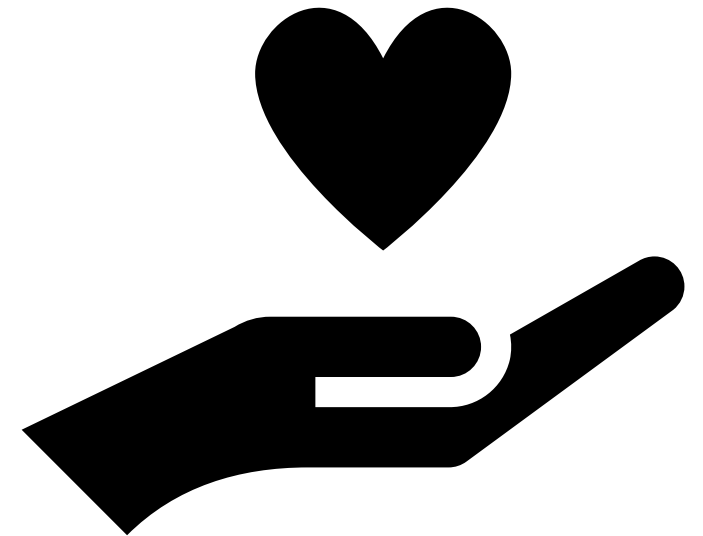


## 8. Disaster spiritual care in diversity

Respect is foundational to disaster spiritual care. Spiritual care providers demonstrate respect for diverse cultural and religious values by recognizing the right of each faith group and individual to hold to their existing values and traditions.

Spiritual care providers:

- refrain from manipulation, disrespect or exploitation of those impacted by disaster and trauma.
- respect the freedom from unwanted gifts of religious literature or symbols, evangelistic and sermonizing speech, and/or forced acceptance of specific moral values and traditions.
- respect diversity and differences, including but not limited to culture, gender, age, sexual orientation, spiritual/religious practices and disability





## **9. Disaster, Trauma and Vulnerability**

People impacted by disaster and trauma are vulnerable. There is an imbalance of power between disaster responders and those receiving care. To avoid exploiting that imbalance, spiritual care providers refrain from using their position, influence, knowledge or professional affiliation for unfair advantage or for personal, organizational or agency gain.

Disaster response will not be used to further a particular political or religious perspective or cause – response will be carried out according to the need of individuals, families and communities. The promise, delivery, or distribution of assistance will not be tied to the embracing or acceptance of a particular political or religious creed.

## **10. Ethics and Standards of Care**

[www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org)

# Three Disaster Spiritual Care Vignettes

---

Hurricane Katrina (Greenville County, SC Evacuation Center)

Cedar Riverside Apartment Explosion (1/1/2014, 3 fatalities, multiple burn victims) and Apartment Fire (11/27/2019, 5 fatalities)

COVID-19 (Over 1 million deaths in the United States, over 15,000 deaths in MN)

