



National Disaster Interfaiths Network

PETER B. GUDAITIS, M.DIV.



Since 2007 Mr. Gudaitis has served as the president of the National Disaster Interfaiths Network (NDIN), and as a consultant, recovery contractor, researcher and trainer. He lectures nationally and internationally on interfaith and inter-religious partnerships and disaster management – as well as religious literacy and competency in crisis settings, and disaster readiness, response, and recovery best practices. Since November 2012, he has been on long-term deployment with New York Disaster Interfaith Services, as the Chief Response Officer to Hurricane Sandy.

NDIN is a 501(c)(3) consulting and training network of field experienced professionals from the academy, government and faith-based disaster management arenas. These subject matter experts develop curricula, preparedness resources, lead trainings and tabletops, offer conference planning, faith-based disaster management consulting, conduct research, and a speaker bureau. All services focus on establishing best practices and building disaster resilient communities.

From 2003 to 2009, Gudaitis was Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer of New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS), a 501(c)(3) federation of faith-based human service providers, charitable organizations and faith communities that work in partnership to provide disaster readiness, response, and recovery services for New York City. NYDIS collaborates with local, state, and national agencies to facilitate the delivery of non-sectarian spiritual care, secular disaster human services planning as well as providing mitigation education, preparedness training and risk communication to New York City religious communities, underserved survivors and impacted neighborhoods. NYDIS represents over 80 faith communities and faith-based organizations.

Mr. Gudaitis has over 25 years of experience in chaplaincy, disaster emergency management, faith-based philanthropy, program management, and social services administration. From 1999 to 2003, he served as Associate Director of Episcopal Charities of the Diocese of New York, where he managed community-based outreach and youth grant programs – and, also directed diocesan 9/11 relief and recovery programs. He also has eight years of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) experience, having served as an EMT, EMT-I, and EMS Chaplain for rural and urban EMS companies in Tennessee and Connecticut. In addition to his advanced life support certifications, he received training in Mass Casualty Incident Command and Pediatric Trauma Care. From 1992 to 1996, he served as an EMS supervisor in Fairfield County, Connecticut. He is certified in Basic and Advanced CISM debriefing, as a Disaster Chaplain Master Trainer, and as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor.

Gudaitis holds a Master of Divinity degree from the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church and a B.A. from Kenyon College. He completed CPE training through the Healthcare Chaplaincy at Beth Israel Medical Center. He has served on many local and national boards and committees in a variety of capacities, including: the board of directors of NYC VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster); the board of directors of the Human Services Council of New York City; Citizens Corps Council; the Working Group on Citizen Engagement in Health Emergency Planning at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Center for Biosecurity; the FBI Wounded Warrior Wellness Working Group; Domestic Disaster Preparedness and Response Advisory Council of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and has represented ERD on the Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee of National VOAD. And, the Advisory Board of the Haiti Earthquake Hope & Healing Fund.

Currently, Mr. Gudaitis is a member of the Faith-based Caucus of the International Association of Emergency Managers; Advisory Board of the Mt. Sinai Hospital Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine; Guest Lecturer and Advisory Board member for the Metropolitan College of New York, Emergency and Disaster Management Program; Research Associate at the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at the University of Southern California; the Mass Fatality Preparedness Advisory Board at the University of California, San Francisco. In 2012, he was appointed to the New York State Respond Commission by Governor Andrew Cuomo. Most recently, he was appointed as an Adjunct Professor at Harford Seminary.

In addition to many professional accolades and personal honors, under the leadership of Mr. Gudaitis, NYDIS received the 2007 Ready New Yorker Award for outstanding commitment to Emergency Planning and Disaster Education from the New York City Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Gudaitis has received the Individual Award for Excellence in Preparedness and Planning from National VOAD. In 2013, he was recognized with the President's Award for Servant Leadership by Lutheran Social Services of New York.