

## Louisiana Family Recovery Corps chief to retire

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The executive director of the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps is retiring to become a full-time minister.

Raymond Jetson, 52, will step down at the end of the year from the job he's held for 28 months at the human services organization created to help hurricane victims.

"I'm going to go and dedicate more of my time to the ministry," Jetson said Tuesday. "I've been serving as pastor of Star Hill (Church) since 1994, but it's always been that and something else. So I'd like to get to that full time."

He said he told the board of directors from the outset that he did not plan to make the recovery corps a career.

Recovery corps' board chairman Ralph Stephens agreed that Jetson's decision is not surprising.

"I, as chairman of the board, would have been thrilled if he'd said, 'I really want to stick around here'," Stephens said.

He said the board will evaluate the nonprofit organization's future role before replacing Jetson.

"It's three years after the storm. I think we've done a lot of good work . . . . We need to look at the organization and see where it's going to go," Stephens said.

Jetson and Stephens said the organization still has a role to play.

After hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the state in 2005, former Gov. Kathleen Blanco created the corps to help storm victims cut through government red tape and get assistance. The organization also was designed to mobilize the help available from nonprofit groups.

The group is funded through a mix of state dollars, federal funds and private donations.

Stephens said the corps held day camps in New Orleans the summer after the storms.

The organization also helped families return home by covering their first month's rent or the cost of a new refrigerator, he said.

The corps needs to examine at what point disaster victims should shift into the regular social services system, Stephens said.

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Jetson said at the very least there is a need for a group that bears a strong resemblance to the recovery corps.

There needs to be a legitimate conduit, he said, between people impacted by disasters and the nonprofit organizations that can help them.