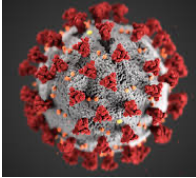




Mission and Ministry During a Coronavirus Pandemic


March 17, 2020

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Our Agenda


- The Word from the Lord
- Our Purpose
- Monitoring Information from all states and jurisdictions
- Gathering Information and Ideas from you
- Making Decisions about Congregational Worship & Gatherings
- Finding new ways to provide ministry – even if we cannot gather
- SED Office Policies
- Next Steps



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The Word from the Lord - Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
⁸ the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.



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Our Purpose

- Recognize the facts of life of the coronavirus as it relates to ministry
- Share resources and best practices
- Begin identifying opportunities for ministry due to the coronavirus



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Recognize the facts of life of the coronavirus as it relates to ministry

State	Gatherings	Schools	Childcare
Delaware	Public gatherings 50 banned	Mar 16-27	Does not recommended closing
Maryland	Gathering of 50 strictly prohibited	March 16-27	Expand emergency order to expand childcare access
North Carolina	Ban mass gatherings of 100 or more	Schools closed to Mar 30	Childcare remains open
Pennsylvania	Avoid large gatherings of 50 or more	Schools closed for 10 days	Childcare - no information
South Carolina	Postpone in person events 50 or more	Schools closed until Mar 31	Licensed Childcare remain open
Virginia	Limit large gatherings immediately	Closed March 16-27	Childcare - waiting for guidance
DC	Prohibit gathering of 50 or more	Closed March 16-31	Childcare under Disaster Response plan



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Gathering Information and Ideas from you

- We would appreciate seeing what you see.
- Would like to develop ongoing communication
 - Decisions you are making for conducting your ministry
 - Number of coronavirus infections in your congregations
- Other



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Making Decisions about Congregational Worship & Gatherings

- Across the SED we have a spectrum of decisions
 - Some congregations have not yet cancelled worship service
 - Some congregations met on Sunday, March 15
 - Many congregations cancelled worship for March 15 and 22
 - To my knowledge no SED congregations have cancelled beyond March 22



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Making Decisions about Congregational Worship & Gatherings

- Decisions are being made from a variety of perspectives
 - Like congregations that do not cancel because of snow – we're tougher than the general public – we'll meet for church
 - This is our right to worship – we will worship
 - We want to not be responsible for passing along the virus to others in our community
 - We respect the voices of our leaders who have asked us to consider not gathering
 - How can we join the community (sports, music, theater, government, business) in trying to provide social distancing to stop the rapid spread of the virus and put less pressure on the medical providers and hospitals.



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Making Decisions about Congregational Worship & Gatherings

There is good possibility that we may not be able to gather during Holy Week and Easter and beyond
By planning now we can ensure that our members have a way to worship in their home setting



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Finding new ways to provide ministry – even if we cannot gather – some guidance from God’s Word

²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



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Finding new ways to provide ministry – even if we cannot gather

- How do we lead worship for our people from a distance?
- We have the technology be in every home of our members on a variety of technological tools
 - Conference call technology
 - Facebook live to the congregation
 - Video platforms (Zoom/GotoMeeting)
 - Live Streaming through your own or other congregations (available on SED web)



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SED Office Policies

- We are creating new SED office policies to allow our office staff to work from home
- Creating new policies to ensure our office has under 10 people in it all times working different schedules
- Moving all meetings in which we are involved to on-line meetings
- Restricting travel of all staff to essential only traveling



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