Suggested Guideline for Restrictions of In-Person Worship and Gatherings
October 29, 2020

As your Conference Minister, I am asking you to limit or suspend in-person worship and gatherings for the near future until there is a decrease in COVID-19 cases in your area.

As the weather has gotten colder, it prevents many from gathering outside as we have this summer and fall. The temptation may be to worship and gather inside the Church building. I strongly discourage this because many church heating systems have poor ventilation systems, which could put members and church staff at risk if they remove their mask.

Already, several congregations have had members or guests test positive for COVID-19. Several congregations have lost members to COVID-19 or complications thereof. For the safety of our ministers, members, church staff, and ministry settings, please consider suspending all in-person gatherings immediately and worship virtually.

Additional Resources:
- CDC Guidelines for People at Increased Risk
- CDC Events and Gatherings: Readiness and Planning Tool
- CDC Guidelines for Coping With Stress