

As of March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization has declared coronavirus a pandemic. Mission Presbytery's Disaster Preparedness & Assistance Committee (DPAC) has compiled the following resources for churches to stay informed and prepare for a response to coronavirus.

1. **Pandemic Policies & Coronavirus Information** – look to the CDC and PCUSA updates for guidance. We will post updates on Facebook as that is the quickest way to share information as the situation changes daily. You do not need a Facebook account to view the Presbytery's Facebook page.
 - a. The CDC page concerning coronavirus can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
 - b. Mission Presbytery's Facebook page can be found here:
<https://www.facebook.com/missionpresbytery/>
 - c. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's Guidance for Congregations during Pandemics:
<https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/disease-guidance-for-congregations/>
 - d. Additional organizations to pay attention to include:
 - i. State & County Health Departments
 - ii. Emergency Operations Center for your county
2. **Church Disaster Preparedness Committees** – In October the **Disaster Preparedness Guidelines** prepared by DPAC were emailed to all pastors and clerks of session. This document encourages each church to form a disaster preparedness committee to go through the planning steps outlined in the guidelines. Pandemic procedures are included. The time to form your committee and begin this work is now.
 - a. If you are unable to find the guidelines that were emailed in October, please contact the Presbytery.
 - b. The guidelines are extensive and may seem intimidating. Start small – form the committee, review and implement appropriate pandemic procedures, and begin conducting the congregation information surveys. From there you can start planning for other disasters you know may impact your church, such as fires or hurricanes.
3. **Other resources**
 - a. **Statement on Pastoral Care from PCUSA's Office of Theology & Worship**
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Coronavirus-Covid-19-Statement3.pdf>
 - b. **Light Our Way: A Guide to Spiritual Care in Times of Disaster**
<https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/light-our-way/>
 - c. **A Call to Prayer from the Stated Clerk of PCUSA**
<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2020/2/20/call-prayer-stated-clerk-presbyterian-church-us/>

“Leaders can demonstrate that they are taking seriously the facts of the situation and keeping the best interests of the community in mind. At the same time, they can model a response that is faithful, gracious and wise — trusting God in all things, remaining calm in a time of distress, extending compassion to those who are suffering, and praying for the healing of the world.”

- From PCUSA's Office of Theology & Worship's Statement on Pastoral Care