March 13, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The President of the United States and Governors of Missouri and Kansas have declared emergencies and are planning and carrying out emergency measures in response to the newest coronavirus: COVID-19. You will find links below to additional information.

We learn new information daily about the extent to which the virus has spread and its threat to public health. Hundreds of public events have been cancelled and more are anticipated in an exercise of extreme caution. We are all concerned, and we should be.

Many are restricting their travel by choice or emergency order. Some congregations have cancelled Sunday services and meetings. Stores in some areas cannot keep up with the unusual demand for food and hygiene items. A growing number of employers have instructed staffs to work from home or not go to work at all. Even the healthiest of families are discussing how to deal with school closings, wondering about paychecks, and exploring how to spend more time indoors that is normally devoted to activities outside the home.

In times like these, it is normal to feel stressed and anxious and even annoyed. It is wise to be cautious and to take recommended measures to prevent getting or transmitting any communicable diseases.

I am sorry for the distress you may be experiencing – particularly those of you with leadership responsibilities. While you are protecting the well-being of your families, you are having to make difficult, perhaps costly decisions. You may have to make more. You will not have to make them alone.

We cannot predict the future, but we can take inventory of what we have:

- We serve a God who is always present, powerful and compassionate
- We have each other and we willingly covenant to be with and for each other
- Together, we have demonstrated time and again that we can take care of ourselves and our loved ones and effectively care for those who may be struggling at this time without adequate support

I am scheduling a Zoom meeting with pastors and congregational leaders to check in, share strategies and pray. We will meet at 7 pm, Saturday, March 13th. Up to 100 may join by phone or online.

Information about how to join follows:

- Online, with or without video: https://zoom.us/j/839651411
- By phone (any type of phone)
  +16699006833,,839651411# US (San Jose)
  +13462487799,,839651411# US (Houston)

We will post best practices, information, and updates by email, Facebook, kcdisciples.org and Twitter
I am available by text or phone (816.617.7020) or in person and will also be checking in with leaders in each congregation over the next few days. If you want to connect before I get to you, don’t wait. If it is important to you, it is important to me.

Thanks to our pastors and leaders who are already offering wise counsel and competent care. You inspire hope!

May God continue to assure you of unfailing love, remind you that you are called and trusted, and give you and those you love all that you need to serve and lead in peace.

Bill Rose-Heim
Regional Minister and President

Additional Resources:
Information about COVID-19
Video Message from our General Minister and President
Kansas Emergency Declaration
Missouri Emergency Declaration
Federal Emergency Declaration