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March 17, 2020

To: Churches, Church Pastors, Moderators, and Clerks of Session:

Friends,

We continue to keep you in our prayers during this difficult time. Your Presbytery staff and work group leaders have been meeting to discern how we might best support you in these days. That includes checking in with you directly, so that you can share what's on your hearts and minds and what tangible help you might need. Don't be surprised if you receive a call soon, but also don't wait to be called if something is more urgent.

In light of advisements from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State of Wisconsin, the Presbytery is recommending that you discontinue all in-person worship and meetings until May 10, 2020. Ultimately, each session must make this decision, and we know you are taking this responsibility seriously. Some sessions are making decisions on a rolling basis to watch as situations develop, which is a good strategy. As a reminder, this is not simply a caution for those who are unhealthy or vulnerable. Because the coronavirus can be transmitted by people who are symptom-free, we need to show our love of neighbor through social distancing.

We will not, however, allow this virus to force us into *spiritual distancing*. Many of our congregations have found creative ways to worship and stay connected as communities through technology. Across the denomination we are exploring what Easter worship looks like in our new reality. Today the Presbytery launched a [COVID-19 resource page](#) with tips for online worship, financial matters, online meetings, and more. This will be our central location for all updates and resources, although we'll also have conversations on Facebook. We want to hear how you are showing care for your leaders, your church, and your community, and even where you are finding hope and possibility. So, please stay connected with us!

As always, please reach out to Stated Clerk Christian Boyd (statedclerk@pbymilwaukee.org), Presbytery Executive Rachel Yates (ryates@pbymilwaukee.org), or Moderator Judy Jaggard (judy.jaggard@gmail.com) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.



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