

March 30, 2020

Dear Pastor:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Thank you for pastoring well during this season. The reports we are receiving are encouraging and inspiring as you are ministering in ways that are innovative and resourceful. We know that you are sacrificing to continue to do the Lord's work, and we are grateful. Blessings on you as you provide pastoral care and guidance and navigate these days of challenging opportunity.

Given the current pandemic (COVID-19), the directions of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the directives of our states (KS and MO) and local authorities, and the counsel of our General Superintendents, the Kansas City District Advisory Board and I want to thank all our Kansas City District churches for suspending all gatherings including worship services, midweek programs, and small groups until further notice. Thank you for complying with this directive. It is anticipated that this restriction will be in place until at least April 30, 2020. Churches producing online worship services should limit those involved in on-site production to fewer than ten persons and follow recommended protocols for social distancing.

We are choosing as a district to follow the biblical command of "loving our neighbor" by following the best medical advice and the guidelines of our governing authorities. By sacrificially forsaking our gathering together for this season, we show we are people who protect our neighbor's safety.

These restrictions need not lessen ministry. While our methods are changing, our mission is not. We are already hearing reports of worship services, Bible studies, and prayer meetings held via electronic means, with an increase in both participation and fervor. We encourage all our pastors and congregations to continue to seek new and innovative ways of ministry during this crisis and to encourage and provide ways for congregations to be faithful in stewardship.

May the Lord bless you as you serve the people He has entrusted to your care.

We are reminded of God's promise to Joshua: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). We are praying for you and standing with you.

On behalf of the Kansas City District Advisory Board,



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