

## **Update to our Churches Regarding COVID-19 Crisis - March 16, 2020 -**

Dear Be In Christ Church of Canada Pastors, Board Members and Credentialed Ministry Staff,

All of you are very aware of the current pandemic situation related to the COVID-19 virus and the efforts being made across our country to reduce the spread and respond medically to those who have fallen ill. We appreciate all of our health care and essential services professionals who are on the front lines of this effort, as well as the leadership being given by our government. We also appreciate all of you who minister daily to people giving strong leadership to our local churches through this time. We have never really seen anything like this before, and so we must find our way listening to the Lord and trusted advisors as we go.

While some of our churches did meet live last Sunday, the majority cancelled live services and provided online options. The feedback has been very encouraging. We will get better at this as we get more chance to practice. Our communities are watching our faith in action as we respond during this time.

As a result of the latest advice we have been given, we are **requesting all of our churches to refrain from holding public gatherings of any kind through to April 5th.** We will continue to monitor the situation and advise if this date will need to be extended. Included in this request is mid-week programming, youth group meetings, small groups, and Board/staff meetings. We encourage you to meet using virtual platforms for meetings like Zoom, SKYPE, Facebook Live, or Google Hangouts. Of course, you can always pick up the phone as well. In your communication to your people, please remind them as well about the ways to give to the work of the church through this time using available online means. You may also want to arrange places for them to drop off donations if they use cheques and don't like to give online.

Finally - let's remember that we can still be the hands and feet of Jesus in this time, as we find creative ways to bless our neighbours. We serve a God who helps us in times of trouble to overcome our fears. This is an important message to share with the world as we move toward Easter. Let's ask God to help us get creative in our response, growing our hearts in compassion.

We appreciate all you are doing. Call or e-mail if you have further questions.

Grace and peace to you!



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