

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the CREC,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

With the spread of the coronavirus and the unprecedented response by the US Government and governments worldwide, we find ourselves in uncertain times. It is important that we remind ourselves that this is not at all an uncertain time for the One who is control, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us rest in Him and worship and serve Him. Our help is in the Lord.

As a first response to all of this, we encourage you to pray. Confess your own sins, the sins of your family, your church, the universal Church, and your nation. As we learn the lesson of humility before our Lord, ask Him to lift His heavy hand of discipline from us. Furthermore, pray that our Lord will draw many thousands and millions of men, women and children to Himself in true repentance of their sins and a deep abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12:5-8 My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

During this time of upheaval, the Presiding Ministers of the CREC make the recommendations below. This is a fluid situation and no one is really sure what is going to happen. It may become clearer in the next couple of weeks. We will update our recommendations weekly as we confer together and with our ministers on what counsel to give our churches.

As of 3/16/2020, We recommend the following:

1. Under the current circumstances, follow the restrictions of the Governor in your state, or the President in your country, as to meeting size limits.
2. Hold worship services based upon those size restrictions.
3. Live stream your services so that people meeting in homes can follow the service.
4. You may consider holding multiple worship services to keep under the size restrictions, or spread the home participation around enough to accommodate your entire church in one service. If you hold multiple services, please give enough time in between services to adequately clean and sanitize your meeting space.
5. Communion is the meal of the Corporate Body.
  - a. If you have the capacity to station elders in homes that can deliver Communion to the families meeting in the homes while the service is livestreamed, then we recommend this practice.
  - b. We do not recommend having individual families take Communion on their own without the presence of elders. As groups meet in homes, they are a smaller church body of the larger local body. However, we do not want to set a precedent that individual families exist as independent churches.

We trust the Lord is using this worldwide pandemic, and the fear that has accompanied it, as a means to draw men everywhere to Himself. While the fear of men who greatly fear death is understandable, we Christians should be shining examples of those who oppose death as an enemy but do not fear it. For us, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Let us not be caught up in the panic but be strong examples of Jesus to the world, the One who is the calm in the storm.

Let us pray that God will grant us many opportunities to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all things. To God be the glory. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

The Presiding Ministers of the CREC

Virgil Hurt	Presiding Minister of Council
Steve Wilkins	Wycliffe Presbytery
Gregg Strawbridge	Augustine Presbytery
Rob Hadding	Athanasius Presbytery
Stuart Bryan	Knox Presbytery
Rob Davis	Tyndale Presbytery
Dave Hatcher	Anselm Presbytery