



Kanata United Church

March 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

There is without a doubt, an uneasiness associated with the reports and messaging surrounding COVID-19, the Corona virus. It is understandable, that as a virus that once seemed so far away moves closer to our doorsteps, that unease would settle in. Please know that the leadership of Kanata United Church is taking this seriously, and while we are confident in the approaches being taken by the Medical Community and their recommendations, we are also taking seriously the request of the United Church of Canada that we prepare accordingly. To that end, I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on KUC's plans of prevention, preparation and action.

In terms of prevention, we are working closely with our church committees, rental groups and congregational members. As of:

- last Sunday we instituted a 'touch free' means for greeting one another, including during worship when we practice our ancient tradition of passing the Peace of Christ to one another. We will also refrain from moving about the church during this time and simply offer the Peace of Christ to those sitting next to us. We encourage you to maintain these practices both inside and outside of the church.
- today, we have a notification board reminding those coming into the building to use the sanitizer by the front door.
- today, and until further notice, Pastoral Care visits by myself and the PC Team will be exclusively by telephone, with of course the exception of my visiting those in critical circumstances.
- today, we recommend that all non-essential meetings and gathering be postponed until further notice. Currently, arrangements are being made for meetings to be held electronically by Zoom and we will notify Committee Chairs once that is in place.
- this week, one renter, who is affiliated with groups that travel to some of the most effected regions, have postponed their spring start date; and the after school program has instituted a strict handwashing protocol with the children as well as disinfecting all doorways at the beginning and end of their time in the building. Further consideration of the rental policy during this time will be discussed at the meeting of Council on March 17.

In preparation of a future decision by the Medical Officer of Health recommending we cease gathering, we are:

- evaluating our capability to provide worship electronically. Participating members would require access to the internet and possess an email account which you would need to share with our Office Administrator, Andrea Wilmott office@kuc.ca in order to receive the link to sign on.
- ensuring, as per the recommendations from the United Church of Canada, that all ministry personnel, staff members, Council Chair, Treasurer, and Payroll Officer identify a back up person, as well as ensuring all administrative passwords are documented.



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- updating our church list to ensure we have up to date contact information. For those who do not have email, we are putting together a Phone Contact process to ensure non-email users are kept informed of any changes, as well as to ensure we are aware of any concerns developing within our Community of Faith.

We will move into an Action plan, only if recommended by Government Health Officer based on the science surrounding this pandemic, The United Church of Canada and our KUC Council. In the meantime, I would encourage you to follow the recommendations of our Canadian Officials and Government and access this information through this link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html>; and I invite you to share your concerns with one another and to ensure those you know, who do not have email, are aware of the plans that are underway.

As a Community of Faith, please continue to hold all those affected in prayer. Those who are in isolation as a preventative measure, as well as those who have tested positive; those whose work-life and financial well-being are impacted by the disruption; those who are feeling vulnerable due to underlying health concerns and those experiencing debilitating anxiety.

This is a time of prayer, a time of action, and a time of remembering that in faith, and in community, we are not alone.

In Christ,

Cindy

Reverend Cindy M. Casey, FLE, BA, MDiv.