

March 13, 2020

Dear Taber CRC Family,

As we are all very well aware, the ongoing situation surrounding the coronavirus (Covid-19) around the world and here locally is changing rapidly. Much has happened in the last 24-48 hours within our province and locally as well. I have been in many conversations with other pastors and leaders and council members about the steps that our church should take in light of the situation. Please read through this whole letter to see the various steps that we are taking and hope to take in the near future.

Now, I know there are many who will probably say, "Oh, this is all just an over-reaction; it is just a flu." As someone with a rare disease said to me, "If in two weeks this is all an over-reaction, it is better than in a month from now having it go the other way." We are going to err on the side of caution in the coming weeks. We are doing this to help stem the tide, and to look out for those around us who are more susceptible to contracting the disease.

At this time Alberta officials have recommended the cancelling of all gatherings over 250 people, but this does not apply to worship settings. At this time, Executive has decided not to cancel our Sunday morning service this week.

HOWEVER, we are advising the congregation to help stop the spread of the virus in these ways:

1. We are advising Seniors to stay at home away from the worship services and join us via livestream.
2. We are advising anyone who is not feeling well in any way to stay home and worship via livestream.
3. We are asking that if you have travelled away, even to the U.S, in the last couple of days to follow the regulations of Alberta and self-quarantine for the next 14 days.
4. If you are at all concerned about attending, please join us via livestream.

Here are the steps we are committing ourselves to in order to help stop the spread of the virus:

1. For the next number of weeks we will cease the mutual greeting and encourage people to not shake hands on Sunday morning.
2. Dick Visser has been doing a fantastic job trying to keep everything clean, but we recognize we could use some help sanitizing. If you are able to help sanitize at the church tomorrow without children, can you please contact Pastor Brian.
3. We will suspend serving coffee for the next few weeks, but encourage people to still visit. Perhaps inviting people to their homes for coffee.

4. We will be asking that, for the offering, you put your offering in the boxes in the back of the sanctuary and to refrain from licking the envelopes sealed. Please close them by inserting the flap in the envelope that would be appreciated.
5. Sunday School will continue as normal, but we ask that if any teachers are concerned about teaching, or if you will be staying home, to contact Lyndsay Smith or Miriam Bekkering. A modified teaching time in the fellowship hall could be available if it is necessary (for example, in the event of a shortage of teachers or very few students in attendance).
6. We will have hand sanitizers in the foyer and we ask that you make use of them.
7. Nursery attendants, you can use the Lysol wipes at your convenience.

During this time, we do ask you to seriously consider staying home and taking care of your family and others who need special care. As a church community we can come together and help each other out. If there are any needs that you are aware of, please contact Pastor Brian or one of the elders. If someone needs some help with running errands or getting groceries, please connect with Pastor Brian as there are people willing to help out in this way.

In many ways, these are troubled times; yet we all know that God is in control, and we trust in his almighty hand. Sunday's service, even if it is toned down, will reflect this as well. This week we pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We trust in God's sovereignty and pray, "Come quickly Lord Jesus." As we wait for Christ's return, we can show love to each other and our neighbors and support one another during this time.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

Pastor Brian