



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

March 13, 2020

Dear friends in ministry,

Last night Leadership Council held an emergency meeting to formalize the policies and recommendations of National Capital Presbytery in its collective effort to slow the rate of infection and to keep our congregations as safe as possible.

Starting immediately, all Presbytery committees, commissions, teams, task groups, and ministry units will meet remotely for the next two weeks. Furthermore, there will be no in-person presbytery-sponsored trips or other in-person gatherings during this time period. The office staff of NCP will be working remotely starting Monday, March 16 through March 27th at which time we'll reassess the closure. This means our open house scheduled for March 18th will be postponed. During this time the staff of NCP will remain available to assist you in scheduling and creating zoom meetings. Please contact the staff member who resources your committee or LaJuan Quander at LQuander@thepresbytery.org.

Leadership Council strongly recommends that NCP sessions not conduct in-person Sunday worship services for the next two weeks. ***Our recommendation is that churches find a way for parishioners to connect, worship and pray remotely on Sundays (and throughout the week) instead of conducting regular Sunday Worship.*** For those congregations who do not yet foresee how they can move worship to an online format, we offer a pool of resources to assist in that transition, as well as help from the staff of NCP and other volunteers. You can find more information about all of these resources here at thepresbytery.org/covid-19-update. We are aware that several of our churches already live-stream their services. If that is your church, please let us know so that we may learn from you!

Additionally, we recommend sessions consider having church staff work remotely, as well as creating contingency plans in case our current situation worsens.

As the situation evolves, Leadership Council will stay in touch to provide additional guidance and support through the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak in our region.

These are uncharted waters that lie ahead. As we wade into these waters, let us remember that we are not alone. Now is when we need to lean on the connectional nature embedded in our Presbyterian identity. Share what has and hasn't worked in your congregations, offer support whenever you can and listen to where The Spirit is leading you. Continue to be a pastoral presence to those in your community, pray for the hope and healing of our world in the weeks and months to come. May you be assured of Christ's love and grace as it binds us together even as we find ourselves physically separated.

John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter
National Capital Presbytery
jmolinamoore@thepresbytery.org