



MCM Letter to the congregations

Dear Friends,

Our Holy Book is filled with messages of hope in trying times. The words of Paul to the church in Rome fill my heart with hope!

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

As always, we are called to be the Church of Christ in all seasons of life. In this pandemic we must find alternative ways to express our faith as we are being strongly encouraged to cancel all congregational meetings. The church has never been limited to Sunday mornings and these challenging times are not an exception!

Continue to reach out to each other in prayer, friendship, and encouragement. Look for ways to physically aid your fellow congregational members and your neighbours and acquaintances as you are safely able. Some of our members are experiencing temporary layoffs from their work. This can be a very anxious time! Reach out if you need support.

Many of our congregations are setting up resources on websites that can aid your spiritual growth and connection with God. MCM and MC Canada are also exploring how best to aid congregations in delivering their message and ministry to members and our community. For more information on this visit: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/virusresponse

We encourage you to continue to be generous. Most congregations have the capacity to receive donations online. The financial capacity of our congregations to do the work of The Church is more needed in times of crisis so please help. Also, if you cannot work due to layoff or whatever, perhaps this is a time to engage in volunteer work. Many organizations rely on volunteers who are in a vulnerable population demographic. These older volunteers are encouraged to stay home so organizations who have benefitted from their generosity now need others to step up.

MCM has cancelled all group meetings and events for the foreseeable future and we encourage our congregations to do the same. If you need help negotiating these difficult times we are here to serve congregational leaders and pastors. MCM staff may choose to work from home but we can be contacted via phone. You can find our numbers and extensions on our website

Wishing you peace, health, and the assurance of God's abiding presence and love.

Ken Warkentin 