



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

Conseil régional

Nakonha:ka

Regional Council

Greetings in the name of Christ,

I write to you on behalf of the executive of the CrNRC with hope and with love as we face the challenges of the coronavirus and COVID-19 in our country and around the world. We encourage calm even as we face this health crisis. The United Church of Canada has an emergency plan for these circumstances, and we as an executive strongly recommend that communities of faith follow this plan. Since the World Health Organization has declared this a Pandemic, we have entered into Phase 6 of *The United Church of Canada Emergency Plan*, which encourages cancelling all gatherings. We hope that you will take this as an opportunity to find other ways of reaching out to those who are in need throughout this crisis, especially with the use of technology.

“I imagine all the closures and cancellation give people a sense of ominousness. But it’s really an amazing act of social solidarity: We’re sacrificing so we can give nurses, doctors and hospitals a fighting chance. Start from there and hopefully we can figure out the rest.” Matt Pearce (on Twitter)

We are with you in prayer, and we will continue to do our best to provide guidance during these challenging times.

Rev. Linda Buchanan
President of the CrNRC

Motion from the Executive March 13 2020:

2020-03-13_037 MOTION (D. Lambie/M.C. Manga) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive recommend that the Regional Council implement *Phase 6* of the United Church Emergency Plan, in particular “not gathering”; and encourage the use of telephone and streaming technology for continued communication and spiritual support . **Carried**

Link to *The United Church of Canada Emergency Plan*: <https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/emergency-plan.pdf>

From the Covid-19 United Church Statement

“We hope the most vulnerable people in our society will be able to rely on us—communities of faith—to do all that we can to prevent the spread of both the virus and of the fears surrounding it. As faith leaders, we can familiarize ourselves with the guidelines outlined in the Emergency Plan to ensure that people are able to seek comfort in our places of worship. We can ensure that our gathering places promote good preventive practices, and when necessary, we can provide alternative programming—like online worship or Bible study, or bagged lunches for meal programs—for those who are most at risk in large group gatherings or are isolated due to vulnerability.”

Full: statement available: <https://www.united-church.ca/news/covid-19-united-church-statement>

A Prayer by the Right Rev. Richard Bott

In this time of Covid-19 - we pray.



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When we aren't sure, God,
help us be calm;
when information comes
from all sides, correct and not,
help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe,
and anxiety seems to be the portion of the day,
slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected,
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."
For the doctors, we pray,
for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the
aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists,
the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick,
and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected,
all around the world...
we pray
for safety,
for health,
for wholeness.
May we feed the hungry,
give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal
the sick -
in spite of the epidemic,
in spite of the fear.
Help us, O God,
that we might help each other.
In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,
we pray.
May it be so.