

COVID-19 Statement
Update / Saturday, March 21, 2020, 9:30 AM, EST
By the Superintendent of the
Kentucky Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God

I am so proud and appreciative of our KYAG Pastors and church leaders as I watch the unity and creativity being displayed across our fellowship during this hour. God is using you!

Richard J. Foster wrote in Celebration of Discipline, "As the cross is the sign of submission, so the towel is the sign of service." The Church has been given an enormous opportunity to serve our neighbors, and certainly the needy, the defenseless, the recovering, or the oppressed. The Church is not confined to a building or a meeting. Be the Church and give Hope. Jesus; no other name.

Let us all continue in prayer – as we have heeded the call from President Trump who called a National Day of Prayer earlier this week. And, if you haven't watched the recorded video of the Global Hour of Prayer led by Gen. Supt. Doug Clay, with leaders from around the world in our AG fellowship, please do; what a powerful moment in prayer. And, post it- show it- what a superb way to share with your community and friends during this unique hour the beauty of our international fellowship. So many people have misguided perceptions of what they think about "organized Church". I'm so grateful to be a part of – the Assemblies of God. We are people of prayer.

You can find that posted on my personal Facebook page, Joseph S. Girdler, and also the Kentucky A.G. Minister's & Leaders Facebook Group.

I've had a few pastors and church leaders contact me who, likely little-connected to social media, Facebook, etc., have asked, "Are we supposed to stop having church services?" The answer to that is: Yes; at least, publicly/corporately, continuing as "the Church", but moving to alternative options, online venues, etc. The Church has never been a building. We "are" the Church. The amazing thing is now watching how the airwaves and social media technology has taken "the Church" public – to thousands upon thousands more who would have never attended your services. One pastor shared, of his typical 100 or so in attendance, of his having over 1500 people logging in to watch all or part of his on-line ministry service this past week.

So, do not have public church services or gatherings at this time. The entirety of the United States is dealing with this together. This is temporary. We will get through this "together". District Council Affiliated Churches are required to follow these guidelines, and General Council Churches are strongly encouraged to follow these guidelines.

We have been informed by legal counsel that Failure to comply with these guidelines may place you and your church at risk of both civil and criminal liability.

I met this past Thursday afternoon on a Zoom meeting with the Executive Pastors/Officers of the Kentucky Ministry Network, Department Ministry leaders, and a KYAG's Lead Pastors (who could join the Zoom), praying together and discussing the various questions to which we are all dealing with in our local circumstances.

I have scheduled another Superintendent's COVID-19 ZOOM conference for Lead Pastors and KMN Department Ministry leaders for Thursday, March 26, 4pm. ET. The link was emailed to Lead Pastors and a text reminder will be sent early in the week next week. We are stronger together.

Today's update is listed below.

- Gov. Beshear declared NO public meetings of any size, as of Thursday, 3.19.2020
- This week, the White House - President Trump requested not holding events of 10 or more people offering specific guidelines to help stop the spread of this virus. To contain this epidemic from gaining it's maximum ability, the request is that people –in groups or in homes- offer focused action to be separated from clusters.

- And, you may now be aware that financial stimulus payments for all Americans with incomes of less than \$99,000 have been approved by the government and will hopefully offer some level of assistance to many during this hour.
- Kentucky's Gov. Beshear has closed various public businesses and of course, restaurants, for only Take Out or Delivery.
- The CDC. Gov guidelines have been set for eight weeks; but, again, it is a very uncertain hour and a changing environment daily/hourly.
- Our DA churches are directed to not meet until April 5, (for now). But, of course, the guidelines change daily and we will update as needed. The decision to help curb this virus is the correct decision for our fellowship at this hour. And, all KYAG churches are asked to abide by this guideline likewise.
- KSOM was moved to an on-line forum, via Facebook LIVE, for this weekend's sessions.
 - In April – there is no KSOM scheduled
 - In May – hopefully we'll be open again; but as has been said, this is a fluctuating situation. We will keep our fellowship informed as quickly as we are made aware of schedules and changes.
- Our KMN District Council April 27-28 remains on the calendar, albeit we are daily working with officials related to directives given and contractual matters with the hotel, to determine when and how our Conference/Council will be conducted. We will re-address this matter in the days ahead and keep you fully informed.
- And, we have provided a practical and useful site for RESOURCES to assist each of you to better equip and minister to your churches during these weeks of "our new temporary normal". Look for the post, "Pastoring Together During COVID-19" on our Kentucky A.G. Minister's & Leaders Facebook Group.

Finally,

Please check daily the CDC guidelines. I have listed a link below and the updates as of this morning.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

As of 9:30 AM EST today, the CDC guidelines continue with the recommendations of:

Everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat:

- On March 16, the White House announced a program called "15 Days to Slow the Spread,"pdf iconexternal icon which is a nationwide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 through the implementation of social distancing at all levels of society.
- Older people and people with severe chronic conditions should [take special precautions](#) because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.

Risk of Severe Illness:

Early information out of China, where COVID-19 first started, shows that [some people are at higher risk](#) of getting very sick from this illness. This includes:

- Older adults, with risk increasing by age.
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease

Reiterating Bro. Holder's encouraging words to us in an update he offered our fellowship on Thursday:

We, as spiritual leaders have a responsibility to guard both the spiritual and physical health and wellbeing or our flocks. The word of God comforts us with this promise, "God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:17)." Therefore, we should not react to these developments in panic. However, through Paul's prayer, God's word also counsels us with this assurance, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ... may give to you the spirit of wisdom (Eph. 1:17)." This is a time to exercise caution, faith and wisdom in guiding and protecting the flocks whom the Lord has entrusted to us. Hopefully our calm and gracious resolve during these times can help us impact our communities with the love of Christ.

Sincerely yours, and for our Church,

Pastor Joe / Joseph S. Girdler, D.Min.
 Superintendent
 Kentucky Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God
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