

BGCC Recommendation to Churches Re: Public Health Orders

The impact of Covid19 continues to be unpredictable and demands agility for our churches. We are deeply grateful for the committed leaders and spiritual depth as you continue faithful ministry through this season.

The recommendation of the BGCC is that in our current context that all churches follow the provincial guidelines presented by public and health officials.

We view these current restrictions as temporary and for the physical health in our communities. It goes without saying that our usual position is to not suspend gathering in the name of Christ. Our desire is to show the love of God to others. As restrictions fluctuate, new opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ will become evident. The message of the hope and peace that is found in Christ is desperately needed and will draw many to a personal relationship with Him. May you see His hand at work using you during this unique time to bring his message to hurting lives.

For additional context, in the recent BGC School of Orientation we spoke of the separation of Church and State. One of the BGC's guiding principles in this area is to balance obedience where we can and resistance where we must. For example, we currently obey laws for fire regulations, child protection, insurance, CRA filings, and more. We view the Covid19 requirements of wearing face masks, social distancing, and sanitizing with the same attitude with the examples given above.

It looks like Covid19 is on the increase everywhere in Canada. Indoors is where the transmission is really ramping up so we Canadians could have a tough winter ahead. Three things that could be helpful as you serve this month:

- Be the church – continue to reach out via digital means and show Christ's light to your community
- Pray for government leaders – many are just as confused and uncertain as the rest of the population. Have you emailed or called your local, provincial and federal officials letting them know you are praying for them?
- Care for the health of the people entrusted to your ministry – who is depressed, lonely, fearful in your congregation? Remember the parable of the lost sheep how the shepherd left the 99 and went seeking for the one who is was outside the fold.

Be assured that you are being lifted in prayer as we journey through the pandemic striving to be Better Together. If you need to talk about life, ministry or personal needs **please** reach out to your District Minister or me for prayer and encouragement. We don't want to see good people lose their way in this season of fatigue and frustration.

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