



基督教新加坡长老会
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE
UEN No.: S61SS0155A
132 Sophia Road, Singapore 228186
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20 March 2020

Dear Senior Ministers and EDC/Session Clerks,

Re: COVID-19 - Synod's Advisory No. 5 to Member Churches

Shalom in the Lord.

Matthew 12 tells us Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath (v. 8). Apart from worship and offering, one of the lawful realities of Sabbath is doing good.

"If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." (Matt 12:11-12)

If "doing good on the Sabbath" is lawful, and it means saving the sheep from a pit and restoring the shrivelled hand of a man, then reflecting this passage in the context of Covid-19 pandemic, in conjunction with the local church, speaks volume to us. What does it mean to 'do good' for the Body of Christ and to the larger community? How could we continue to worship God in a socially responsible way? Facing the onslaught of Covid-19, the biblical principle we adopt is to ensure the welfare of, or "doing good" for, the Lord's flock and our society. Synod has formed the Synod COVID Advisory Taskforce, and we prepared to work in sync with both country advisory and member churches' decision. In his video address, PM Lee cited, "What we are doing now is to plan ahead for some of these more stringent measures, try them out, and prepare Singaporeans for when we actually need to implement them." He even suggested... "to shorten religious services, or reduce our attendance at such".

Following a meeting that was held with the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and various church leaders on Thursday, 19 March 2020, the Ministry of Health will issue another advisory some time soon. We expect there will be more stringent measures to be implemented for all religious activities. At least 6 member churches have already decided to suspend their services for 2 to 3 weekends. We encourage the rest of you to **prayerfully consider** to do likewise. You may use live-streaming or video recording of the service for your members. If you wish to continue with your services, please ensure all precautionary measures are put in place.

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书记 : 陈光辉牧师
财政 : 江春斌长老

Moderator : Rt Rev Keith Lai Chee Kheong
Stated Clerk : Rev Darryl Chan Kong Fai
Treasurer : Eld Kang Choon Pin



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Despite the challenge of a pandemic, we will change, adapt and continue to worship God. Please continue to provide pastoral care and prayer support through means that do not require large face-to-face gatherings. Please advise your members not to attend another church if your services are suspended. Otherwise, it would defeat the purpose and sacrifice we are making to break the chain of infection.

When the physical church cannot congregate, the spiritual church must elevate. Hence, we should encourage one another to spend a determined time in prayer for our church and country that we may emerge stronger than ever. Reflect on the Word more deeply in this season of Lent, and repent, revive and restore our faith as we await our Lord's return. We look forward to the day when God's people can come together again to worship Him.

"Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to Him." (2 Samuel 10:12)

Blessings

Rt Rev Keith Lai
Synod Moderator
45th & 46th Session
Synod Executive Committee

Rev Wong Shyun Jye
Synod Vice Moderator
45th & 46th Session
Synod Executive Committee

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