

Dear friends,

Sunday morning worship is being suspended for March 15, 2020.

Your health and wellbeing is always of the utmost importance to us! We continue to pay close attention to the current status of COVID-19 and receive daily updates from the Provincial Health Officer, and the BC Centre for Disease Control.

We will continue to monitor the situation daily. By not gathering at this point in time, we are caring for our church family and serving our community, including those who are most susceptible to this disease.

As we all know, the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve in our community as it does around the world. As the Board and Pastor, we have been trying to keep abreast of recommendations about what groups and organizations need to do to help avoid the spread and particularly to protect the vulnerable members of the community.

Although there has been no request to avoid gathering of less than 250 people, we strongly encourage the recommendations provided by Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Public Health / Ministry of Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control pertaining to taking reasonable efforts at “social isolation” - minimizing physical contact, ensuring 2 metres of personal space in addition to

vigorous hand hygiene and avoidance of face touching to limit viral spread. Additionally, on Friday we received a recommendation from the BC MB Conference to cancel services at this time.

Again, out of an abundance of caution, we felt at this time it was best to cancel service for March 15, 2020. We are also asking that small groups gatherings are either cancelled or happen through another medium (virtual meetings via Skype or Facebook, for example.

We understand that the news is worrisome or even frightening at this time. Our recommendations come from a place of love and concern for the KPMB Church family and the whole community. As has been said in the media, we have the chance to 'flatten the curve' of disease transmission still. Our decision to take these steps represents our contribution to this goal.

Stay tuned. We will do our best to keep the congregation informed as the situation continues to evolve as to how we can still support one another.

For the province's action to work to slow the spread of COVID-19, we need to remind ourselves that we are "Loving our neighbours as ourselves" (Mark 12:31).

As Christ-followers, we are not to be shaped by fear. We trust in "God with us" who often spoke these words of promise: "Do not be afraid." We are called to reassure others in this promise as they face the realities of sickness

and death. This is a time to live wisely and with great compassion in our neighbourhoods, workplaces and communities of faith."

Let us stand firm in the Lord Jesus and prophetically "speak to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort." (1 Corinthians 14:3).

While we are suspending our physical gathering(s), we are not suspending our mission to serve and worship Jesus. Our desire is to continue to seek God as we trust in Him and find alternative ways to connect and care for our church family and communities.

We will also set up systems through e-mail and an old-school phone tree to ensure that everyone is being checked on and not being isolated. I have also attached a letter (see below) that you can print off and give to your neighbour letting them know if they need help, they can contact you. (Please feel free to fill in the blanks):

Hi Neighbour,

I'm embarrassed it took a virus scare for me to do this, but it has been recommended that we should check-in with our neighbours to be helpful, if or when the time comes that a neighbour needs help. This isn't out of fear but trying to be helpful and prepared. So if you need someone to run to the pharmacy, or grocery store

*for you, please feel free to touch base with me. Actually, help is available **anytime** - you don't have to be sick!*

My number is:

I live at:

Again, I should have done this years ago, but why not start now.

God Bless, Your Neighbour,

We've had some inquiries about giving/contributing tithes and offerings to the church:

Tithes and Offerings

We encourage you to continue to support and strengthen our community and the ministries. You can mail your tithe to Killarney Park Mennonite Brethren Church, 6426 Kerr Str., Vancouver, V5S 3C1.

Church Office

Our church office will remain open to receive calls to answer any inquiries you may have. Please do not hesitate to call the church office at 604-437-9638 anytime Monday to Thursday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. We understand this may be an unsettling time for many of you, please contact us if we can pray for you and support you in any way.

In times of uncertainty, we will walk in faith and trust in the Lord. Please continue to pray for protection and for those affected by COVID-19. Our desire is to walk together with you, to stay connected to you and to support you and our community, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

If you have any questions, or if you require care, or a visitation phone call, you can e-mail me at **office@kpmbchurch.org** or call the office at **604-437-9638**.

In Christ,

Pastor David Chow