



EDAMOVE

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

In God's sovereign plan, He has permitted an unsettling disease to create unprecedented dilemmas for all of us as we seek to lead our local churches in the midst of confusion, fear and uncertainty. Our communities don't know what to do. As responsible leaders, we need wisdom, guidance and support to make the best decisions we can. However, from God's perspective, this is nothing short of a great opportunity to be the church, help our people and our communities, bring glory to Him, and build His kingdom.

As your district staff, we want to do all we can to support you in the ways you most need during this challenging time. We realize there is an overwhelming amount of information available, some of it helpful, and some of it not. Many of you are multi-staff and can process the seemingly daily issues internally. Others feel like it's all up to you. Whatever your situation, we want to come alongside you as leaders on the same team, striving for the same purpose and mission.

Fortunately, the EFCA National office has provided great information resources: [EFCA Special Covid-19 Update](#). We affirm their advice as well: "Due to elevated warnings by the Center for Disease Control, we encourage EFCA churches to review the [CDC's guidelines](#) for faith-based organizations. **Please follow the guidance of local and state governments as they respond to needs in your community.**" We feel it is important and appropriate to follow the advice of local and state authorities who are better informed than we are of how to best mitigate the health risks.

In addition, "EFCA churches should intentionally plan and prepare for potential disruptions to normal ministry functions. This is a good practice, in any season, to ensure the health and perseverance of our churches."

Effective Godly leadership in a crisis includes a realistic assessment of the situation, and an appropriate response that protects our people and communities from unnecessary risk. It also includes a measure of calm and reassurance of hope that, together and with God's help, we will get through this.

Many of our churches cancelled on-site services on March 15 and are evaluating what to do henceforward, especially in light of the [CDC's most recent guidance](#). Instead of the normal Sunday gathering, they offered some form of live or recorded streaming of their service(s). Some are cancelling mid-week activities, at least for several weeks, including small group meetings. Most of our churches are continuing to keep their offices open and functioning,

though some with reduced hours. They are also exploring creative ways to leverage technology to encourage communication and “touch” despite “physical distancing.”

To further support you as you process how to shift church online and minister to your community, we’ve created a special guide: [Leading Your Church Online Through The Corona Virus.](#)