



RESPONSE TO COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS – UPDATE #3

Many changes have unfolded in our world since the last time we gathered for a worship service! Our regular methods of communication have become more difficult so these updates are the Executive Committee's attempt to keep you informed about what is happening.

On Sunday, March 15th, the Executive Committee chose to postpone that afternoon's SMC Annual Membership Meeting in reaction to rising concerns and anxiety regarding COVID-19. The Church Board convened for its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 19th. Following much discussion, board members concluded that we would not gather on Sunday mornings at this time based on current provincial guidelines. In addition, the Church Board decided to implement the proposed budget and recognise the following three nominees until the annual meeting can be held: John Kroeker (Administration Committee Chair), Bev Unger (Faith & Life Committee Chair) and Toni Hiebert (Member at Large).

Since March 19th, all SMC programmes have been suspended. The Chair of every committee was asked to reimagine meetings. Much of SMC's work is continuing. The April 1st resolution to restrict access to our church building seemed like a bad April Fools' Day joke. However, in consultation with the Administration Committee Chair, it was the Executive Committee's response to media bulletins issued by the Manitoba Government.

The appearance of the coronavirus keeps on presenting unanticipated situations. After careful review, the Executive Committee opted to retain all of SMC's staff because we need them more than ever in these circumstances. They are doing a tremendous job! Several changes have taken place.

- Lead Pastor Lee Hiebert and Associate Pastor Daryl Climenhaga are now working from home one day a week. They are spending much more time on the telephone to keep in contact with congregants. The things that are required of them during this crisis are in addition to their regular responsibilities. Our pastors are still available to meet with people. Contact Lee or Daryl to make arrangements in advance.
- Administrative Assistant Charlene Turner is continuing to create bulletins and communicate with the people involved in the Sunday services. Charlene's essential roles include working with the weekly finances (receiving all donations) and the payroll. The church office is a busy place!
- Facilities Manager Hans Hildebrandt has taken on extra tasks. While catching up on overdue maintenance projects, he also brings his skills to the sound booth. Hans records the worship services and produces CDs for those congregants who do not have a computer. Rentals within our building have been cancelled however the Church Board is making an exception for Canadian Blood Services. This medical agency provides an essential service and complies with all the provincial rules. A blood donor clinic will take place at SMC on May 18th.

We would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who help make our audio worship services meaningful. Together with our pastors, they bring hope to our isolation in a "covid world"!

While our services are suspended, budget updates will be included in the bulletin. Plans to move ahead with the SMC Annual Membership Meeting will be made when the restrictions are relaxed enough to allow our



congregation to meet and we feel comfortable doing so. Our best guess is that the meeting will take place in fall. At that time a vote will be held on the proposed constitution (pages 59 to 64 in the ANNUAL REPORT 2019 book). According to Article VIII: AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES OF THE CONSTITUTION in the current version, "The constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed at any annual meeting announced at least four weeks prior to the meeting." Let this serve as initial notice that a motion to repeal the present constitution will occur at the annual meeting in 2020. Contact the SMC office if you did not receive the ANNUAL REPORT 2019. Since admittance to the church building is restricted at this time, the information can be sent to you via e-mail or you can make arrangements to pick up a book by calling SMC.

If there are any major changes that affect our congregation, we will be in touch with you. At this point we don't know when church life will return to "normal"; our visibility is no better than yours. We are certainly looking forward to meeting together in person again and are planning a celebration when that happens! Our goal as we move forward is to provide you with regular updates. If you have anything to discuss regarding this communiqué, please contact one of us.

SMC Executive on behalf of the Church Board,
Chair Reg Penner, Vice-Chair Larry Thiessen and Past-Chair Karen Peters