



## **RESPONSE TO COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS DISEASE – UPDATE #8 ON NOVEMBER 11, 2020**

It is challenging to keep up with the many announcements and changes as COVID-19 surrounds us. On November 9th, the Church Board had a meeting via Zoom. We were just in the process of finalising an update for SMC when a huge announcement was made on November 10th. Premier Brian Pallister and Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief provincial public health officer, stated that as of November 12th, the entire province of Manitoba will move to the Critical level (red) to halt the increasing transmission of COVID-19.

### **How will SMC be affected by the Critical level (red) beginning November 12th?**

- Our church building will be closed to the public including congregants. Access will be limited to staff members, SMC's Executive Committee and those involved with recording worship services. Everyone must physically distance and wear a mask while in the building.
- We regret that SMC's doors will be locked and the pad on the east side of the building will be temporarily disabled.
- Except for compassionate reasons deemed necessary by a pastoral staff member, communication will happen by way of telephone and e-mail rather than in person.
- SMC's programmes and meetings will not take place unless they conform to current provincial orders or are held virtually.
- All rentals are cancelled.
- Sunday morning in-person worship services are suspended until further notice.
- As we follow the current restrictions, we will continue to provide audio worship services using the SMC website. A service will be recorded each Saturday so that you can listen to it on Sunday morning.
- CDs of every weekly worship service will be available. Contact the church if you would like to receive one or if you know of somebody who would appreciate listening to the services.
- Bulletins will continue to be available online at [steinbachmennonite.ca](http://steinbachmennonite.ca).
- The Adult Going Deeper class will meet via Zoom at 11 a.m. on Sundays. An e-mail invitation containing a link to join the discussion will be sent to the congregation prior to every session.

This plan is in effect for the next four weeks at which time it will be reassessed based on the current provincial orders. Be sure to watch for updates. The purpose of these measures is to keep everyone as safe as possible while remaining connected with each other. If any questions or concerns arise in the meantime, please contact Church Board Chair Reg Penner or Pastor Lee Hiebert.

We encourage you to keep in touch with each other during this tough time and to remember our church family in your prayers. Though we will be worshipping at home for a little while, we are confidently united in spirit and hope!

### **SMC Church Board:**

Reg Penner, Larry Thiessen, Karen Peters, Ed Peters, John Kroeker, Cheryl Esau, Bev Unger, Toni Hiebert, Lee Hiebert