

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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As states across the country begin the initial stages of “opening up,” there are many questions from local churches about what we should be doing and when we might expect to return to the “pre-pandemic normal.”

Although there are many resources that have been compiled for local faith communities, because we are constantly learning about this disease and because public health and safety is well outside of our area of expertise, we are looking to the Governor’s office and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for specific guidance and direction on when and how local faith communities might transition back towards pre-pandemic conditions.

On Thursday, May 14th Governor Whitmer’s office will hold a Clergy Roundtable where we expect to learn more information and guidance for faith communities during this time of pandemic.

We are also working closely with the Insurance Board of the United Church of Christ. They have provided information and guidance on the first steps of preparing our church properties after lockdown. These are things local churches can learn and do now.

- COVID-19 Resource Page containing a number of resources for churches, in addition to information provided by other organizations: <https://www.insuranceboard.org/covid-19-resources/>.
- Webcasts specific to issues churches are facing during COVID-19: <https://www.insuranceboard.org/online-learning/>.
- Reopening Your Church Office - recommendations and links to additional resources: <https://www.insuranceboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Covid-19-Reopen-Your-Church.pdf> (document attached).
- Preparing Your Church Property After Lockdown: <https://www.insuranceboard.org/covid-19-resources/> (document attached).

We are growing weary with all of this and it is difficult not knowing what will happen next, but it is also dangerous to run ahead of the science and experts. So, for now we can focus and do what we can do, like learning what kinds of cleaning and sterilization steps will need to be taken in our buildings, or think about how or what services might look like if we social distance. We also need to wait and listen. For some, that might sound like wasted time, but the scriptures are full of examples of people being renewed, awakened, and inspired because they had to wait.

We are working diligently on your behalf to make sure you have the most up to date information and guidelines to help you as we work toward safely gathering again. We will have more information in the coming weeks.

Blessings and Peace to you all,

Phil

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