



APPALACHIAN MINISTRY NETWORK

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DATE: March 16, 2020
TO: Network Ministers and Churches
FROM: David Dillon
SUBJECT: Coronavirus National Emergency Matters

Since the coronavirus crisis facing our world is a fluid and ever-changing situation, as network superintendent I encourage you and every member of our Appalachian Ministry Network (AMN) constituency, both individuals and churches, to stay abreast of the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) and to follow their suggested guidelines for hygiene, social distancing and protecting those at highest risk from the coronavirus. Also, be sure to monitor developments within your state and be aware of announcements by government authorities at all levels (federal, state and local), especially those declarations regarding public meetings. As shepherds of God's flock, we have a mandate to care for His people, regardless of our personal or political opinions about current events pertaining to the global COVID-19 outbreak/pandemic. Additionally, assumptions of risk and liability are elevated for church leaders choosing not to heed given warnings.

Last Friday I and my superintendent colleagues from across the nation participated in a videoconference with our General Superintendent, Doug Clay, and our national legal counsel, Richard Hammar. It was a very helpful and informative meeting with much insight into the ramifications of what is happening in our country and how those things relate to our ministry as Assemblies of God ministers and churches. Last Thursday I posted in our AMN Facebook ministry groups a video discussion by Pastor Doug and Dr. Hammar that will be helpful to you and your church as you decide how to react and respond to the current crisis. If you have not yet seen this, please do yourself and those to whom you minister a favor and check it out. And with this constantly developing situation, stay alert for future updates by our fellowship's leaders.

As for upcoming network events, we continue to monitor closely the developing events and will act in the best interests of the welfare of our constituents. Presently, all activities are planned to be held as scheduled. Any changes will be announced as soon as possible through our social media outlets.

In regard to local church activity, as superintendent of the Appalachian Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God and president of the corporation of our network fellowship, I am encouraging all Assemblies of God churches throughout our network to move to online platforms for the next few weeks.

Faith and commonsense are NOT mutually exclusive, as some seem to believe. God promises to give wisdom to all who ask (James 1:5), and as His people we are to reflect His character and attributes. He is not afraid and neither should we be (1 Timothy 1:7). He knew this crisis was coming long before we did and He is not surprised nor worried about its outcome.

As Philippians 4:6-7 commands (not suggests), *"Be anxious about nothing. But in every situation and circumstance make your requests and needs known to the Lord and He will give you peace beyond comprehension that will guard your heart and mind from the enemies of fear and worry."* God provides all that is needed by His people (Philippians 4:19), including divine protection in times of trouble, comfort in times of distress, and healing in times of sickness. Whatever may or may not come our way in the days ahead, OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL!