



In this unprecedented time, we have seen concerns over COVID-19 change many aspects of our lives. Now more than ever we all must take great care and exercise caution in everything we do. Our top concern is the safety and well-being of our congregation, staff and their families. We

remain open and available to talk with you by phone or email.

Our staff is meeting regularly with a focus on our commitment to providing the congregation with excellent service in the current environment. We understand the uncertainty and wanted to inform you of the actions we are taking to continue serving you.

The health and well-being of our staff are of the utmost importance. While we remain healthy, we are all following the advice of the CDC to help prevent the spread of the virus.

We have technology in place that enables all staff to work remotely and to serve and communicate with you no matter our physical location. There should be no change in the level of service and responsiveness you've come to know from Yakima Covenant Staff. Continue to call the church office and calls will be answered by Denise whether she is at the office or working from home.

As your Pastor I am committed to three priorities of Yakima Covenant. Preach Well, Lead Well and Care Well. Let me address the priority of Caring Well.

Care Well: In these changing times here is what I know as it relates to my visiting Virginia Mason. As of this past Friday March 13th Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital has implemented a policy significantly restricting visitors. Visitors will not be allowed access to most patients. This restriction also affects those who are providing support from a patient's faith community.

Virginia Mason has implemented the following policy:

1. When a patient is in distress and facing their final hours, two visitors are permitted.
2. When a patient is facing surgery, one person can accompany them.
3. Those who are minors and those with special needs are permitted one visitor. Two can accompany those in maternity and Neonatal ICU.
4. Visitors are asked to remain with the patient and not walk the halls or visit the Café.

The reason for these restrictions is to create the safest environment possible in order to provide the best patient care possible. Limiting the volume and flow of non-patient traffic is essential in protecting existing patients, and in slowing, and ultimately ending, the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

In my providing you with good care please consider inviting me to meet with you prior to arrival at the hospital, especially if it is a planned procedure. If you are at Virginia Mason due to an emergency situation I would like to contact and support you by phone, Face

Time, or text. My cellphone number is 218-556-0991. We are also blessed with incredible chaplains! I would be glad to contact one of the chaplains to visit on my behalf.

We understand your concern about the ongoing sense of community we have at Yakima Covenant. Rest assured, our team is staying abreast of the well-being of our faith community and are listening and watching closely to these concerns.

We will continue to provide frequent updates to keep you informed. We cannot send all updates via snail mail so if you want to receive good communication please give us your email address (send to info@yakimacovenant.org) and check for these updates. Join our Facebook page. Visit our website and look for the update links on the front page.

Again, if you are not on the email list and want to receive emails, please send us your email address. Also if we do not have your cellphone number please share with the office as it will help in keeping you in good communication.

I wish good health to all

Pastor Dean
218-556-0991