

## **CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUESTS DURING THE COVID-19 SEASON**

### **Emmanuel Mennonite Church**

As an Emmanuel church family, we love connecting and do a great job of hospitality and interaction. We love our Sunday morning experiences and our small group experiences. We love standing around the coffee table on Sunday mornings and value opportunities to connect deeply via sharing & prayer and worshipping together. **This is what makes the next few weeks (or perhaps months) so challenging.** Social distancing won't be easy for us but it is necessary!

The Church Council Executive, Pastors and two Doctors from our congregation - met on Sunday evening to discuss options and directions for the coming weeks. The decisions we made and which are outlined below are not based on fear or paranoia; they are made based on the advice of medical officials and professionals around the world. They have also been made because we want to honor Jesus' instructions to "love and care for our neighbours" and especially take into consideration those who are most vulnerable in our society.

#### **Church Building Access**

- No services, meetings or events will take place in our building.
- The church and the office will be open each day from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.
- However, based on health recommendations, we request that you not access the building if:
  - o You are ill or exhibiting signs of illness
  - o You have travelled internationally (including the USA), you are advised to self-isolate for 14 days after you return.
- We are happy to serve you but ask that you contact us by phone (204-325-4710) or email ([office@winkleremmanuel.com](mailto:office@winkleremmanuel.com)) instead

#### **Worship Services and Sunday Morning Activities**

- No services or GPS or One Way classes will be held at Emmanuel on **March 22, March 29 or April 5.**
- We are hoping it may be possible to celebrate Easter together (April 12) but that decision is pending.
- The church staff will offer weekly worship and learning resources in other formats (more information will be sent)

#### **Committees and Small Groups**

- Church committees are asked to meet using other formats (ideas and resources will be sent)
- We strongly encourage small groups to consider postponing gatherings during the next month or two, and certainly not meet in the church building

#### **Pastoral Care**

- If you have pastoral care needs, please let us know. In some cases, pastoral visits may be appropriate but in other cases we can talk and pray together on the phone or by using other platforms like FaceTime, etc.

#### **Connection**

- To offer opportunities for connection, for sharing joys and concerns with each other, and inviting prayer, we will create an Emmanuel FaceBook group. (You'll receive details and an invitation to join by the end of the week.)

#### **Giving / Offerings**

- Our expenses continue even when church gatherings are suspended for a period of time and so we request that all of us also remember our church budget and continue to share our gifts and offerings
- We'll send details tomorrow.

### **Caring**

- We are aware that the elderly and those with various health challenges are most vulnerable to the effects of the Covid-19 virus. In response we wish to coordinate assistance for those who request or need it.
- **We are looking for volunteers** who would be willing to go shopping (for groceries or medical supplies) on behalf of seniors and others who may find it difficult to do so or whose situation makes it risky to do so
- If you are willing to serve in this way, please call Connie at the office (204-325-4710)

### **Prayer**

- We continue to remember God's faithfulness and presence in everything we experience in our lives, and invite you to pray for the many impacted by Covid-19 – medical care givers, patients and their families, our business community, persons who lose their jobs, families trying to arrange childcare while still working, etc.