



Tuesday, March 17, 2020

*"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go... Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (Luke 10:1,9)*

Dear MDRC Family,

In the last 72 hours, our pictures of the ministry of the church have been radically reshaped. We are being urged and even mandated by national, state, and local authorities to limit our physical social spheres. We believe it is a Biblical principle both to honor our leaders (Romans 13:1) and to protect the vulnerable (Romans 15). I believe it's important to be clear about what that means for our gatherings together:

- **All in-person activities will be suspended until at least March 31st** to honor Governor Kim Reynold's emergency declaration today.
- MDRC's pre-school will be closed until at least April 10th, in alignment with area school districts and at the recommendation of the CDC, Iowa Department of Public Health, state, and local officials.
- **All in-person gatherings of the church or outside groups between 10 and 49 will be suspended until at least April 13th** at the urging of the CDC, national, and local officials. This includes:
  - Bible Study Fellowship
  - Freedom For Youth
  - Wednesday Night Alive
  - Pillars (meetings and events)
  - Discovering You (March 28)
  - Profession Seder Meal (April 5)
  - Middle School Retreat (April 3-5)
  - Easter Treasure Hunt (April 11)
- **All in-person gatherings of 50 people will be suspended until May 10th** at the urging of the CDC, national, and local officials. This includes:
  - MDRC Worship Services & Kids Connection
  - International Reformed Church Services
  - Kindred Event (April 20)

The good news in all of this is that we are moving almost all of our ministry on-line. For example, the Middle School retreat is planning to Live Stream. We can still gather and worship, just not in person. We're going to ride this out as a community. Tomorrow, you'll be receiving another e-mail from us outlining the specifics of how you can stay connected.

One Congregation in Two Locations

Meredith Drive campus 5128 Meredith Drive | Des Moines, IA 50310 | (515) 276-4901  
The Bridge campus 10025 NW 62nd Avenue | Johnston, IA 50131 | (515) 986-5867

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I often think of Jesus' ministry as one of gathering: calling disciples, drawing crowds as he healed, and preaching to the masses. Yet in Luke 10:1-12, we find Jesus scattering his disciples with urgency. One lesson? Ministry does not require large groups! The disciples' job? To be agents of blessing, peace, and healing to where they were sent. May we continue to look for the ways to love God, each other and our neighbors - even from our homes.

Pastor Suzanne Vogel

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