

To the Two Cities Family:

These are challenging and ever-changing times as the world seeks to understand and react to COVID-19 (coronavirus) which the World Health Organization has recently labeled as a global pandemic. As evangelists, shepherds, and teachers within our community, we would like to share our thoughts on how we might proceed as a faith-filled people.

First, we do not want to react in fear or panic as some might. We are people who have been freed from the fear of death (Hebrews 2:15; Revelation 12:11) and who have God as our fortress and refuge in the times of trouble (Psalm 59:16). Our 2nd and 3rd century brothers and sisters have been called “the people that ran into the plague” due to their desire to put the interests of others first, even if it risked their own lives. This is our heritage, our identity, and our calling.

Second, we must carefully consider what it looks like in our current situation to love others sacrificially and fully. The current threat according to the CDC is not so much the virus itself, although that does pose a significant threat to certain segments of the population, but the primary concern is the potential this has to overwhelm the healthcare system all at once which cause a cascade of dangerous situations throughout our communities and cities.

Third, we must continue to be people of prayer and faith. Pray for the regions of the world that have already been hit hard by this virus, for those that have already lost loved ones, and for those that are currently ill. We can also pray for the governing authorities to make wise decisions and protect the wellbeing and order of the communities that they serve. And pray for God’s people that we can be the light of the kingdom. Situations like this are never something we want but they are opportunities for the kingdom of God to stand out. This is our time to love others and put them first, things that many are quick to abandon during times of crisis.

With this in mind, here are the current steps that we are taking and/or ask you to consider taking to continue to live out our faith and protect those that are most vulnerable:

1. We will not be meeting corporately for the next two weeks at De LaSalle (March 15 and 22). However, where it is possible, we still encourage us to gather within our family groups for worship and fellowship. We also trust that each family group can work together to decide what is best for your group based on your unique needs and situations. We ask that you carefully observe the [CDC guidelines](#) to prevent the unnecessary spread of germs which include: wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds; use hand sanitizer when washing is not an option; refrain from touching your face, and cover all coughs and sneezes.
2. We will have a "Live" lesson available on Zoom for the Two Cities family on Sunday at 10am. The link for this lesson will be sent out in a separate communication tomorrow.
3. If you are coughing, sneezing, or feel ill in any way, please do not attend the family group meeting but do let us know if you need any assistance.

4. If you are over 60 or have chronic respiratory or immune-deficiency issues, then you may want to consider worshipping separately in your home and not attending meetings of the body.
5. The 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be postponed with the date to be determined.
6. We will reserve judgment regarding regional services on March 29 and April 1 but for now plan to proceed as scheduled.
7. We plan to use individual communion articles and will not pass trays to limit unnecessary contact. If you cannot get communion supplies setting up individual napkins w Dixie cups of juice and a cracker is one idea.
8. We ask that weekly contribution be given through Realm or saved until we meet together.
9. There may be ongoing lockdowns or calls for remaining in homes. Given that possibility, we encourage all households to follow the Joseph principle of being prepared and to consider storing up two weeks of food supplies and other necessities. Please do not hoard more than you need but you may want to get a little extra to share with those who cannot get out safely if conditions worsen.
10. We are working on developing a plan for younger disciples to get supplies for those that are in high-risk categories so that they do not need to leave their house if conditions worsen.
11. Organizers of the Orlando Conference in July have until May to decide whether to proceed or not. Chances are still high that things will be manageable by then and we will be able to meet. You may want to consider purchasing airline tickets now if you were planning to fly as ticket prices are very low right now. If they do decide to cancel the conference most airlines are readily refunding or giving credits for cancelled flights with no questions asked so you would not simply lose the money for the ticket.

We, as a church leadership, are doing our best to say informed and encourage you to do the same. The CDC website is the best place for accurate and up-to-date information. The HOPE worldwide website has a page devoted to COVID-19 updates. A brief by Kim Bonner, sister in Christ and doctoral student in infectious diseases is attached for more ideas.

He is the King of kings,

Shepherding Group

Two Cities church