



WHITEWATER
VALLEY
PRESBYTERY

March 26, 2020

**Session Record reviews April 4 and 15 are cancelled.
Alternate plans will be announced at a future time.**

Greetings in Christ, Clerks and Moderators.

For times such as these,

I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself. Colossians 2:2

As we navigate Covid-19 as a community of believers in Whitewater Valley Presbytery, we are truly grateful for each and every one of you who continue to build God's kingdom with grace, love, and the quiet confidence of spirit that guides all of us. At times we will radically succeed as we respond to this challenge. At times it will be messy and imperfect. We may be afraid, perplexed, angry, grateful. Each of those in its own time. Yet, during times such as these, we are strengthened and empowered, if at a distance, with the conviction of our faith through and by one another.

The Presbytery continues to provide you with current resources from the PC(USA). In addition to the previous resources you've received, these additional resources will be helpful as you discern when, how, or if your Session/Council or congregation will meet in the near future.

The most important questions to ask as you contemplate moving forward, particularly as you consider Session or congregational meetings: "Is the business we need to conduct time sensitive or critical?" "Is it business that can easily be conducted at a later time?" "Does our decision meet the current state mandates for essential meetings or gatherings?"

The documents attached with this communication include (these are also available on the Presbytery's website, www.whitewatervalley.org):

1. Session/Congregational Meetings

The PC(USA) Advisory Opinion, Church in an Emergency/Pandemic

The page three heading, ***What if a congregation or session does not have a rule that provides for a meeting by electronic or virtual means?*** will be extremely helpful and applicable to most of our churches.

Please contact me directly if you require clarification or assistance regarding this information.

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2. The Sacraments

- The PC(USA) Advisory Opinion, Communion in an Emergency/Pandemic (March 24, 2020)
- From PC(USA) Theology and Worship, Celebrating the Sacraments in a Time of Emergency/Pandemic (March 25, 2020)

Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter, has previously made you aware of the denomination's document, *Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources for Congregations and Members*. **That document was updated today.** It contains detailed information on a variety of subjects. Please visit the Presbytery's website for a link to that document and other information provided by the Presbytery.

With gratitude for your prayers and partnership,

Kristy Quinn, Stated Clerk