

ANNOUNCEMENT

Special Update: COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

The EFCA Office of the President Team is monitoring the situation, and continuation policies for the national office have been established for the COVID-19 outbreak.

Mar 18, 2020



For the health and safety of our staff, and in an effort to continue serving constituents of the EFCA in the midst of the impact of the coronavirus, we have imposed special guidelines for the function of the national office for the foreseeable future. Although many of our staff will work remotely, if you are in need of any assistance, please contact the national office. Systems are in place for us to maintain regular functions during this period of time. Thank you.

These are unique days for ministry. In just a few weeks, the way many of us lead and serve has changed dramatically as we respond to the challenge of the COVID-19 virus. At first glance, I am encouraged by how EFCA leaders are creatively responding in the midst of our current circumstances. Thank you for loving and serving your communities and for your commitment to Christ and His Church.

Yet, significant challenges remain. In a time when it is tempting to be driven and controlled by fear, be reminded that God is our source of strength and courage. I recently shared from Isaiah 41 in a national office staff meeting.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isa. 41:10)

I encourage each of us, within our hearts and in our unique ministry contexts, to trust in God's faithfulness. He is with us and will strengthen us. We do not need to fear.

It is a good time to be wise and prepared for the days ahead. As local, state and national governments monitor and respond to COVID-19, the EFCA national office is implementing strategic efforts to continue advancing our mission despite the impact of the virus.

The EFCA Office of the President Team will continue to monitor the situation, and continuation policies for the national office have been established for the COVID-19 outbreak. Ministry updates for the national office will be issued via the EFCA Update, announcements on EFCA.org and our social media platforms.

Due to elevated warnings by the Center for Disease Control, we encourage EFCA churches to review the **CDC's guidelines** (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fguidance-community-faith-organizations.html) for faith-based organizations. Please follow the guidance of local and state governments as they respond to needs in your community.

EFCA churches should continue to actively adapt to these unique ministry conditions. This is a good practice, in any season, to ensure the health and perseverance of our churches.

We encourage our leaders to be mindful. Seek trustworthy and relevant information for your ministry. Make wise decisions and consider the challenges your community will face in the days and weeks to come.

Join me and pray that the virus would recede, that global leaders would be thoughtful and wise, that responders would be kept safe as they serve and that those suffering from the virus would be restored to health.

In a time when fear and confusion have grown, be a voice of comfort and reason as you remind your churches to trust the Lord as His faithfulness is displayed in these unique times. God is on the throne and, as we know, challenging times provide great opportunities for us to pursue our mission and share the hope of the gospel.

Serving our Savior together,

Kevin Kompelien

As the COVID-19 situation progresses and more instances of community spread occur, we acknowledge that EFCA ministries, staff, missionaries and volunteers will be impacted. We are committed to following all necessary guidelines and to care well for these individuals.

*If you receive information or inquiries about any situations, please email **president@efca.org** (**<mailto:president@efca.org>**).*

Resources:

- **ReachGlobal Crisis Response Resource - Ministry and COVID-19 (PDF)** ([//www.efca.org/sites/default/files/resources/docs/2020/03/ministry_and_covid-19_5.1_0.pdf](http://www.efca.org/sites/default/files/resources/docs/2020/03/ministry_and_covid-19_5.1_0.pdf)) (PPT) ([//www.efca.org/resources/document/ministry-and-covid-19-ppt](http://www.efca.org/resources/document/ministry-and-covid-19-ppt))
- **CDC Guidelines for Places of Worship** (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fguidance-community-faith-organizations.html)
- **Coronavirus and the Church: Trusted Resources for Churches from Leading Experts** (<https://coronavirusandthechurch.com/>)
- **Best Online Giving Platforms for Churches** (<https://outreach.com/blog/best-church-online-giving-platforms/>)
- **ECFA Resources on Coronavirus** (<https://www.ecfa.org/Content/Coronavirus-Stay-Prepared-and-Stay-Informed>)

- **Live Streaming for Churches: Industry Standards and Best Practices**
(<https://vimeo.com/blog/post/live-streaming-for-worship-industry-trends-and-best-practices/>)
- **A Concise Coronavirus Guide for Churches**
(https://subscribe.christianitytoday.com/pubs/L2/TDY/corona-virus-page.jsp?null=249078&cds_mag_code=TDY&id=1583504954669&lsid=3066082914606443&landing-page?utm_source=web&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=external-url)

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