

Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists[®]



OHIO CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

[Dayton, OH, March 16, 2020 – For Immediate Release]

Mindful of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and how it is impacting and changing our world each day, Ohio Conference administration has decided to transition the operations of our conference office building in Dayton to virtual operations.

After the close of business today, March 17, 2020, all employees will work from home through Thursday, March 26, 2020. Conference administrators will reevaluate the situation that on that date to decide if virtual operations will need to be extended.

Conference staff will make every effort to ensure day-to-day operations continue without interruption.

Rather than disrupting ministry, conference leaders are using recent events as an opportunity for continued ministry both within and around the conference.

- Conference office employees will continue to worship each Monday via Zoom.
- More than 50 pastors met together during a two-hour teleconference and shared how they were ministering innovatively in their areas and will have regular meetings throughout this pandemic.
- New ministry resources are being compiled and shared on the conference website for churches and ministry programs transitioning to digital platforms.
- Resources and options for innovative ministry outside digital platforms are also being collected and shared.
- New ways for members to continue to financially support their church (local and worldwide) are being utilized. Church buildings may be closed, but financial responsibilities remain. AdventistGiving is the easiest option for churches, but tithe may also be mailed to local church treasurers or the Ohio Conference office.

The Ohio Conference thanks each one of you for helping ministry to continue. Ministry takes on many forms, from your local church family to your neighborhood community. This is your opportunity to “be the church” in new and mighty ways.

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16, MEV)

Additional resources, continued updates and recommendations will be released through our e-newsletter (*Faithpoints*), direct emails to pastors and lay leaders, conference social media platforms, and our dedicated web page : <http://www.ohioadventist.org/virus>.

About the Ohio Conference and Seventh-day Adventists

Organized in 1861, the Ohio Conference was among the first Seventh-day Adventist local conferences established. Today it is a network of 100 diverse congregations, 11 schools, one medical college, and 12,000 members.

As one of eight conferences within the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Ohio Conference is known for its pioneering outreach initiatives and commitment to being a Christ-centered, transforming presence in the community.

Among the historic institutions birthed in Ohio were Worthington Foods (which later merged with the Kellogg Corporation), Harding Hospital (now part of the Ohio State University Medical Center), and Kettering Medical Center (now part of Kettering Health Network, a health care ministry of eight hospitals and 120 outpatient facilities).

The Ohio Conference is part of a larger, worldwide fellowship of more than 20 million believers who strive daily to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, to become more like Him, and to serve others as He did. The vision and mission for Ohio includes prayer, growing healthy churches, and helping others realize the hope found in experiencing a personal relationship with a living God and loving Savior, and to nurture them in preparation for His soon return.

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For more information about this topic or about the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, please email Heidi A. Shoemaker, Communication Director, at hshoemaker@ohioadventist.org or 937.853.8468.