

Seventh-day Adventist® Church

MARITIME CONFERENCE
ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 Update

March 17, 2020

It seems like uncharted times we are living in, but God gives us Psalm 91 as a promise:

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence" (Psalm 91:1-3).

Most importantly, Jesus is our refuge and strength, and Psalms 91 is also our promise of God's umbrella of protection during troubled times.

Our Duty to Serve & Protect

The Maritime Conference is spiritually committed to serving the needs of our membership during this crisis. Our main focus is to protect the health and safety of our church members, employees, students and the communities we serve. Our prayers are with those who are directly affected by the COVID-19 and those working tirelessly to treat them.

Gathering Places & Events

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of COVID-19, Federal and Provincial guidelines are mandating the closure of public places in an attempt to get out in front of the virus' spread, given its dangerous nature for many vulnerable people among our members and in our communities. We will be following suit and mandating that **ALL** Maritime Conference churches be closed and **ALL** scheduled events be cancelled until further notice. On or before April 5, 2020, the Maritime Conference Administration will reassess this action and provide an update. We are asking pastors, elders and church boards to work closely together in order to coordinate virtual opportunities for prayer, small groups, phone call visitation, etc.

Connectivity

The Conference Administration is including Guidelines that will equip our congregations to navigate through this crisis in a way that will enable our members to connect with God, with each other and with their communities in a meaningful way that will not pose any threat to human lives. Administration will be working closely with our pastors to develop an Action Plan for Connectivity in the upcoming weeks.

Trust in GOD

We trust that God is in control of all things. This crisis is an opportunity for us all, as human beings, to understand how vulnerable we are in the face to sin and its consequences. It is also an opportunity for many people to know, through God's church body, that our Almighty Creator loves all people and wants them to know Him as the ultimate source of their peace, security, joy and salvation.

**Updates will be posted on the Maritime Conference
website at www.maritimesda.ca.**



Guidelines for Digital Connectivity

For such a time as this, it is more important than ever for us to grow our connections and relationships from within the church as they impact and serve our communities to the glory of our God and the spread of His Kingdom. With COVID-19 we have a unique opportunity to be the hand and feet of Jesus in a virtual way. We would like to equip you with some tools for taking our churches to an online transition/platform:

Online for Churches

<https://www.sdadata.org/resource-menu.html>

<https://www.sdadata.org/goingdigitalcovid19.html>

NAD Social Media Guidelines

https://www.sdadata.org/uploads/8/1/9/8/81986746/social_media_guidelines_2019_updated_081519.pdf

(See Attached PDF)

https://www.sdadata.org/uploads/8/1/9/8/81986746/social_media_best_practices_checklist.pdf

(See Attached PDF)

5 Things Your Church Can Do to Create an Online Presence

<https://www.centerforonlineevangelism.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/5-Things-your-church-can-do.pdf> (See Attached PDF)

How to Start an Online Small Group

<https://www.centerforonlineevangelism.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Start-an-Online-Small-Group.pdf> (See Attached PDF)

6 Creative Ways to Repurpose Sermons for Online Use

<https://www.centerforonlineevangelism.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/6-Ways-to-Repurpose-Sermon.pdf> (See Attached PDF)

How to Start a YouTube Ministry

<https://www.centerforonlineevangelism.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/How-to-Start-a-YouTube-Ministry.pdf> (See Attached PDF)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Government Sites

<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/coronavirus.html

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/alert/advisory-coronavirus-infection>

<https://novascotia.ca/CoronaVirus/>

CDC comments on the Corona Virus

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Advent Health Info on Coronavirus

https://www.adventhealth.com/coronavirus-resource-hub/church-resources?fbclid=IwAR1HHIV9yD6xrlr-LTg1G_C8gKoPEbjk7Rc9OfjIPwfBGUz1Uvitj107n7o

Clean Hands Help Prevent

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHISh559oho&fbclid=IwAR1HXs3pGORP_seS7Hmyh6JDCYWC6P5NwHCH2FOe36CxMQsjmVXbGEU2XB0

Interview with Dr. Neil Nedley of Weimar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKJvOYp3D3Y&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0XIHMaVxpRluEmLoxOJp5o8zZmaAwum6D7xPOMzpdErsSSB2z518BIRQI>

Resources

1. ARM Resources: <https://www.adventistrisk.org/en-us/safety-resources/information-regarding-coronavirus>
2. Government of Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/mass-gatherings>
3. World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
4. General Conference Adventist Health Ministries article by Dr. Peter Landless: <http://healthministries.com/articles/homepage/coronavirus-update>



Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9

“The light that God has given His people is not to be shut up within the churches that already know the truth....

We have made large centers in a few places, leaving unworked many important cities. Let us now take up the work appointed us and proclaim the message that is to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger. If every Seventh-day Adventist had done the work laid upon him, the number of believers would now be much larger than it is. In all the cities of America there would be those who had been led to heed the message to obey the Law of God.” (9T 24,25)

“In great distress I awoke. I went to sleep again, and I seemed to be in a large gathering. One of authority was addressing the company, before whom was spread out a map of the world. He said that the map pictured God's vineyard, which must be cultivated. As light from heaven shone upon anyone, that one was to reflect the light to others. Lights were to be kindled in many places, and from these lights still other lights were to be kindled. (9T 28.2)

The words were repeated: “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden underfoot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16. (9T 28.3)

I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world. (9T 28.4)

Then this map was removed and another put in its place. On it light was shining from a few places only. The rest of the world was in darkness, with only a glimmer of light here and there. Our Instructor said: “This darkness is the result of men's following their own course. They have cherished hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil. They have made questioning and faultfinding and accusing the chief business of their lives. Their hearts are not right with God. They have hid-den their light under a bushel.” (9T 29.1)

If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zi-on had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us.” (9T 29.2)

