

NSC Update, March 16, 2020

Hello New South Family,

Bishop Cowart held a video conference with his area superintendents on Saturday evening just to touch base. You may want to know that he, himself, is self-quarantined due to his likely exposure to the virus in Luxor, Egypt. He was able to catch one of the last flights out for the USA and is now working from home for a couple weeks.

The meeting confirmed the cancellation of, or moving to online of denominational meetings and the curtailing of denominational travel. We also discussed how each of our area governments are approaching this somewhat differently, with different restrictions and advisories, which means it's hard to give comprehensive counsel on some aspects. I think as time moves on, the restrictions about gathering, etc. will become more stringent before they are relaxed. Even as I write this, our governor here in Kentucky has closed restaurant dining rooms and bars – Pastor Dwight is especially upset at the closure of the bars. 😊

Here at Wilmore, we had already cancelled all church activities through this Friday, March 20. At our staff meeting this morning, we decided to extend that closure through Saturday, March 28, and we'll meet each Monday morning to plan for the week beyond.

Please be smart in your decision-making. Recognize that there will be different opinions in every church about what should, and should not be done, and seek to be understanding and peace-makers as much as possible.

Pastors, whatever your decision about meeting, keep in touch with your congregations via social media, e-mail notes, etc., and especially with those most vulnerable...and encourage your people to check on one another and on neighbors as well. I am sending one note per day to our congregation at Wilmore through our e-mail "prayer notes and news" chain and have made myself more available than typical via e-mail.

Since we did not meet for worship this past Sunday, I rather hastily recorded a simple, short video message to YouTube and sent the link to the congregation via e-mail, which people seemed to appreciate. Even if you can't meet, the presence of something familiar seemed to be important to many.

At this point, with each new day comes some change in perspective and counsel. This is a learning experience for all of us. May the Lord help us be the church in new ways in these days.

If I can help you in any way, please contact me...e-mail is best for now since we are re-evaluating our office hours here at Wilmore.

Blessings All,

Daryl