

COVID-19 Resources for Mid Councils

Updates on March 28 in red

Updates on March 29 in purple

Updates on March 30 in green

Updates on March 31 in orange

There are a number of [resources collected on the PCUSA website](#). Here are some that may not be there.

If we've missed resources and/or ideas that you've found helpful - or if you can't find information you need - please let me know!

~ [Tricia Dykers Koenig](#), Associate Director for Mid Council Relations, OGA

Government

[Church Law and Tax - Richard Hammar](#)

[Coronavirus and the Church: The Latest News and Advice from Church Law & Tax](#)
[Churches and the CARES Act: Helping Congregations and Employees Weather the Cash Crunch](#) - register for **webinar on April 2, 2020 at 11:00 AM Central**

[Insurance Board](#)

[Webcast on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) - Heather E. Kimmel, General Counsel for the United Church of Christ, **March 31, 2020 at 2:00 PM Eastern**

[Small Business Administration](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources](#)

[Ballard Spahr \(outside law firm for the BOP and the A Corporation on benefits issues\)](#)

[CARES Act Loans Come with Labor and Employment Strings Attached](#)
[CARES Act Provides Enhanced Unemployment Compensation Benefits](#)

[The US Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act: What Small Businesses Need to Know](#)

[U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship](#)

[Small Business Owners Guides to the CARES Act](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[COVID-19 Guidance: Procurements Under Grants During Periods of Exigent or Emergency Circumstances](#)

[Procurement Disaster Assistance Team \(PDAT\) Resources when Procuring with Federal Grant Funds - including links to webinars](#)

Health

[Coronavirus information from New Castle Presbytery](#)

Disaster Distress Helpline: 24/7/365 crisis counseling and emotional support
1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746

[Coping During Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)

[Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health: Tips for Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation During Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#)

[American Red Cross](#)

Emergency need for blood donors

Technology

[Live-Streaming Solutions, Simple and High Quality](#)

Notes on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, equipment

[TechSoup Zoom Discounts](#)

In addition, some presbyteries are offering subsidized accounts to congregations.

[4 Tips for using Zoom and video conference call software to stream your event](#)

[Zoom support during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Live-Streaming on YouTube](#)

[Open Broadcaster Software](#)

Free and open source software for video recording and live streaming.

[Ten Tech Tips for Meeting Online](#) – NEXT Church

[Ten Tips for Folks New to Online Meetings](#) – NEXT Church

[Ten Facilitation Tips for Meeting Online](#) – Next Church

[Optimize Your HomePage for Covid-19 Isolation](#) – Worship Times

Meetings

[Advisory Opinion: Church in an Emergency/Pandemic](#)

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR) is the PC(USA)'s parliamentary authority. RONR currently allows for electronic meetings if they are authorized in the council's bylaws or manual of operations. If your rules have not authorized meeting electronically, you can proceed by carefully ensuring that all members have opportunity to be included – including proper notice, “simultaneous aural communication” as required so that all can discuss and vote, etc. At the next face-to-face meeting, do two things: add provision for electronic meetings to your bylaws (including under what circumstances they are authorized); and ratify the actions taken at the electronic meeting(s).

[Comments for Sessions](#) – Larry Veith, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Inland Northwest

Pastoral Care and Mission

Presbyteries are holding periodic Zoom calls with their members to check in, share ideas, learn about resources, and pray. Don't forget to check in with the HRs.

Ministers are staying in touch with their congregations through online devotions and Bible studies – and old-fashioned emails, calls, and even letters.

Ministry opportunities for Christians of various ages:

- Food and errands for seniors and others at elevated risk
- Drop-off or drive-through pickup food distribution
- Ask their schools how to assist stranded college students
- Comfort and understanding for persons experiencing grief over the loss of their dreams (e.g. senior sports season)
- Thank-you cards and drawings to hospital chaplains to share with hospital and nursing home staff.

[Seattle Presbytery podcasts](#)

[In the Rooms: A global recovery community](#)

Your recovery space when you can't meet face-to-face

[Alcoholics Anonymous Online Intergroup](#)

[Digital Pastoral Care for Grief: Individual & Collective](#) – United Church of Christ

Stewardship and Finances

Some presbyteries are offering interest-free loans and/or grants to congregations to assist with staff salaries, technology, and emergency ministries.

Offerings received by mail

Consider how to secure the mail when there's no one there regularly to receive it. Provide for more than one person (or a fidelity bonded person) to open, count, deposit – while maintaining social distance.

Precautions and Procedures – who knows (and where do you find) the

- Emergency contact numbers and protocols
- Lock down steps to ensure safety
- Passwords
- Financial and computer security systems
- Alternate IT support
- Banking connections
- Offsite emergency strategy – where will you shift your operations
- Emergency utility shut-offs
- Transfer of authority if leadership is at risk of quarantine restrictions
- Updated rosters of congregations and presbytery staff
- Essential insurance and payroll documents

[Presbyterian Foundation Information and Resources on COVID-19](#) - online giving and more

Worship and Nurture

Some presbyteries are encouraging congregations to collaborate in providing online worship rather than going it alone.

(Revised) Advisory Opinion: Communion in an Emergency/Pandemic

In a situation in which worshipping in the same physical space is impossible for an extended period of time, a session or other council may decide that pastoral care requires authorization of the Lord's Supper as part of an online service.

[COVID-19 and Worship: Resources for Churches Adapting to Social Isolation – Calvin Institute of Christian Worship](#)

24-Hour Prayer Vigil

Participants sign up for 30-minute prayer watches. The person completing their shift tags the next person with a text or e-mail: "God bless you as you keep watch in prayer now!" Distribute a booklet with the schedule, suggested prayers, liturgy, activities like coloring mandalas or writing notes of blessing, music links.

Ponder This – Dana Hughes

When Jesus rose from death, he was not greeted by a sanctuary full of people. He was completely alone. Mary Magdalene is credited with being the first to discover that the tomb was empty, but she witnessed the aftermath of the resurrection, not the resurrection itself. *What does this mean for us as we hunker down, unable to gather in person and break bread together? How shall we share the Good News of Jesus' defeat of death without a pulpit or pews?*

Passing the Peace in American Sign Language

Though most if not all congregations are not currently physically together in worship, we will likely be taking precautions even after social distancing is no longer as crucial. And perhaps some will want to try this during electronic services.

Passing the Peace Virtually

"Now is when we would pass the peace. Since we can't do that, I encourage all of you to think about those church members who usually sit near you in worship, those folks with whom you pass the peace, and sometime this week give one of them a call. Let them know that you are thinking about them."

The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation is [offering free and reduced price resources](#) for families and congregations.

[Comfort Food: A Feast of Love - for use in this time of sheltering in place as people are not able to gather in community for Holy Communion](#) - Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio

[Illustrated Ministry](#) is offering free weekly resources during the pandemic.

Palm Sunday

Some churches are doing a "Drive-In Theater" style worship service, and then driving through the neighborhood with the windows down so folks can wave the palms.

If your congregation ordered palms but will now be worshipping virtually, you might set up a window of time for members to drive by the church to receive a palm to take home, ensuring that those handling the palms follow safety protocols.

[“Pull-Up” Worship](#) - ideas for a parking lot service from the Presbytery of Charlotte

[Ways to Support Education in a Time of Social Distancing](#) - Beth Olker in *Justice Unbound*

[Online worship from Valley PC, Portola Valley, CA](#), features staff and congregants in their different spaces contributing pre-recorded elements of a brief service.

The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) is conducting [zoom chats](#).

Leadership and Self-Care

[The Heart of Resilient Leadership: A guide for senior executives](#) – Punit Renjen

[Navigating Difficult Situations in the Workplace](#) – Kathy Obear

[Leading Beyond the Blizzard: Why Every Organization Is Now a Startup](#) – Andy Crouch, Kurt Keilhacker, and Dave Blanchard

[Restoring Resourcefulness Program](#) – Foundation for Conscious Living

[Resources for Leaders During a Public Health Crisis](#) - Institute for Collective Trauma and Growth

Books Recommended by Mid Council Leaders:

- Gil Rendle, *Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World*
- Susan Beaumont, *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*